

Lincoln County Firesafe Council Agenda

Location – Teams Conference Call

Date- November 18th, 2021

Time-9:00 AM-9:30 AM

Note Taker: Jacob Jeresek

In Attendance: Jacob Jeresek, Logan Sandman, Gary Kedish, Marcel Getz, Dean Whitney, Brian Ressel, Dustin Webb, Jennifer Nelson, and Tom Lane

*Red font indicates action items.

New/Old Business:

- Update on fall burning within the Libby Air Pollution Control District (Dustin)
 - Completed all management burns for all permits issued by Jennifer and Steve throughout the month of October. All burning within the area went well and Dustin really liked the coordination by all parties involved.
 - A question was raised on if there was any fallout from the private burn air quality exceedance event on October 21st. Dustin stated that the Department of Environmental Quality requested he complete an incident report for the burn exceedance. To his understanding, this was filed as an exceptional event. Within the Libby Air Pollution Control District, to meet obtainment standards, you need to meet 98% air quality for the year so Dustin is not worried this event will exceed that threshold.
 - A question was raised about expanding residential burning opportunities to include March and April with drier conditions faced in the spring. Additionally, with the CWPP, MOU, potential Joint Chief's projects, and other treatment mechanisms, there is a need to increase fuels reduction work within the Libby WUI and additional spring burning opportunities are needed. **Dustin will work with Kathy to see what options are available.**
- Update on the burn permit website (Marcel)
 - To everyone's understanding, the State and Federal side have everything ready. However, Samantha is still waiting on the GIS layers for the website. Jennifer believes Jason has provided the County GIS layers. **Jacob needs to produce the State and Forest Service GIS layers.** For 2022, the website will just target residential burning within the Libby Air Pollution Control District. A question was raised as to what is additionally needed to get the website operational for the rest of the County.
 - **Marcel will work with Samantha to determine what is needed to get the rest of the County up and running by May 1st.**
- Update on CWPP meetings (Jennifer)
 - So far, there have been meetings for the Bull and Yaak Geographic Areas with analysis now complete for these areas. Upcoming meetings for Geographic Areas include Tobacco on November 23rd, Fisher on December 2nd, and Cabinet on January 6th. With this schedule, the committee is currently on track to be completed with

analysis for the Geographic areas in January.

- For the Tobacco meeting, Jennifer is looking for a venue in Eureka to host. The Lincoln County fairgrounds was provided as a suggestion.
- Update on Code Red notifications with fall burning (Tom)
 - Code Red was utilized for four management burns in the Bobtail area. Feedback received is Code Red worked well with minimal complaints. The complaints received were regarding overreach with the first notification. This will require training and coordination with dispatch, EOC, and EMA to narrow down the focus area for future notifications.
 - One limitation with Code Red is the program is subscription based only so notifications only reach subscription holders. Tom is looking into establishing IPause in Lincoln County which is similar to amber alerts where every mobile device statewide is targeted. The thought is to use IPause for wildfire evacuation notices.
- Grant Updates (Jennifer and Brian)
 - Jennifer noted that they were able to get five landowners grants completed with good windows for fall burning. Currently, she has four landowners that would like to do some winter logging this year.
 - Brian has 12 landowners who have burned in the last couple of weeks within the Edna and Glen Lake TIP areas. The application deadline for 2022 was at the end of October for new landowner participants. Brian is currently in the process for planning with new participants in 2022. Derek is currently working on a new TIP area proposal called Deep Divide which encompasses the front range country near the Gibraltar Ridge fire.
 - Logan mentioned there is a new county co-op grant coming which will fund \$120,000 annually. This will result in more money available for rural fire departments and positions such as Marcel's.
 - Jacob mentioned that there is no decision yet on Joint Chief's selectees but what he has heard in Regional meetings is to prepare for money coming by laying units out, getting silvicultural prescriptions, and assembling contract packages. With the recent signing of the Infrastructure Bill, the Washington Office is looking at funding all Joint Chief's projects that were not selected in the last five years. More to come on this.
- December Meeting Discussion (Jacob)
 - A motion was brought to the table to cancel the December meeting and reconvene in January. This motion was granted unanimously.
 - The next Lincoln County Firesafe Council meeting will be on January 20th at 0900.

Round Robin:

Adjourned