

Lincoln County Firesafe Council Meeting Notes

Location: Libby Fire Department (in person) and Microsoft Teams Conference Call (virtual)

Date: November 17th, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Note Taker: Jacob Jeresek

In Attendance: Jacob Jeresek, Harmony Burow, Seth Carbonari, Matt Chumbley, RJ McDole, Jeremy Rank, Logan Sandman, Thomas Lane, Doug Turman, Steve Lauer, and Gary Kedish

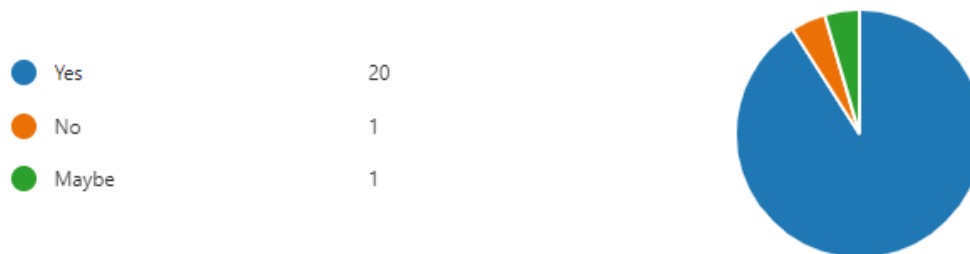
*Red font indicates action items

New/Old Business:

- **Results of Meeting Survey and Future Meeting Discussion (Jacob)**

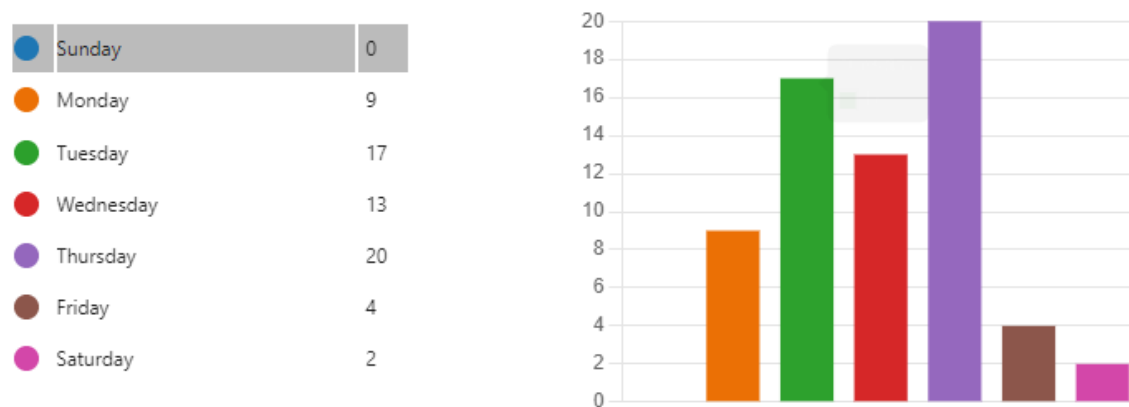
1. Will you or a member of your organization attend monthly Lincoln County Firesafe Council meetings?

[More Details](#)



2. What day of the week works best for you or a representative from your organization to attend monthly Lincoln County Firesafe Council meetings? (Select all that apply)

[More Details](#)



3. What general time of the day works best for you or a representative from your organization to attend monthly Lincoln County Firesafe Council meetings? (Select all that apply)

[More Details](#)

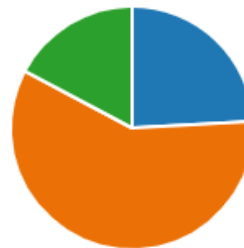
● Mornings 9:00AM to 12:00PM	20
● Afternoons 1:00PM to 4:00PM	6
● Evenings 6:00PM to 9:00PM	1



4. What meeting location works best for you or a representative from your organization to attend monthly Lincoln County Firesafe Council meetings? (Select all that apply)

[More Details](#)

● Eureka	7
● Libby	17
● Troy	5



5. What type of meeting delivery method works best for you or a representative from your organization to attend monthly Lincoln County Firesafe Council meetings? (Select all that apply)

[More Details](#)

● In Person	7
● Virtual (Microsoft Teams, Zoom, ...)	7
● Blended (Both in person and virt...)	17



- Results of the survey indicate that the current meeting day, time, location, and delivery method meet the needs of the majority of the Lincoln County Firesafe Council and nothing should change with future meetings to capture the greatest attendance.
- **Quarterly Meeting Preparation Discussion (Jacob)**
 - There was a discussion on whether there needs to be a pre-meeting or subcommittee meeting prior to the quarterly meeting to prepare. Agency representatives attending the meeting relayed that they thought how the current meetings are facilitated and the information provided meets their expectations so no need to meet prior.
 - To provide the correct information to the agencies, each agency needs to review their projects on the Lincoln County WUI Roadmap for accuracy and work with Nick Youngstrom if corrections are needed.

