

September 25, 2014 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Lisa Osborn, Three River RD; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co; Kirk Kraft, Lincoln County Sheriff's Dept. and Fisher River Valley FSA; Lisa Odewalt, Lincoln County Emergency Management, Doug Turman, DNRC, Dan Rose and Jeff Stevenson, USFS; Brad Lord; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD; Dawain Burgess, Trego, Fortine, Stryker RFD.

Round Robin:

Lord- Brad is a fairly recent resident of Lincoln Co. He explained that he is now doing new sub-division FireWise assessments for the county. He has extensive fire suppression experience. Welcome Brad

Burgess- TFS has had several recent fires and responded to an accident.

Kraft- Fisher River FSA has had crews on wildfires in Washington and Oregon. Assisted the DNRC on a couple of fires. Kirk is working on a hazardous risk assessment map with help from Keith Kenelty.

Kirk is continuing to work with the communication improvements that are happening with both emergency management and law enforcement.

Odewalt- Lisa discussed the county fire evacuation planning program. Reverse 911 will begin on October 1. She has been entering data in the computer that will assist evacuations in the Fisher River FSA.

Stevenson- Jeff is the fire management assistant for the Kootenai N.F. He said that dispatch has been extremely busy this summer with all the fire assignments off forest.

Rose- Dan is the fire staff for the Kootenai N.F. He said that the forest had 101 fires, which was below normal. The largest was a 41 acre one near Eureka. 400 acres of prescribed fire(mostly activity fuels) have been burned in the past 2 weeks. Fire planning is ongoing on the following proposed projects: Buckhorn, Lower Obrien, Galton, East Reservoir and Miller-West Fisher.

Turman- The DNRC has had 10 fires. His fire team had been detailed to Washington. They have 1 engine crew on. Currently prepping for pile burning.

Lauer- Libby RFD continues to do FireWise assessments. He is preparing for fire prevention week, October 6. He attended training in Colorado on handling possible spills/fires from oil train derailments.

Osborn- Lisa said the district is in a full burning mode. Issuing lots of burning permits. Looking at a possible 2 month detail.

Lisa said that she has been spending a lot of time on the Lincoln Co. fire calendar. She is working with the schools to get 4 pictures each for the calendar. She is having a problem getting a printer since the Printing Press said they couldn't do it this year. The pictures are due by October 14. If anyone has good fire photos let Lisa know (photos must be of a 300 LPI? Or better) The plan is to have the calendar out by November 1 so have to have to printer by October 14. Planning on 2500 calendars

Levert- I discussed the varying fuel reduction projects that I am involved in. The Edgewater Estates fuel reduction project is completed. Other projects that I am involved with include the Yaak county gravel pit fuel reduction project to be let this winter, McGrade School county property and a private parcel on the Kootenai River Rd. I also discussed the status of the Kootenai Stakeholder Coalition. I told the group that we once again needed to prioritize Title III projects and that I would be sending out a draft for comments.

We were successful in our Stevens Bill grant application for the area from the East side of the reservoir-Pinkam Creek-Meadow Creek and South to Stryker. I have not heard the dollar amount, but it could be as much as \$75,000. No word yet on the Western States grant for South Lincoln County.

I gave Lou Kuennen's update on the grants he is administering.

Old Business-

FireWise Trailer- Steve will order the part from Gardner RV to repair the broken awning mount and Joe will do the work.

Newspaper Advertisements- We decided that we would not need to run any more advertisements based on the current status of fire season. That could change but I was to contact Bruce and let him know.

Calendar- The calendar will have varying messages for each month. Lisa will send out the messages again for comment. A professional photographer will take the cover photo. Doug said he would contact Crystal Beckman about a Missoula printer, but Lisa would check with Plains first.

Wildfire Preparedness Class- Vic had been unable to contact Flathead County about their program this summer.

New Business-

Forest Service Fire- Dan gave us a rundown on their current organization. He then discussed the planned test in OU3 (Vermiculite Mine). The Montana DEQ, FS and DNRC would be conducting an experimental burn at the mine to study the amphibole asbestos levels. This would be done in a burn pile in the area of the highest concentration

and another at an area outside OU3. One of the hoped for results would be to identify if there were risks to fire suppression aircraft.

Dan said that Tony Peak had mysteriously burned to the ground sometime between July 11 and now. No clues at this time.

There has been a big turnover in personnel on the forest except for the fire organization. He discussed the Type 3 overhead on the forest. He said that a repelling crew could occur in the future. Each district has 2 engines.

He discussed the county coop agreement and said that it was working well.

Next Meeting- October 23

Ed Levert, Chair