

March 20, 2014 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Dawain Burgess, TFF RFD; Lisa Osborn, Three River RD; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co; Mark Peck and Doug Turman, DNRC; Bill Swope and Lou Kuennen, Flathead Economic Policy Center; Kirk Kraft, Lincoln County Sheriff's Dept.; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD, Matt Bowser, Yaak Valley Forest Council, Kirby Maki, Libby Superintendent of Schools, Katie Andreesen, Libby RD, PJ Vincent, Provider Pals, Terry Peck.

Round Robin:

Maki- Kirby discussed the school budget and shortfalls coming up. Union negotiations are on-going. Craig Barringer will be his replacement as of July1.

Bowser- Matt explained the study being done by Mason-Bruce-Girard on the draft silvicultural protocols developed by the Kootenai N.F. Stakeholder Coalition. He also explained the forestry portion of the 2015 farm bill.

Andreesen- Swede and Blue Mtn. Look Outs will be manned this year. The district is hiring 12 new firefighters.

Osborn- The FireWise trailer is complete. Troy and Libby Districts will be managed by Kirsten Kaiser. Lots of movement in Three Rivers' fire shop. Mike Giesey will be the new Forest silviculturist. Their budget is unknown at this time. Buckhorn Sale is in the comment period. Work is ongoing on Oly project, Alvord Lake. More firefighters are being hired this year. Planning for spring burning.

Vincent- PJ said that all students in the county now have Provider Pals cards. They are working with the STEM program(science and math) in the schools. They have set up spring educational presentations for most schools in the county. The teacher training session will be held this summer(June 16-20) at Raven, but not the student one.

Mark Peck- Mark explained some of the developments at the Port Authority including the status of the reopening of the finger jointer, new ownership of the post and pole plant and possible developments on the boiler facility.

Kraft- The sheriff's department is developing a criteria based dispatch plan. They have also been working on a study of the Troy Dispatch.

Burgess- Betty Holder, district ranger for north end districts is leaving at the end of the month. Developing a MOU for mutual aid with the neighboring fire districts and FS. TFS has been doing winter training. 110 class left to do. Planning on an open house on June 14 for Ready-Set-Go.

Kuennen- Grant activity slow at present. Expect things to pick up this spring.

Lauer- Been doing lots of training this winter. Will be going to Maryland for training.

Turman- April 9th is the new date for the next coop meeting. Was in San Diego for fire training. DNRC has a new engine boss.

Swope- Bill described the varying kinds of grants commonly used for fuel reduction. The Stevens grants for fuel reduction near federal projects is usually for less than \$100,000 and are 75%-25%. The Western States grants are up to \$300,000 and are 50%-50%. WS grants must compete with the other western states. A new grant is the Western States Competitive Grant and is at the discretion of the State. Angela Mallon, State Foresters Office will be visiting grant areas on April 17 & 18.

Levert- The Edgewater 10 acre fuel reduction project is continuing. I worked on putting together a Western States Comp. Grant, but found out that we were not in a good position to apply this year. We needed some firm watershed restoration projects to include and the watershed folks with MFW&P's are not ready. I met with Tim Campbell, owner of the boiler at the Port Authority along with Paul Rumelhart to discuss opportunities to activate the boiler as a power generator, which is solely dependent on a long term wood supply. Later we met with the Forest Supervisor on this subject.

Old Business-

Kootenai Wildland Firefighter Challenge & FireSafe Expo- Terry Peck gave us a summary of the progress from an earlier planning meeting. Jennifer LaManna, director for FireSafe Montana, was present to work with Terry in developing a MOU so that Jennifer could assist in handling payments and deposits for the event. The next general planning meeting is Tuesday, April 8th at 9AM at LVFD.

Education Committee- Lisa discussed the need to stock the trailer with handout material including Ready-Set-Go pamphlets, which she will order. We will also need to get the Living With Fire brochures from Jennifer. Lisa is setting up a Doodle account on our web site to schedule the reservations this summer for the trailer. You will need to call Lisa or Ed to reserve. There will be a meeting on the trailer following the next R-S-G meeting on April 8th.

We then continued our discussion on the county school presentations and the need to coordinate. It appears that as long as everyone coordinates with those other folks doing these presentations, including Provider Pals, FS, DNRC and myself, we should be able to avoid duplication. We can also check the calendar on our website.

New Business-

Dawain asked if the county was willing to cover the Expo entry fee of \$100 for each team coming from one of our fire departments. I said we would and that we could announce this at the fire coop meeting. I will send Dawain an application form for the event and he will handle.

Mark Peck asked if the county could write a letter encouraging treatment of the State section along the Bobtail Cutoff Road. I said I would handle.

Next Meeting- April 17, 2014

Ed Levert, Chair