

Lincoln County Firesafe Council Notes

Location – Zoom Conference Call

Date- January 21st, 2021

Time-9:00 AM-10:30 PM

Note Taker: Jacob Jeresek

In Attendance: Jeremy Rank, Brian Ressel, Marcel Getz, Logan Sandman, Jacob Jeresek, Ali Ulwelling, Derek Luchik, Steve Lauer, Jennifer Nelson, Doug Turman, Brent Teske, Dean Whitney

Action items are in red font.

New/Old Business:

- Grant Updates; KFRI, MFAP proposal, WUI, Joint Chief's (Jennifer and Brian Ressel)
 - MFAP: Closing in on proposal that is due January Friday 29th. Still working on the financial matching requirements portion of the proposal.
 - KFRI: Getting more interest in the Troy and Libby area. Looking at around 4 parcels in the Bobtail area. The County offered \$36,000 in additional funding which Jennifer accepted. However, the timelines for implementation did not change with the additional funding. Phase 2 is waiting for the commissioners to approve. The plan is to use some of these funds as match for the MFAP proposal.
 - Joint Chief's: We did not receive a Joint Chief's Project award. Funding for Joint Chief's Projects was cut to roughly ¼ of the amount historically awarded. No project proposals in Region 1 were awarded. We have not received feedback on our proposal yet. Libby RD is thinking about submitting the HooDoo portion of this proposal with MFAP but may not have time.
 - NRCS: Applied for two separate grants for a total of approximately \$1 million. Pinkham Meadow Shared Stewardship proposal is currently under review. Hope to have decision in a month or two. Working on a MFAP proposal in the Glen Lake area. Working with 7 different landowners for approximately 540 acres. NRCS funding is approved and the AFF funding request is out.

Jennifer would like the Firesafe council to be part of the discussion. The plan is to use NRCS specifications which the county may have different specifications. County hopes that around homes and ingress/egress routes, forests are cut a little heavier. One issue NRCS is seeing is landowners do not like the idea of all their acres being cut to the recommended 10 feet crown spacing.
- KSSI Update (Jennifer)
 - Kootenai Shared Stewardship Initiative is getting rolled into a broader idea. The goal is to have more representation in the county for natural resource management. Bruce Vincent is working with the county and commissioners of how this would work. KSSI would be a subset of the larger program. The MOU is currently in place.
- Lincoln County CWPP Update (Jennifer and sub-committee)

- Had a kick-off meeting on January 5th. New ideas came up since the committee last met. Jake proposed to change the WUI from bubble to parcel based mapping. Jake is taking the lead on mapping the WUI for Lincoln County. Primary Lines Of Defense were discussed and decided to add to the plan. Mapping of potential WUI which includes corporate timber lands. Working with County to find a database storage area.
- Fire Adapted Kootenai Website Update (Marcel)
 - Fireadaptedkootenai.org is under construction with GuRoots. GuRoots needs to know if we have any other written material we want on the new website. Are we going to keep the same mission and objectives, or do we need to update these? **Logan will get the bylaws sent to Marcel.** Some of the material can be plagiarized from other fire adapted websites. Hope to have a sample website sent out by the end of the month for comment and edits. The goal is to build a one stop shop for all fire information materials. **If people have suggestions on things to add/remove send those to Marcel as soon as possible. Ali and Marcel will work together to build the base site with base materials.** NRCS would like information on where to find grant opportunities.
 - Jennifer and Marcel are looking for photos for the website. Photos need to be 4k resolution. **If you have any pictures of the local area that fit these criteria, please send these to Marcel as soon as possible.**
 - Trying to determine the logo for Fire Adapted Kootenai. There are a couple of templates, but they do not fit all the needs. GuRoots recommended looking at using 99 Designs to have a design contest to build a logo. Jennifer felt the logo should have elements specific to Lincoln County as well as logos with hidden images. Deadline for contest to begin is next Wednesday. **If you have any comments on the logo, send those to Marcel prior to Wednesday.**
- Burn Permit Subcommittee:
 - At a standstill until we see the presentation offered by Megan Gretch. She is available the first part of February. Hopes are after the presentation the committee can get together to decide on how to proceed with issuing burn permits. Options are to use the existing MT.gov system or build our own website system from the ground up.
- Burn Education Campaign:
 - No meeting in January. An idea was proposed today to submit a RAC proposal for educational materials. However, RAC proposals are due today and not an option this year. This should be tabled and considered for next year.

Round Robbin:

- Marcel will be meeting tomorrow with the Flathead to have a consistent home assessment process and outreach. Marcel's last day is February 20th.
- Logan will work on funding Marcel an additional month in future years. Getting some KFRI money for the J Niels Project which is for 2021 only.
- Jeremy: Brian and Derek have been very busy. DNRC will have \$15,000 of additional funding and they're looking at getting NRCS some additional personnel.

Adjourned