

April 17, 2014 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Dawain Burgess, TFF RFD; Lisa Osborn, Three River RD; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co; Mark Peck, DNRC; Lou Kuennen, Flathead Economic Policy Center; Kirk Kraft, Lincoln County Sheriff's Dept. and Fisher River Valley FSA; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD, Kirby Maki, Libby Superintendent of Schools, Katie Andreesen, Libby RD, Terry Peck, Mike Sanders, Upper Yaak Valley FSA, Keith Kenelty, Fisher River Valley FSA

Round Robin:

Kuennen- Lots of recent interest in grants. Angela Mallon, DNRC and Bill Swope, FEPC here today and tomorrow on an review of existing grants and discussions on future grants. Lake Creek grant funds about exhausted.

Maki- There have been state and federal audits of school funding recently and the district has received excellent marks. The recent nutrition review went well. Working on budget, personnel management and union negotiations. June 30 is Kirby's last day. Discussed asbestos related lawsuits that have been ongoing for many years.

Lauer- Ongoing training. Several houses are scheduled for burning, which is great training, but takes a big effort. Steve and Scott Beagle are starting firewise assessments in Bobtail and Swede Mtn. Will be representing this conference's rep at Lewistown on May 29. Working on Expo "stuff".

Kenelty- Keith is back as the Fisher River Valley FSA fire prevention aid. Welcome back.

Kraft- Kirk explained the running card system that is going to be used by fire dispatch and county fire departments. This will essentially be an automated system developed by the fire departments based on the number of alarms. Fisher River has had several small wildfires and have been doing refreshers.

Terry Peck- Terry will report later on the expo.

Mark Peck- DNRC now has 3 engine bosses onboard. More crews coming on. Still working on plans for OU-3. Harvesting ongoing in Harris Creek and Stoltze will soon start logging in Lower McGinnis. He is hopeful that they will once again offer the Flower Creek Sale for bid. Bobtail cutoff sale should be on line in the next year or so.

Osborn- Troy did a 250 acre burn on Monday. All permanent seasonal on and hiring fire crew members. Working on trailer.

Andreesen- Swede and Blue Mtn. Look Outs will be manned this year. The district is hiring 12 new firefighters. Katie has a new prevention puppet show this year. She will be leaving on May 19 for a 120 day detail to a recreation position. She did not think there would be anyone filling in for her during that time.

Sanders- Mike said that the Upper Yaak FSA has been busy with numerous calls including the Golden Nugget fire and a recent fire in 17 Mile. Bill and Sharon Sullivan have retired from the board. FireWise assessments will soon start.

Burgess- TFS has finished their winter training. They have assisted landowners burn over 40 acres this spring. Jim Thompson is filling in behind Betty Holder as acting district ranger at Rexford/Fortine district. Rendezvous is on for next weekend. Planning on an open house on June 14 and will be promoting Ready-Set-Go.

Levert- The Edgewater 10 acre fuel reduction project is continuing. I will meeting with Angela Mallon, Bill Swope and Lou Kuennen tomorrow to discuss the grant program. The East Reservoir project FEIS on Libby District has been issued and the stakeholders have several concerns which we are hopeful will be resolved soon. I have been working on the resolution for wildfire preparedness week. Bull Lake RFD is doing assessments.

Old Business-

Education Committee- Katie and Lisa have been doing education presentations. Unfortunately Provider Pals couldn't make it today so we don't know what exactly they have scheduled. Cody White has been working with Marci Goheen regarding planned educational efforts in Eureka. Ed is to contact PJ and find out what programs they have scheduled.

Kootenai Wildland Firefighter Challenge & FireSafe Expo- Terry Peck gave us a summary of the progress from an earlier planning meeting. We had a chance to view the quilt that will be auctioned at the expo. The 4'x6' banner should be completed by Tuesday and ready to be hung on the bull at J. Neils Park. Terry covered the planned gun raffle, team entry forms and other developments.

FireWise Trailer- Lisa discussed the need to stock the trailer with handout material including Ready-Set-Go pamphlets. We have about 200 but have another 300 on order. We will also need to get the Living With Fire brochures from Jennifer. Lisa has set up a Doodle account on our web site to schedule the reservations this summer for the trailer. We discussed the need for a policy for use of the trailer including information on hauling, insurance, return times and general coordination. The trailer hitch is 2 5/16ths. Ed will check on liability coverage from the county policy. Steve and Lisa will prepare the trailer policy by May 16. We all felt that it would take some time before we figured out the best way to use the trailer.

Currently the planned events using the trailer are: Yaak rummage sale on May 24; Expo on June 7, Fortine Open House on June 14, Troy Fourth of July, Bull Lake Open House on July 19, Chain of Lakes Homeowner Assoc. Mtg on July 12.

Ready –Set-Go Resolution- I reviewed the draft resolution that the fire coop members supported last week for Wildfire Awareness Week. The week of June 2 is the official state Wildfire Awareness Week. The resolution emphasizes the new Ready-Set-Go program and reaffirms our commitment that no property alone is worth risking your life for. Our council was supportive also. I said I was also drafting a letter, at the request of the fire chiefs, for their signatures in support of the resolution. The presentation to the commissioners is 9AM on May 28. All fire departments and interested parties are encouraged to attend. I have attached the draft resolution in this mailing. This event will hopefully be well publicized and I will invite local newspapers and radio stations to attend.

Next Meeting- May 15, 2014

Ed Levert, Chair