

July 24, 2014 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Dawain Burgess, TFF RFD; Lisa Osborn, Three River RD; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co; Kirk Kraft, Lincoln County Sheriff's Dept. and Fisher River Valley FSA; Vic White, Lincoln County Emergency Management; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD; Keith Kenelty

Round Robin:

Lauer- There have been several arson fires on the Kootenai N.F. And State. Department has been doing fire assessments in the Bobtail and Swede areas. Attended a crude oil response training.

Kenelty- Keith will be doing assessments for the Chain of Lakes area. Manned the FireWise trailer at the the annual homeowners assoc. event.

Osborn- Several crews were sent to the western states on fires, but all are back except one crew. Scattered storm damage in the Troy area. Very few fires.

Burgess- Dwain reported few fires. Brian Donner is the new district ranger at Eureka and Murphy Lake.

White- Vic said that radio communication is taking most of his time. Received \$190,000 to help move the Pink, Swede and Blue Mtn. Repeaters into new buildings. June 30, 2015 the lease expires. Currently they are cleaning the sites and getting ready to move. Working on the Mt Henry repeater. Mt Marston law enforcement repeater should be ready this winter. Discussing removing the top 1/3 of the Flower Cr. Dam as a safety consideration.

Kraft- As chief of the Fisher River FSA, the annual Chain of Lakes Homeowners Assoc. meeting was a success. They are receptive to the FireWise message. They had 4 calls in a 24 hour period. Two of the fires were suspicious. Two engines sent out to Washington and Oregon. Will be attending the Pines Homeowners Association meeting with Keith.

The report from the sheriff's department is that the Run Cards are now in place with the dispatch offices. It will take time for all of this to become second nature. The west zone communication system includes Baldy and King while the North zone includes Mt Marston and Pinkam. Working with narrow bands is difficult.

Levert- I have primarily working on the Western States Grant for South Lincoln Co. This grant application is for \$300,000 and includes \$50,000 for Sanders Co. I spent a day looking at WUI treatment proposals in the Obrien Creek area with the Forest Service.

Old Business-

Grants- As I mentioned previously I am working with Bill Swope on the 2015 Western States Grant, which will be reviewed and submitted by Flathead Economic Policy Center. The Stevens Grant is due by Aug 15. (Note- Bill Swope will be working with Dwain Burgess to apply our grant to the Pinkam-Meadow Creek areas. We are hopeful that this will include the Stryker area also.

FireWise Trailer- Keith has been hired to move the FireWise trailer around the county and will also do the FireWise program including the brochures and messages to the public. I was to send a separate message to all fire departments regarding this hiring.

Steve was going to contact Gardner RV and order a new awning bracket and Joe would attach it on the trailer. Lisa was going to look into a center board between the fold out displays. Ed was to contact Jennifer Mayberry or Betsy Miller from the Governors Office regarding getting emergency supply bags as handouts. Lisa is considering doing a new display board next winter to replace the lost one. Steve was concerned that we did not have good kid's handouts. He was going to order a supply and keep the cost of it to around \$1,000. Steve was also going to order a handout rack.

From last meeting- One thing we thought would help the trailer would be to string a large banner over the top of the trailer. Doug was going to talk to Steve Tiegen about coming up with some pole attachment to the trailer. One observation is that we need to do something different with the awning, which can obstruct the public's view of the exhibit. Another is that the table needs to be off to the side and not directly in front of the trailer.

A discussion ensued regarding doing another FireWise calendar. I expressed my concern of spending more money on this after last year's fiasco. We decided to table the discussion until the next meeting.

Next Meeting- August 21, 2014

Ed Levert, Chair