

November 20, 2014 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Lisa Osborn, Three River RD; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co; Kirk Kraft, Lincoln County Sheriff's Dept. and Fisher River Valley FSA Dawain Burgess, Trego, Fortine, Stryker RFD; Mark Peck, DNRC; Jeff Stevenson, Kootenai N.F.; Terry Peck; Jessie Grossman, Yaak Valley Forest Council

Round Robin:

Osborn- Calendars completed and ready to be distributed. All burning done. Will be working on NEPA for next 2 months. Forest is implementing a new seasonal hiring process.

Burgess- A tour of the recent fuel reduction work on the W.Kootenai WMA is available and Dawain will let us know when.(Tour has been postponed until Spring) Twelve homes would like a FireWise assessment.

Lauer- Hazardous material training tonight. Winter drawdown of Flower Reservoir is at 2/3rds of full capacity in preparation for new dam construction. New sprinkler system installed in care center. Will plan on burning large slash pile by Champion Haul Bridge next Spring. There will be a ICS 400 course in January. Steve will be attending a WUI training class. Red Cross and fire department are installing smoke detectors. Few fires.

Stevenson- Forest has finished fall burning. 1600 acres accomplished. Most seasonal done. The Kootenai N.F. as a new radio plan with 10 more repeaters and 3 frequencies.

Peck- Terry briefly discussed the firefighter challenge scheduled for June 6, 2015. Terry has been working as a Red Cross volunteer installing smoke alarms with the Libby RFD.'

Grossman- Jessie gave us a brief update of the last Kootenai N.F. Stakeholder Coalition meeting on December 4.

Swope- Bill said that an award of a \$100,000 grant had been awarded in the north end of the county in concert with the Pink Meds proposed timber sale. Awaiting word on a grant application for south Lincoln County.

Mark Peck- Mark said that there wasn't much going on at the Libby Unit.

Kraft- Fisher River FSA helped burn large slash piles. Kirk has been working on fire response policy(running cards) for the county dispatch office. Kirk will explain this system to us in our December meeting.

Levert- The owner of the 7 acre Remp property have decided that they do not want to participate in a fuel reduction project. I helped the Upper Yaak Valley FSA with FireWise assessment training. The Neils fuel reduction project(30 acres) is scheduled for next field season. The McGrade fuel reduction project will not start until next spring.

Old Business-

Calendar- We had a brief discussion on the 2016 calendar.

Eureka Contractor Workshop- Bill Swope said that there is a need to train more FireWise contractors and hopes have a contractor workshop in Eureka and possibly in Libby.

FireWise Ideas- I led a short discussion intended to come up with ideas that our council might pursue in the future. I mentioned that the county CWPP is a dynamic document and that we should be constantly evaluating the effectiveness of the plan.

Some of the ideas that we discussed were:

- 1) Supply emergency evacuation signs to sheriff's department/ fire departments.(Ed)
- 2) Community meeting on potential projects.(Dawain)
- 3) Rainy Creek fuel reduction grants. (Swope)
- 4) Effective communication needed during start of large fires between all parties.
(Lisa)
- 5) County Type III IC fire team. (M.Peck)
- 6) Table top exercise to familiarize all agency, elected officials and critical personnel with what to expect in the event of a large fire incident. (M.Peck)

We will pursue these ideas and others at our next FireSafe Council meeting.

Next Meeting- December 18, 2014 (9 am-noon)

Ed Levert, Chair

