

Lincoln County Firesafe Council Meeting Notes

Location - LIBBY FIRE HALL 119 E 6th St

Date- November 21st, 2019

Time-9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Note Taker: Logan Sandman

Introductions:

Round Robbin:

Steve Lauer –

- 7 management burns completed this fall.
- Steve is happy with where the program is going. 3 years ago, we may not have pulled that off.

Jeremy Rank –

- Jeremy's last Trust Lands sale has been completed. He has now fully transferred into his new Service Forester position at Libby Unit.
- He anticipates getting the slashed burned on Clay Banks Fall/2020.

Brent Teske –

- The Co-Op meeting occurred on November 15th. The next meeting is set for March.
- We are not anticipating a lot of Zook funding available this spring.
- The county radio use PowerPoint has been added to the Lincoln County Website. Firefighters will need to watch the PowerPoint and complete a test. Upon completion, put documentation in their file that they completed this.
- The new copy of the Mutual-Aid got passed out. See Brent for a copy, if you didn't receive one.
- Cory Calnan, from the DNRC, attended the meeting. He talked about the new County Co-Op 2.0 rollout.

Mike Sanders –

- 1 vehicle accident up the Yaak.
- The Yaak continues to provide rapid response.
- There is a new show on Netflix for the Paradise, CA fire. He suggests checking this out.

Jennifer Nelson –

- Jennifer has been working on GNA, Collaborative, and grant funding.
- She attended a meeting in Missoula. She is working on getting the Collaborative and the county back on track.
- Wild Rockies has filed a lawsuit on access amendments that effects multiple sales on the

Kootenai National Forest.

- We did not receive the CPAW Grant. We did make it to the interview process this year. Lincoln County was 1 of 15 areas they had considered.
- She was able to meet with Under Secretary Hubbard and Congressman Gianforte for a meeting on GNA. This included trying to get a handle on viable projects for GNA in the Kootenai.

Jim Ward –

- A few medical calls in Bull Lake.
- Still plugging away on building the new fire station.
- Bull Lake will be hosting a driver's train the trainer through VFIS. This will include two-day driver's training and ATV/UTV training. This looks to be a great opportunity to get instructors trained. They have invested \$1,000 in supplies for future classes.
- Jim is working with Lincoln Shute for a S-290 Class in the spring. This will include a new segment on extreme fire behavior.
- Contact Clyde Miller or Jim Ward, if you have questions on attending these classes.
- Jim has seen an uptick in private fuels mitigation in the area.

Jeff Stevenson –

- Jeff has unofficially changed positions. He is currently working as the FMO for Libby District.
- A lot of work coming up, fuels wise, for Libby District. This will include an increase in prescribed burning activities.
- There will be an OU3 reorganization for next year. More to come on this.
- The seasonal and permanent seasonal employees will be laid off at the end of the week.

Logan Sandman –

- Completed 100% of burning on Libby Unit.
- We still have 3 seasonal employees helping with GNA. They expect to stay busy through December.

Kelly May –

- Kelly will be attending the meetings as a Fire Adapted Communities representative from the Fire Protection Bureau (DNRC).
- He is working on protocols for structure assessments, packages, and various duties. He can be contacted at 406-291-6729, if you have prevention questions, ideas, or input. His email is: Kelly.may@mt.gov.

New/Old Business:

- **Subdivision Regulations**

- We have an opportunity to make recommendations to the planning board for revision of subdivision regulations related to fire.
- The board has given us till January 21st to present these recommendations. We will meet with them for a working group meeting to work through what we may want changed.
- Everyone is tasked with reviewing the regulations for input. This will be the main topic at our next meeting.
- If you have it available, review the International Wildland Urban Interface Code. Most of the subdivision regulations are already put together in this document. We need to review to see what makes sense for Lincoln County. We will take time to review at our next meeting, as you need to purchase this to have access.
- This is a very important component as we see new growth in the county.
- Please take the time to really review this. Have your recommendations ready for December's meeting.
- See attachments for documents

- **Burning in Lincoln County – Group**

- We will look to put a prescribed burning working team together.
- The core group will consist of: Steve Lauer, Jennifer Nelson, Jeff Stevenson, Jake Mertes, and Logan Sandman.
- Looking to meet in January.
- If you have any input or recommendations, get with any of the team members.

