

September 5, 2013 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Dawain Burgess, TFF RFD; Lisa Osborn, Three River RD; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co; Kirby Maki, Libby Supt. of Schools; Mark Peck and Doug Turman, DNRC; Matt Bowser, Yaak Valley Forest Council, Katie Andreesen, Libby RD; Lou Kuennen, Flathead Economic Policy Center; Bruce Vincent, Provider Pals

Round Robin:

Maki- Kirby said that things were going well in the school district. Enrollment is up 5 which is a departure from the past reductions in enrollment. Working on a grant for ductless heat pumps in the elementary school.

Burgess- Things are going slow. Firemen are returning from fire assignments. Working on by-laws for service area. Need \$25,000 for equipment.

Osborn- Three Rivers has had 12 small fires in past 2 weeks. There are still 10 fire crew left. District looking at fall burn program. A new AFMO has been selected.

Levert- I reported that I had spent considerable time working on stakeholder projects.

Bowser- Matt reported on the huckleberry monitoring being done on the Sparring Bulls Timber Sale to assess response to different treatments.

Andreesen- Katie said been busy with Nordicfest, etc. They haven't had any fire larger than 2 acres. John Carlson will be the acting district ranger since Malcolm has accepted a position in the SO. Blue and Swede Mtn. LO's are still manned. Looking at fall burns including Shafer Cr.

Turman- Doug said that they have had few fires. Down to 3 fire folks. Fisher River and Troy activity burns planned this fall.

Kuennen- Lou talked about the status of the current grant and provided a list of those who have signed up and those on his contact list. He said he was meeting with Stimson foresters to discuss treatment near the Garrison Rd in Troy. We discussed the lack of effectiveness of the advertisements about the grant program. I agreed to contact Carol Daly about an article on the grant program in our county newspapers. This would probably do more to drum up interest in the program

Peck- Mark was gone on fires in August. Reported that the status of the Flower Cr. Sale was still in question because of asbestos in the bark, even though much below EPA standards.

Old Business

FireWise Trailer- The education committee reported that the trailer is about completed. The cabinets are being built. Lisa said that the graphics are still being developed and we then decided what graphics we wanted on the outside of the trailer. Living with Wildfire- Will Your Home Survive was agreed to for both sides of the trailer.

Lisa asked me to contact Gary Marshall to get additional copies of “How to Have a Firewise Home” for the FireWise Trailer.

Education Committee Report- Bruce reported that there were 14 students from Lincoln County who attended camp this year. The teacher camp was not held because of a problem with the college web site not getting the necessary information posted. It will be planned for next summer. There will be no FireWise Theater this year. We agreed to continue the FireWise advertising for the time being.

Title III Funding- \$122,000 is available that needs to be obligated by Sept. 31 of this year. I reported that a recommendation needed to be made to the commissioners by Sept. 16 on our recommended priorities.

I then discussed another potential project for the council’s consideration, funding for a study by a forest consulting firm to determine the feasibility of the Kootenai Stakeholder Coalition tentatively agreed to Vegetative management guidelines. If these guidelines can actually implement the Kootenai’s draft EIS recommended alternative this could result in an increase in timber volume cut and acres cut in the WUI.

We then proceeded to discuss a host of possible ideas that might be suitable Title III projects. The question came up about what funds were left over from our past 2011 list of priorities. I could not answer that and agreed to find out more information on the status of these funds. I told the group that I would send out more information and a draft list of projects with funding amounts identified. If we could not reach agreement by email I would arrange a conference call before the 16th.

Note- Since then I found out that we have \$178,000 in total funds including that expected this year. The entire amount must be obligated and not just the \$122,000 that is expected in the final payment to the county.

Next Meeting- October 3

Ed Levert, Chair