

Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Notes

Location - LIBBY FIRE HALL 119 E 6th St

Date- Oct 18, 2018

Time-9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Note Taker: Doug Turman

Round Robin-

KNF/Libby District – Busy fire season with several large fires Gold Hill, Hwy 37 and 17 Mile. Pile burning is on hold. Most of the seasonal workforce is done for the year.

OEM Lincoln County – Busy fire season assisting the Kootenai NF, summer went well with several evac and pre-evacuations. Working on updating the PDM/Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, which has a new name Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. In November planning to have a fire coop meeting, next LEPC meeting will be in Eureka/Oct 22 7pm at the Eureka Fire Hall.

DNRC/fire – It was a slow season from the stand point of initial attack on the unit. Assisted the KNF with a lot of their fires. Short term seasonals are gone for the season. Waiting for the right conditions to burn the piles in Flower Creek. Getting support from the County, DEQ and USFS on this project

McCormick RFD – Busy fire season assisting the KNF where needed. Will be doing some pile burning this fall. This fall assisted the Yaak FSA and USFS on the 17 Mile fire.

Lincoln County – Jennifer Nelson was introduced as the new Lincoln County Forester, is Ed Levert's replacement. The county put in for a CPAW/Community Assistance Planning for grant.

Ed levert – Will continue where needed, working on the Cities' timber sale up Flower Creek. Will be working with the American Forest Foundation on the Kootenai Forests to Rivers Initiative/KFRI. As a local tree farmer, Ed will visit landowners who showed an interest in being part of the KFRI program. SAF had a good tour of the Gold Hill fire and discussion with the local district. A reminder that there is MSU Forest Stewardship Landowner workshop will be held next spring in Lincoln County.

McCormick Community – The application to be a Firewise Community has been submitted. A lot of pre-work goes in before the application can be submitted. There will be a Potluck/fundraiser on Saturday/Oct 20th at Kip and Connie Buegge's place.

Kootenai NF – It has been a busy season on the forest with 75 fires with a little over 13,000 acres burned. This work load was handle by 6 Type 2 teams and 5 type 3 teams. It was also a busy season in the dispatch center handling these fires. Burning season has a slow start. Have already started the recruiting process for next fire season.

Flathead Economic Policy Center – Deb Starling was introduced to the group. The center will continue administer the current fuels grant program in Lincoln County. As for future grants they will step down and allow Lincoln County to submit for future grants. It was noted that all funds for the current grant have been obligated. Any further requests need to be tracked in case some funds become available.

DNRC/Libby – Timber sale update – Clay Banks TS is active waiting for the roads to be built. Smoke Brulee TS was advertised in July with no bids submitted, will be reevaluated for a future sale in 2019. Waiting for the fuels to come into prescription to burn the piles on the Flower Creek TS. DNRC hired Jodi Turk as the GNA forester on the unit. She is currently working on two sales down in Trout Creek/ Elk Gem and Buick Divide. Sometime soon the unit is planning to fill the vacant Service Forester position. Matt Arno is the new Forest Assistance Bureau Chief in Missoula for the DNRC.

DNRC/NWLO – Shared information related to showing the video “Era of Mega Fires” as a possible public outreach event. Develop a list of the available cost-share/grant programs and report back with: process, area covered, contact information, website, prerequisites, application, timeline. So far information has been developed for the American Forest Foundation, FEMA, Joint Chiefs, NRCS, Haz Fuels, Western States WUI. Mark suggested a “mind map” be developed.

New/Old Business

LCFS Council draft by laws review – Tabled discussion until next meeting, work on getting the latest draft out to the group.

FY2019 State Fire Assistance Grant update – Current funding is obligated, will need to track any more requests. Future grant requests for Lincoln County will be submitted by the county.

CPAW Grant – Lincoln County submitted a proposal, there were 20 applicants and 4 grants will be awarded. The grant submission will be used to develop a local wildfire assessment and risk mapping for the WUI in Lincoln County and the KNF. Develop a database for properties assessed for wildfire risk and/or treated for fuels reduction. Develop tools to help communicate wildfire risk and encourage participation in reducing fuels in the WUI in Lincoln County. Provide land use planning recommendations for pending and future developments in the county.

MT State DEQ /Exception Event rule – The county has been working with DEQ in using the Flower Creek piles/DNRC as a test for the “Exception Event Rule.” If this works, it should pave the way for future management burns inside the Libby airshed.

CWPP - The CWPP/Community Wildfire Protection plan was last updated in 2013. It looks like the CPAW grant would be the spring board to allow for a timely update to occur for the CWPP. The update to the plan needs to be drafted in such fashion to be a more operational plan. It needs to have all agencies involved.

Meeting Adjourned 11:45 am, next meeting will be November 15th / 9:00 am Libby Fire Hall