

Lincoln County Firesafe Council Minutes

Location – Zoom Call

Date- November 19th, 2020

Time-9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Note Taker: Logan Sandman

Introductions:

New/Old Business:

- **Lincoln County Burn Permits** - Q&A with Megan Gretch from the mt.gov burn permit website.
 - The system was started in Lewis and Clark County in 2009. 20 Montana Counties are currently using this system. They estimate that nearly 400,000 responses have been diverted by using this system.
 - The system allows users to get a permit online and via phone.
 - Based on the roll an agency is given, they can turn burning authorization on and off daily. The system will send out a notification to burners, if burning has been closed.
 - There is an interactive map feature that shows on going burn permits and completed burns.
 - System Costs:
 - \$1,200 hosting fee that is split between participating counties = \$60.00 annually
 - \$3.00 per permit issued. This cost can be transferred to the consumer or absorbed by the county (est. 1,600 permits issued in Lincoln County annually).
 - Phone Line = \$0.15 a minute
 - No development cost
 - Pricing may look different as of January 2021. A new contract is in the works. Megan should have new pricing in the coming weeks.
 - They use an address file and a shape file to determine burner locations. Missoula County is a good example of a more complicated area. You can also split approval by elevation height.
 - The site can be very customizable for burner education and requirements needed for approval. Some counties even have a test that burners must complete for education purposes.
 - You can visit the test site to try out the website. <https://tst.mt.gov/burnpermit/>
 - If anyone has any additional questions, they can contact Megan
 - Megan Gretch | Project & Portfolio Manager
 - Direct (406) 449-3468 ext. 222 | Mobile (406) 231-2772
 - 100 Neill Ave | Helena, Montana 59601

- mgretch@egovmt.com
 - **Action Item: Create a sub committee to document all our needs and further pursue using this system.**
 - **Assigned to: Lead – Marcel Getz – Jake Metes, Jacob Jeresek, Jennifer Nelson, Ali Ulwelling, Steve Lauer.**
 - **Timeline: March, 1st 2021**
- **Fall Burning Discussion**
 - How many complaints happened? Unknown
 - We need to look at public education as a campaign. We will be seeing an increase in pace and scale for burning within the WUI and airshed. It needs to be a consistent message over a long period of time.
 - We need to be timely with our messaging and take it through the entire calendar year.
 - We need to get the message out to the public on why this is important. How do you want your smoke?
 - Creating a multi-agency letter with education and support for burning that would go out to targeted areas. Tim Bumgarner has volunteered to help write a letter template.
 - Utilize mailers and the Code Red system to alert homeowners.
 - We need to capture stories and videos of projects to post to social media and our website.
 - We are all in this together. We need tackle this together and support each agency with burning and education.
 - The Flathead has utilized a “Smoke Column” in the Flathead Beacon to educate folks. They have found this to be successful. Mark Peck volunteered to write an op-ed in support of burning.
 - Jacob Jeresek would send out project plans and notifications to anyone within a mile of the burn areas in Bigfork. He found that this was very successful.
 - “Era of Mega Fires,” could be a good tool for education.
 - **Action Item: Plan a burn/smoke education campaign. This should be a multi-faced approach to engage landowners. Create education material that can go out before we burn (letters, postcard templates, project overviews, etc.).**
 - **Assigned to: Lead – Marcel Getz, Logan Sandman, Jacob Jeresek, Jake Mertes, Ali Ulwelling, Jodi Turk, Jennifer Nelson.**
 - **Timeline: Initial meeting before December’s FireSafe Council meeting**
- **Lincoln County Home Assessment Form**
 - The new form with SAM data entry requirements was highlighted.
 - Marcel will take everyone’s comments and reformat the form. We can put the two forms side by side at the next meeting. He and Jennifer will work on getting an “end state” for the assessment forms. We can not move forward without figuring out what we want to use the form for at the county level. Once we have that figured out, it may dictate what information is needed.
 - This is a continued action item from October’s Meeting.
- **Lincoln County FireSafe Website**
 - Marcel Getz has been brought on as the Lincoln County Fire Adapted Communities

Coordinator. He will be the project lead for the new county website.

- Marcel presented some logo ideas. He will work with Jodi Turk on making the logo representative of Lincoln County.
- There was discussion on the naming of the new website. Marcel presented “Fire Adapted Kootenai.” There was discussion on making sure the Lincoln County FireSafe Council was incorporated in the mission statement, if we utilize this name.
- Marcel will look to keep the council informed as he makes progress on the website.
- If you have any input on the desired outcome, contact Marcel.

- **Grant Updates** – Jennifer Nelson

- KFRI –
 - Phase 2 has 2 25-acre agreements that are getting wrapped up. Burning will occur next fall.
 - 6 landowners are under agreement. 3 more are in the pipeline. 4 are now seeking contractor bids.
 - Jennifer would like to put a story board together to talk about successes with KFRI.
- Western States –
 - We haven’t been able to kick this off just yet. Jennifer wanted to get phase 2 of KFRI done first. It will be the next thing to get started. The group wanted to check with Ashley Juran on outreach in the Swede Mountain area.

- **Past Action Items:**

- Subdivision regulation sub-committees
 - Assigned:
 - Fire Risk: Logan Sandman, Jake Jeresek, Steve Lauer
 - Vegetation Management Plan: Jennifer Nelson, Jeremy Rank, Derek Luchik
 - Timeline: Spring 2021
- Come up with a plan for utilizing home assessment information.
 - Assigned to: FACC and Jennifer Nelson
 - Timeline: Spring 2021
- CWPP
 - Regroup on the CWPP
 - Assigned: Jennifer Nelson
 - Timeline: November/December

Round Robbin:

Adjourned