- **Potential Operational Delineations PODs (Jacob)**
 - The Regional Office of the Forest Service established an agreement with a Forest Service Enterprise Team to do everything from PODs conception to finalization for each forest at no cost. The Enterprise Team acts as a third party and brings all parties together, facilitates the discussion, and completes the analysis and mapping of PODs for each forest across the Region. The Enterprise Team has reached out to Jacob seeing what needs the Kootenai National Forest may have in developing PODs.
 - When this information was presented to the Lincoln County Firesafe Council, there was unanimous consent to utilize the Enterprise Team for everything throughout the PODs process. One concern raised was ensuring that the Enterprise Team travels to other locations across the forest so all parties have an opportunity to participate in PODs development. **Jacob will reach out to the Enterprise Team to see what information they need beforehand so we are prepared when this effort begins.** A tentative timeline for the Kootenai completing this effort would be spring of 2023.
- **LCFSC Upcoming Chair, Co-Chair and Possible Vote (Jacob)**
 - According to the Lincoln County Firesafe Council Bylaws, in 2023 the rolls of Chair and Co-Chair rotate to Lincoln County RFDs as Chair and Montana DNRC as Co-Chair.
 - Steve Lauer has reached out to Jacob that he does not have the capacity to take on the Chair duties. Jacob offered to the council that if agreed to, he would continue as the Chair for the next two years and Montana DNRC would assume the Co-Chair role. Tom expressed concern that there may be contention if the Lincoln County RFDs were not offered the opportunity to serve as the Chair. **Tom will reach out to the fire chiefs across Lincoln County to see if anyone has any interest in serving as the Chair.** If no interest is received, a vote will be held during the next meeting with the previously proposed plan.
- **New Agency Projects (Forest Service, DNRC, NRCS, Lincoln County, Timber Companies)**
 - Montana DNRC is working with the Forest Service to develop a Good Neighbor Authority project in the Granite Creek and Snowshoe Creek areas utilizing a Categorical Exclusion. Montana DNRC would complete all actions from project development through NEPA and ultimately implementation.
 - Montana DNRC is also working on sales planned for 2024 which include the 8% grade of the Haul Road, McKillop, and Cripple Horse.
 - Montana DNRC current active sales include Crazy Man and Lightning Peak. McMillan is on hold due to the Ripley project litigation.
 - Lincoln County will be starting work on an insects and disease grant around J Niels Park immediately behind the Bad Medicine Bike Shop.
- **Grant Updates and Planned Grant Applications (Jeremy)**
 - Montana DNRC submitted a Montana Forest Action Plan grant proposal for the Island Lake Area. The grant requests \$470,000 to complete 300 acres of thinning and 5 miles of shaded fuel breaks. Partners include Green Diamond Resource Company, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Montana DNRC, and private landowners.
 - Jennifer has been giving tours of the Rabbit Tracts Montana Forest Action Plan grant area. The Forest Service recently awarded the mastication contract which will begin work in 2023.
 - Montana DNRC submitted a Community Wildfire Defense Grant for approximately \$5.5 million and are waiting to hear if they were awarded.
- **Joint Chief's Update (Brian and Gary)**
 - For the Kootenai National Forest portion, Gary is working with the Region to try and recover the money that was pulled last year for mastication due to litigation within the Ripley project area.

- With NRCS, the application period closed for new landowners to participate. NRCS has 13 forest management plans to complete for 2023 of which most are within the Libby Surround Joint Chief's project area.

Round Robin:

- There are several openings across the state within the DNRC. There likely will be some movement within the organization by the end of the year.
- The Forest Service is currently in the process of several permanent fire hire events. There will likely be quite a bit of movement within the organizations locally.
- Kevin Jump and an anonymous investor are looking into a hog fuel market in Libby located at the Port Authority. The operation would ship hog fuel by rail to seaports to ship overseas. This effort is gaining a lot of traction. At this time, Kevin says they will accept all material they can get within an 80-mile radius of Libby. For landowners, there is no money available to the landowner to profit from providing hog fuel from their property but there is no cost to the landowner for removal of hog fuel from their property. The timeline for this market is around the first part of 2023 to start securing volume.

Adjourned