

May 21, 2015 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Doug Turman, Wyatt Framton, Tanner Columbo, DNRC; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co; Dawain Burgess, Trego, Fortine, Stryker RFD; Lou Kuennen , Flathead Economic Policy Center; Mark Peck, Lincoln County Commissioner; Terry Peck; Mike Sanders, UYVFA, Lisa Osborn, Troy USFS; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD; Nate Gassmann and Grant Ryder, Libby USFS

Round Robin:

Osborn- There is one YCC crew at Troy and there will be two crews at Libby. Four weeks for each crew. There is one Montana Conservation Corp crew at Libby.

Lauer- The FireWise trailer awning mount has been fixed. Met with Jeremy Nelson regarding the large scale fire plan for OU 3. Met with Smith Valley RFD on structure protection training. Last Thursday did structure protection exercise. Will work with Grant's crews for mutual training. Worked on Bobtail and Cedar Creek fires and stated the great relationship they have with Forest Service crews.

I asked Steve to give us some feedback to the seven day WUI training he received at the national academy. They emphasized the need for a community "sparkplug" to keep the work going. Steve felt that our community was already doing most of things that they suggested. Will be doing helicopter training with Sanders County. Test burning of slash piles was conducted last week in OU-3 to determine the levels of asbestos in the smoke. These results should be available in 6-9 months.

Sanders- UYVFD is running on a very tight budget. They are having a rummage sale this week. They only have a \$9,000 yearly budget. They believe they have their 3,000 gallon tender ready for service. Used the FireSafe trailer at their event last Saturday.

Kuennen- Completed one verification and 2 agreements last month. Moving grant funds to other parts of south Lincoln County besides Libby area.

Ryder- Libby R.D. now has fifteen fire folks on with another ten more coming on by June 8. Burning today in Shaffer Creek. Nikia Hernandez has been detailed into the regional office and Grant has been detailed to fill in behind him. Jason Sunnell is filling in behind Grant. There is no prevention person on board.

Burgess- TFS had three grass fires. Their wildland training is completed.

Frampton- Wyatt is detailed into Doug Turman's vacated position. DNRC had a fire in Wolf Creek. Fire hazard is very high for this time of year.

Turman- DNRC expects they will soon hear if they can put up the Flower Creek Sale once again. A recently enacted legislative bill will fund a new position in Missoula to assist counties with coordination with FS. Received \$12,000 for personal protection gear, which is going to Emergency Management for county fire crews.

A table top exercise will be conducted at the Ponderosa Room on June 11. This exercise is designed to prepare county fire suppression agencies and elected officials for a large wildfire. A simulated wildfire will be used in this example.

Gassmann- Nate is the new Libby district ranger. Discussed the law suit on the East Reservoir project. A response is expected by the FS this Monday. The district has a new forester, GIS position and GS-11 planning staff to fill.

Levert- I reported on the status of the Pat Neils Fuels project in Libby, which is a 27 acre timber sale/fuels reduction project planned for this coming summer. At this time we are waiting to get a road use permit to haul out by the old Libby Ranger Station. The 63 acre fuel reduction project on the Carolyn Peck property has begun with Mark Decker and Gary Cooper doing the logging. I ordered the handout "Ember Aware" for handouts across the county.

Old Business-

Education Committee Reports- Lisa said that the plans for the calendar this year is to have each of the nine county fire departments featured a month(pictures), one Firefighter focus picture, kids and firefighters and event and geezer winners.

I expressed concern about the apparent lack of a school FireWise education program this spring. Lisa said that all of her activities have been done in the fall. April Rewerts is the Libby School coordinator. I said that I was not doing the Libby High School FireWise program this year. The SAF fifth grade tour does cover FireWise. No one had heard if Provider Pals was doing any presentations.

Firefighter Challenge- Terry and Mark Peck couldn't be at this meeting, but we did discuss the FireWise education component of the event. A large order of handouts for the trailer was made by Lisa to be paid for by the county and DNRC. I expressed concern about the high cost of the handout buckets(\$3/each). I suggested that we need to figure out some way to ration them out. Keith will be manning the trailer at the event. I will ask him to bring the trailer over to J Neils Park on the 4th when we meet for our final rehearsal.

Steve has the demo house at the DNRC office. He will get it set up on the 4th with the help of Tanner and the DNRC crew. Steve is going to set up the FireWise trailer across from the demo house. Lisa will do the FireWise demonstration presentation on the 6th at 11AM. Lisa will try to get Cooper from Eureka to do demonstrate the smokejumper suit at the challenge. Ed will pick up FireWise plants from Antler Tree Nursery and make copies of recommended plants lists for the trailer. Steve will make arrangements to pick up gifts for the drawing at the FireWise demonstration.

Bruce and PJ are doing the advertisements in the county and Kalispell Interlake newspapers.

Next Meeting- June 18, 2015