

## ***Lincoln County Firesafe Council Notes***

Location – Teams Conference Call

Date- September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Time-9:00 AM-10:05 AM

Note Taker: Jacob Jeresek

In Attendance: Jacob Jeresek, Logan Sandman, Brent Teske, Jennifer Nelson, Marcel Getz, Dean Whitney, Mark Peck, RJ McDole, Ashley Juran, Ali Ulwelling, Jeremy Rank, Tom Lane

\* Red font indications action items.

### **New/Old Business:**

- Burn Permit Website Update; Finalize work to transition to new website; Cost; How it's paid for; etc. (Marcel, Jennifer, et. Al.)
  - We have a signed agreement with NIC to setup the website. The Council agreed that we should start with the Libby Air Pollution Control District due to the complexities within. Next steps involve providing NIC shapefiles of administrative areas so addresses can be clipped to these areas. This process needs to be moving by early January at the latest to be active by April and we can reconvene the Burn Permit subcommittee if needed. **Jacob will send shapefiles of the Forest Service administrative districts and the Libby Unit Fire Protection boundary.**
  - Working to fill position in Lincoln County Health Department. These are big shoes to fill and there will be a steep learning curve. The Lincoln County Health Department issues over 700 burn permits for the month of April to burn yard waste.
- Fire Adapted Kootenai Updates (Marcel and Jennifer)
  - Marcel established a Fire Adapted Kootenai Facebook page this summer and was re-posting fire messages produced by agencies and spreading the word about the Fire Adapted Kootenai website. Jacob has been updating the website as fire conditions and fire restrictions conditions change as well as adding new information to the various pages. During fire season, there was interest in the website but not much since.
  - Marcel has purchased some polos, coffee mugs, stickers, etc. to help spread the word about Fire Adapted Kootenai. He also has been working on videos within the Rabbit Tracks project to promote what we do and the website itself.
  - Jennifer has about \$2700 targeted for the website and the money can be used to help advertise. Marcel is looking at advertisements to promote the website such as coffee sleeves with the Fire Adapted Kootenai logo from Bear'ly Awake coffee shop. **If you have ideas on how to spend this money appropriately, let Jennifer and Marcel know.**
- Forestry Fair (Jennifer and Marcel)
  - Kootenai Forest Fair is Friday September 24<sup>th</sup> from 3pm to 6pm at Riverfront Park in Libby. The event is hosted by the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition. There will be lots of vendors there and free beer.
  - Fire Adapted Kootenai will be at the Fair with the trailer and banners of Montana

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and Fire Adapted Kootenai. The trailer will have a TV mounted showing the Era of Megafires video. The booth will also have a signup sheet for people requesting home assessments. There will also be various pamphlets with information available on Trust Lands, home construction ideas to be firesafe, evacuation checklists, landscaping in the home ignition zone, GNA, ember aware, Code Red signup, etc.

- Rabbit Tracks Updates (Marcel and Jennifer)
  - Stimson has accomplished 60 acres of precommercial thinning and completed road repair work at Alvord Lake Community Forest. Stimson ground burned in the South Yaak fire and they are assessing salvage opportunities. Unknown at this time how this will impact their portion of the Rabbit Tracks grant.
  - There are currently three landowners in the project area completing fuels reduction on their properties for approximately 60 acres.
  - Marcel will be doing some aerial footage with drones in October to create a 5-minute video of pre and post treatment conditions. He is also looking at interviewing Jennifer and Bruce Rowland for the Video. The purpose of the video is to inform the public why we are treating fuels and why this project is important.
  - DNRC will be working on their portion of the agreement this fall and next spring.
- CWPP Update (Jennifer)
  - The core CWPP revision team will reconvene on September 30<sup>th</sup>. A working group on the Lincoln County WUI Memorandum of Understanding including the Forest Service, Montana DNRC, NRCS, and Lincoln County are looking for priority areas for treatment within the WUI to build a 5-year roadmap which the CWPP identifies. The CWPP core team will be identifying priority areas for treatment is multiple meetings from October through December.
- Grant Updates (Jennifer)
  - A lot of interest throughout the county after the 2021 fire season. Continuing to move forward with Kootenai Forest to Rivers Initiative. Currently have 20 contracts awarded and in various progress of implementation. There is currently \$166,000 committed and \$103,000 paid out in grants.
  - Western States is kicking off. Currently there are 6 applicants in the Swede Mountain and McMillan area.
  - A portion of the Rabbit Tracks grant funded the Lincoln County, Montana Counties on Fire magazine that went to all Lincoln County addresses.
- Change of Command at Libby Fire Department (Steve)
  - Steve Lauer is the new Chief at Libby Fire Department. Tom Wood is still completing administrative duties. Steve is still completing fire marshal duties. Looking for someone else in the department to take on Firesafe Council duties, possibly Scott Beagle. Otherwise, people really shouldn't notice a change within the department.

### **Round Robbin:**

Tom Lane is the new Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency director.

Next meeting is October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 0900.

Adjourned