

## ***Lincoln County Firesafe Council Meeting Notes***

Location - LIBBY FIRE HALL 119 E 6<sup>th</sup> St

Date- October 17th, 2019

Time-9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Note Taker: Logan Sandman

### **Introductions:**

### **Round Robbin:**

Jeremy Rank –

- DNRC will be completing the Clay Banks Sale by the end of November
- HRAs are actively completing burning. The DNRC took over a hand full of HRAs to complete them.

Brent Teske –

- Montana DES has a new field officer for the area. Audrey Wallizer has filled this position for the Northwest Zone.
- Firewise Trailer – Brent would like to solicit input to see how we can be more effective with the trailer and a concrete plan for the new TV (mounting, transport, power, etc.). We may want to look at putting together a calendar for events.
- New repeater site in the Yaak. Two sites have been picked to look at. They are currently going through the NEPA process. Brent would like to get a conex box with solar panels to house the equipment. He did radio tests on both sites that came in clear. This should help mitigate the radio issues in the area.
- They are looking into a Sheriff/Local Government repeater on Meadow Peak. No timeline as of yet.
- Looking to schedule the Co-Op meeting for November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Sanders –

- Pretty quiet in the Yaak.
- A few medical calls.

Jennifer Nelson –

- The sub award for KFRI has been received.
- Jennifer Coulter will do the final screening for the awards
- The Western States Grant got positive feedback as a strong application. We should hear more on this by November.
- Jennifer has been having conversations in regard to the FEMA Grant. The grant is still alive. DES is working with Jennifer and FEMA to learn the constraints of the grant.

- A final decision on Skidale will be coming soon. Jennifer had a meeting with Doug and Nate on the feasibility of this being a GNA project.

Trevor Pelling –

- The water tanks in McCormick have been drained for the winter.
- They had 5 medical assists recently.
- Trevor has been working with some landowners on KFRI.

Logan Sandman –

- Completed 75% of burning so far. Libby Unit should have everything completed by the end of October.
- We will be bringing on 3 seasonal employees to help with the GNA effort.

### **New/Old Business:**

- **Burning in Lincoln County – Group**
  - Seems to be some confusion with burning season and regulations between the agencies and the public.
  - We need to come together and make sure everyone is on the same page. We need to find consistency.
  - Some ideas that came from the group:
    - Have a meeting with agency reps to clear up this confusion.
    - Create a flow chart that is easy for the public to understand. Denote between Airshed vs. Not airshed and Fall vs. Spring.
    - Look at updating the Lincoln County Burn Website to make it easier to understand.
- **Collaborative Effort - Group**
  - We need to look at making the group more effective. There was consensus in the group that we have become mostly an information download arena. We would like to utilize the group to get more work done on the ground.
  - In the future, we will look to create action items from the meetings for people to work towards.
  - We want to develop a 2020 workplan that highlights opportunities for the group to participate and make sure we are providing the support needed for folks in Lincoln County.
  - Look at recruiting new folks and get more participation from agencies, local groups, and the public.
  - We need to look at getting fire assessment training to the people who are doing the work in Lincoln County. We should be speaking the same language and providing a

consistent message. This should include an assessment package that can go to people in the field.

- We need to continue to try and bring Firewise Communities on board and provide support to sustain these efforts.

- **CWPP – Jennifer Nelson**

- Framework for the plan is almost complete.
- There may be an opportunity for a \$5,000 Local Government Assistance Grant.

- **Action Items –**

- Action #1 – State HRA takeovers – Brent Teske and Logan Sandman
  - Let local fire departments know there may be an opportunity for them to take over the burning on incomplete HRAs. They can complete the HRA and receive the money that would have gone to the HRA holder.
    - Time Line – Next County Co-Op Meeting November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Action #2 – Firewise Trailer – Group
  - Brainstorm ideas for Best Management Practices related to the trailer.
  - Do we need a calendar and sign out sheet?
  - How should be mount the TV for use and travel? What videos and power system do we need to have on the trailer?
    - Timeline – November Meeting
- Action #3 – 2020 Work plan - Group
  - Brainstorm ideas on work we can complete in Lincoln County for 2020
  - This should include fuels projects, prevention, Firewise Communities, etc.
  - Think about projects you have or ideas you have to further the effort.
  - I envision this as a living document, but I would like to get some ideas down on projects we can pursue.
    - Timeline – Bring ideas to the November meeting/Looking to have a plan for Spring 2020
- Action #4 – Home Assessments – Jennifer and Logan
  - Look at bringing in a training course on home assessments.
  - Look into putting together a home assessment package that includes all the forms and information needed to do these assessments.
    - Timeline – Spring 2020
- Action #5 – Lincoln County Burning – Logan
  - Schedule a meeting with all agency partners to develop a burning flowchart and clear up confusion.
    - Timeline – January 2020

Adjourned