

May 18, 2017 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co Forester; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD; Bill Swope and Louis Kuennen, Flathead Economic Policy Center; Dawain Burgess, North End Representative; Larry Miller, Upper Yaak RFD; Crystal Beckman and Erik Warrington, Missoula DNRC; Doug Turman, DNRC; Ali Ulwelling, Kalispell DNRC; Tim Bumgarner and Paige Hageness, Libby District; Wyatt Frampton, Kalispell DNRC

New Business:

Structure Risk Assessment(SAM)- Crystal and Erik explained their proposed process to upgrade the current assessment form with one that can be electronically downloaded to a smart phone or other device. The process would allow a summary of information to be compiled at the state level. Erik described the value as a “blend” of forestry and fire prevention information. Questions arose in the discussion regarding privacy, the use of the information by insurance agencies, the lack of a homeowner copy of the assessment as is currently available and the value of the collected information. Crystal said that she would consider the comments by our group.

Round Robin:

Ulwelling- The Flathead FireSafe Council sponsored the “Era of Mega Fires” as presented by Dr Paul Hessberg. They are in the process of revising their CWPP with the novel approach of addressing fire zones in the county.

Hageness- Paige started at Libby District 2 weeks ago. Welcome Paige.

Bumgarner- Tim reported that Erik Johnson is the new fuels specialist on the district. Because of the wet spring the district did no slash pile burning. The forest had their spring fire meeting. There are now 23 firefighters on the district. The Flower Creek project is going through the 30 day objection period.

Kuennen- Lou has written 8 new fuel reduction grant proposals and has 8 pending.

Burgess- One fire in Eureka. The FireWise trailer is in need of brochures(Crystal gave a lot of material). A sign for fuel reduction grants available is up in Troy. On June 10 the Lincoln County Home and Garden show will be staged in Eureka and Dawain wondered if we wanted to take the trailer. I indicated that we should have it there and I would get with Dawain to discuss.

Swope- Bill mentioned that the American Forest Foundation was going to be in Kalispell on June 2 to talk about engaging landowners?

Frampton- Wyatt has been promoted to Kalispell Area Management Fire Assistant. Congratulations Wyatt. The Fire Fighter Challenge auction held at the Brewery along with other collected funds resulted in donation \$5,000 to the Fire Fighter Foundation.

Turman- Flower Creek Sale entering into the last year of the contract with Idaho Forest Group. Logging planned this summer. The Clay Banks project will be ready by June 1. Next will be the Bobtail Cutoff section and Soke Brulee this fall.

Miller- Larry said that it has been quiet in the Yaak. They did a prescribed burn of a meadow in Yaak. They do not have a EMT for the next 2 weeks.

Beckman- Crystal reminded us that May is Wildfire Awareness Month.

Warrington- Next round of grants are waiting for an award letter and fall approval by the DNRC office.

Levert- Small piles on Neils property were burned, but big piles must wait now until this fall. Thinnings are starting at Alvord Lake Community Forest to do a small job. Looked at Skidale project with Matt Arno, Governor's liaison for the Forests in Focus program. Still hopeful some fuel reduction will take place on Skidale. The presentation on the Roaring Lion Fire by Bryon Bonney will take place on May 31st at the Ponderosa Room at Libby City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

Next Meeting- June 15, at 9:00 AM

Action Items-

Ali to send Ed thumb drive for Jack Cohen's Roaring Lion Fire presentation. I was to send to Larry so he can show it in the Yaak.

Ali to send Ed information on landscape vegetation and Ember Aware publications.

Ed Levert, Chair