

Lincoln County Firesafe Council Agenda

Location – River Front Park – Pavilion

Date- June 18th, 2020

Time-9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Note Taker: Logan Sandman

Introductions:

New/Old Business:

- **Lincoln County Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator**

The DNRC Libby Unit will be bringing on an additional person to help with community preparedness in Lincoln County. This person will be grant funded for 4 months. They will be made available to help with any community preparedness or prevention work. If you foresee any potential needs, get with Logan to add to the work plan.

- **Lincoln County Firesafe Website**

- Lincoln County received a \$7,500 grant to develop a new website for the Firesafe group.
- We are looking at using a user-friendly platform. Square Space is one that other folks seem to have success with.
- Each agency should have access to add information to the website. We need to make sure that all fire information and agency links are attached. This should cut down on folks having to duplicate information.
- We need to develop Best Management Practices for content on the website, as it will present information from different agencies.
- We may want to look at putting together some advertising when the website goes live. People already seem to have a hard time finding our website. We can look at strategies for “moving the website up the board” on search engines.
- We need to come up with a new name for the website.
- It would be a good idea to make the website interactive. We could use post it on the new flat screen in the trailer.

- **Spring Burning Recap – Challenges/Successes**

- There still seems to be a broken communication link between 911 dispatch centers and the Interagency Dispatch Center for spring burns. Sometimes the USFS and State agencies are not made aware of illegal burns. This really becomes a problem when departments feel someone should be billed for the fire. We may want to look at doing a training for the 911 centers. Jamey already does this with the supervisors, but the information may not be trickling down to all the dispatchers.
- It was a consensus that we need an online burn permit system. We need to work on

possible funding sources for this. Everyone's preference was to try and get something going before next spring. We may need to look at putting a group together to tackle this.

- The final burn permit flyer was handed out. It will be included on this email. The overall goal was to have something for our front liners when receiving calls for permits. If anyone has any additional changes to the flyer, you can tailor it to your agency/district needs. We are still waiting on a final map to be attached with the flyer.
- Burn permit coordination calls were a success. This allowed good information flow between agencies. Our goal was to try and have a united front with permits, as to not confuse the public in different areas. We will look at changing the timeframe for the calls next year. It would be more beneficial to have these calls on Friday before the weekend.

- **Lincoln County Home Assessment Form**

- We need to identify what inputs go into SAM on the assessment form. This will make it easier for folks to put information from the form into SAM.
- There was some discussion on if the form was too long. It was agreed that folks would take the form back home and do a practice assessment with the new form.
- We may need to look at getting everyone an iPad for the assessment form. This would make it easy to do in the field and immediately email copies to the landowner and the county.
- We will look to get everyone's input at the next meeting.

- **Grant Updates**

KFRI –

- The county application has been developed.
- Hoping to have 7 landowners under contract next week. This will equal just over 100 acres of treatment.
- There are some good parcels up in Glen Lake. Jennifer worked with Mike Burrow to identify the high priority areas.
- The first phase should equal around 250 acres of treatment.
- There is a waitlist for folks that missed the first screening.
- Jennifer has received 5 calls for the Pipe Creek area. This will be part of phase two.

Western States WUI –

- Lincoln County received the grant. They put in for around \$260,000 in the Swede/McMillan area.
- We are not sure how much we will receive. We will not know until this fall.

Round Robbin:

Beau Macy/USFS –

- Fuels reduction and logging work is ongoing.
- The USFS is getting ready for fire season. There has been a great deal of Covid-19 planning for the upcoming season. Things will look different this year.
- Extra aviation resources will be on hand. 30 more exclusive use helicopters will be deployed.

Libby will be hosting a Type 1 Chinook. An extra Type 2 helicopter will be stationed in the Flathead.

Mike Sanders/Yaak –

- 3 grass fires and 5 medical responses this spring.
- They have been doing Covid-29 protocols with these responses.

Clyde Miller/Bull Lake –

- Low call volume at the beginning of the year but things have started to pick up.
- They are busy making the new station. They are very thankful for the equipment they have received to accomplish this.
- The land was given to the department for the site.
- They have had a good working relationship with DEQ throughout the project.

Jennifer Nelson/Lincoln County –

- The mastication contract, for Skidale, was awarded to Thompson. They are looking to get started this fall.
- A beetle kill removal project was done at J. Neils this spring. Approximately 150 trees were removed. The DNRC crew and Lincoln County helped complete the project.
- The County plans to assist the DNRC with the Swede Mountain Fuels Project. They will be providing dump trucks for chip removal. The chips will be taken to the gun range.

Jeremy Rank/ DNRC

- The bobtail timber sale sold another million board feet.
- The Claybanks sale has officially been closed. The landing piles will be burned this fall.
- Jeremy posed a question to the departments about HRA takeovers. Some landowners seem hesitant to burn. He was wondering if any departments could assist landowners. Takeovers seemed to be the best way to receive assistance.

Brent Teske/Lincoln County

- He has been dealing with Covid-19. The EOC was activated this spring. A drive through testing site was in use for around 3 months. The CARDD Clinic will continue testing. There was no community spread so far.
- He wants to set up a Co-Op meeting before fire season hits.

Steve Lauer/ Libby Fire

- He appreciates the work he has completed with burning and air quality this spring. He was able to get more accomplished than in the past.
- He is working with Grant Rider, from D5, on a prep site for OU3 decontamination.

Dean Whitney/USFS –

- He appreciates all the work that the group has been working on so far.

Matt Chumbley/USFS –

- This Tuesday they will be doing a prevention program up in Troy.
- If you need any help with anything, don't be afraid to ask him.

Logan Sandman/ DNRC –

- The unit has been preparing for the upcoming season.
- Covid-19 planning has been a huge part of the season so far.
- The crew has been busy with training and fuels projects around the county.

Adjourned