

January 17, 2013 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Dawain Burgess, TFF RFD; Lisa Osborn, Forest Service; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD; Mark Peck, DNRC; PJ Vincent, Provider Pals; Kendra Lind, Lincoln Co. Environmental Health; Nick Raines, Lincoln County Asbestos Resource Program; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co.; Vic White and Lisa Odewaldt, Lincoln County Emergency Management

Round Robin:

Burgess- Department had a house fire in Trego and the house was saved.

Lauer- Steve said that most of their new mobiles have been placed in their trucks. Joe Wood is going to Troy to help them with their installation. 2012 saw fewer fires than normal. The ambulance department has a new extrication vehicle. Steve discussed the meeting held on January 8 with residents adjacent to the Skidale/Parmenter project on National Forest lands.

Osborn- No recent update on the FireWise trailer. S.Fk Yaak WUI project top priority on the district. Funding outlook is not good. Lisa said that Cody White would be filling Marcy Goheen's vacant position from March-June. Lisa discussed some of the major points from the education committee. She said that the new calendars had been distributed. Lisa is still needing WUI pictures from the area. Steve indicated that he thought he could help find pictures.

Kendra Lind- There were several air quality alerts recently.

Nick Raines- Nick said he was hopeful there would be a final EPA toxicity report on airborne asbestos by the end of the year. Nick went on to explain what the logging studies would be looking at in evaluating the airborne asbestos toxicity, particularly levels of asbestos and duration of exposure.

White- Vic said he has been working mostly with trying to implement the new radio system in the county. The county had recently purchased the repeater sites, which will save a lot of money in the long run. The Yaak will be having a community preparedness day on March 16. Vic would like me to participate with a FireWise message. Unfortunately I will not be available.

Odewaldt- Lisa elaborated on the details of the Yaak community meeting. She told us about the large generator they were able to acquire for the Yaak through a grant. This generator will provide power for the community emergency shelter in case of a disaster. Lisa said that the Bull Lake RFD also received a generator, one of the 36 successful communities in the State. The Bull Lake generator will eventually reside across the highway on recently donated land.

Vincent- PJ talked about the success of the Raven FireWise programs last summer and plans to continue in 2013. She was hopeful that FireWise presentations in the schools this Spring could be soon scheduled.

Levert- I discussed the status of the Edgewater Estates and South Hills fuel reduction projects. It appears that I have the temporary road easements to complete this project this winter. An interest in the South Hills project by Idaho Forest Group may mean this logging/fuels project could proceed this winter also. I have continued working on the Skidale proposal and will be presenting a new one following the recent meeting with residents

I attended the "Fire Speaks to the Land" ballet presentation at the elementary school on the 16th. The program presented by U of M dance students was well received by the students.

Peck- There will be a wildland fire rodeo on June 15th at the River Bend. Competition will be held between different crews for things like hose lays, etc.

Old Business

Montana FireSafe Regional Conference Committee Report- members present: Peck, Osborn, Levert, Vincent, Lauer, Andreessen

The regional conference will be held at the Memorial Center on April 26 and 27. The theme is **Be Aware-Prepare-Do. (Lisa Osborn is going to send out more detailed notes of the meeting, but here are some of the highlights of the meeting)**

We will try to get Greg Poncin to discuss the fires of 2012 on Friday evening. Mark Peck agreed to tag with Greg in this presentation provided Greg can make it. We would encourage all booths to be set up prior to this presentation. We discussed providing snacks after their presentation along with setting up a bar.

Steve was going to head up the booths and find a sponsor(sponsors) for the breaks.

I was assigned to make the reservation for the Memorial Center. The county was going to pay for the Center and I have confirmed the reservation and I am in the process of getting the deposit and a statement of liability insurance coverage from the county's insurer. I also agreed to be the moderator.

Saturday's program will hopefully include a presentation by Dr. Peter Kolb on Wildfire Mitigation-Forest Stewardship. The governor's office will have a slot to present on emergency management, i.e. Map Your Neighborhood, etc. A insurance presentation relating to claims from Montana wildfires is scheduled. Jennifer Mayberry, FireSafe Montana is on the schedule. I suggested we work Pat McKelvey into the program to talk about evacuation plans. Mark Peck said that Mike McMeeken would be a good substitute if Pat couldn't make it.

A catered lunch is planned along with snacks. PJ was going to check into this. There will be a \$15 registration fee that FireSafe Montana will handle. Saturday's program would run from 9:30-2:30. We will need to come up with prizes for ticket drawings.

Our next education committee meeting will be on February 5th, 9AM at the Libby Fire Hall.

Next Meeting- **February 21**

Ed Levert, Chair