- **Collaborative Effort/2020 Work Plan - Group**

- KFRI field day will be planned for the spring.
- We are looking to plan a Community Wildfire Education Day. This will include a weekend event possibly at the Memorial Center. Possibly a “Era of Megafires” showing with information booths, events, and vendors. We are looking at April/May. Logan will write up a proposal for the group and start assigning tasks at the next meeting.
- We see a need to update our website and start a Facebook page for information.
- We need to capitalize on the DNRC coloring contest for the schools this year.
- We will start planning “Era of Megafires” showings at various communities.
- We need to find the old home assessment display. Jeff thinks it may be at one of the work stations.

- **KFRI – Jeremy Rank**

- We received bids for the mastication work. That will need to be completed before January 1st.
- We have developed sign materials to promote the event up Pipe creek. We have designed the sign to be used for future events in Lincoln County. “Protect Your Property From Wildfire! Grant Funding Available!” The council has approved the sign.
- Looking to host the event at the Red Dog with a field tour in the spring.

- **CWPP – Jennifer Nelson**
 - Framework for the plan is complete.
 - We received a \$5,000 Local Government Assistance Grant.
 - The next meeting will focus on breaking the county into fire areas and deciding what we want to keep and add to the plan.
- **Grants – Jennifer Nelson**
 - FEMA Grant – still working on this. It may just end up being a fuels mitigation with possible water line excavation.
- **Firewise Trailer – Group**
 - We have decided on a plan of action for future use.
 - Brent will figure out a plan to mount and house the T.V. and associated equipment.
 - Jennifer will get a calendar added to the Lincoln County Website. You will be able to reserve the trailer through this calendar.
 - Logan will restock the trailer with publications.
 - Jeff will restock the trailer with Smokey swag.
 - We will add the home assessment packages, once they are developed. Kelly May has been tasked with getting this package to the group for approval.
- **Previous Action Items –**
 - Action #1 – State HRA takeovers – Brent Teske and Logan Sandman
 - Let local fire departments know there may be an opportunity for them to take over the burning on incomplete HRAs. They can complete the HRA and receive the money that would have gone to the HRA holder.
 - Time Line – Next County Co-Op Meeting November 15th.
 - **Completed Nov 15th**
 - Action #2 – Firewise Trailer – Group
 - Brainstorm ideas for Best Management Practices related to the trailer.
 - Do we need a calendar and sign out sheet?
 - How should be mount the TV for use and travel? What videos and power system do we need to have on the trailer?
 - Timeline – November Meeting
 - **Completed November Meeting**
 - Action #3 – 2020 Work plan - Group
 - Brainstorm ideas on work we can complete in Lincoln County for 2020
 - This should include fuels projects, prevention, Firewise Communities, etc.
 - Think about projects you have or ideas you have to further the effort.
 - I envision this as a living document, but I would like to get some ideas down on projects we can pursue.
 - Timeline – Bring ideas to the November meeting/Looking to have a plan for Spring 2020
 - **Ongoing Action Item – Ideas were presented**

- Action #4 – Home Assessments – Jennifer and Logan
 - Look at bringing in a training course on home assessments.
 - Look into putting together a home assessment package that includes all the forms and information needed to do these assessments.
 - Timeline – Spring 2020
 - **Kelly May will present an assessment package at December’s meeting. Logan and Jennifer have collected publications for the group to evaluate.**

- Action #5 – Lincoln County Burning – Logan
 - Schedule a meeting with all agency partners to develop a burning flowchart and clear up confusion.
 - Timeline – January 2020
 - **Burn working team established**

New Action Items

- Action #1 – Subdivision Regulations - Group
 - Review the current regulations. Be prepared for a lengthy discussion at our next meeting.
 - Timeline – December Meeting
- Action #2 – Community Wildfire Education Day – Logan
 - Have a proposal to the group.
 - Timeline – December Meeting

Adjourned