

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

Location - LIBBY FIRE HALL 119 E 6<sup>th</sup> St

Date- December 19th, 2019

Time-9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Note Taker: Logan Sandman

### **Introductions:**

### **Round Robbin:**

Trevor Pelling –

- 1 chimney fire and 1 medical call.
- Trevor has done 2 KFRI mentoring visits and has a couple more planned for this winter.
- McCormick recertified as a Firewise Community for next year 2020. They are having a little trouble keeping the momentum and getting people involved.
- Trevor has a couple home assessments lined up for this winter.

Jeremy Rank –

- The State Clay Banks Sale had 4 million board feet more than anticipated.
- He has been working on getting HRAs inspected and closed.
- He is open to giving departments an opportunity at HRA takeovers.
- Moving right along with KFRI. The mastication and hand felling are done. The next step is doing out reach in the Pipe Creek area.

Clyde Miller –

- Low on calls this winter.
- Concentrating on training and building the new station. Bull Lake has received training from DEQ on building the station. There is 160,000 cubic yards of dirt to be moved. Equipment failures have stalled the project.
- Volunteers are putting in 200-400 hours each year.
- They have a new wildland engine that came on line this summer. The new tactical tender will be available for 2020.
- They have struggled with illegal burning in the area and would like to see clarification on the process.

Mike Sanders –

- 1 Structure fire and 1 roll over traffic accident.
- Mike was impressed with how Troy Dispatch worked on the structure fire. An AAR has been planned for the structure fire.

Jennifer Nelson –

- Get with Jennifer, if you have any travel claims for FireSafe.
- She checked with the treasurer's office about getting outreach information put in with tax info.
- Weyerhaeuser will be selling land in Lincoln County to a timber investment company.
- FEMA Grant
  - Still in the works for the post mitigation grant.
  - Applied for protection of the elementary school.
  - Hydrant and waterline infrastructure will most likely be dropped from the grant.
  - The culvert project to help with run off might be dropped as well.
  - Still working on the mobile firefighting system for the school.
- KFRI
  - Phase 1 – Received \$170,000 for fuels reduction.
  - She will be contacting people after the first of the year.
  - Phase 2 – Marketing and outreach underway.
- Some concern from the group that targeted marketing might fully over take the shotgun approach to fuels reduction. We still get a lot of interest from single land owners that want to get work done. We still want to provide for these folks.

Mike Monroe –

- Mike has been doing prevention and outreach for Fisher River.
- Staying busy with traffic accidents. There was one fatality due to a deer strike.
- Fisher River is shorthanded, as most departments are in Lincoln County.
- Currently building a new water tender.
- Mike would like to bring the chain of lakes back on line as a Firewise Community.
- New communications upgrade coming to Meadow Peak.
- Mike can be reached at 406-293-3450

Bruce Rowland –

- Bruce is a forester for Stimpson.
- There is now 120,000 acres of Stimpson owned ground in Lincoln County. That is up from 30,000, when Bruce started with Stimpson. They started acquiring land from Weyerhaeuser in 2016.
- The Troy office has been moved to Libby.
- Stimpson has been opening access roads for fire apparatus especially in the OU3 response area.
- All the fall burning has been completed. They were able to get a lot of burning done in the airshed.
- They will make sure and communicate with departments and districts when and where they are burning.
- Bruce can be reached at 406-370-5657

Logan Sandman –

- We still have 2 folks working with GNA. This will be their last week until next spring.
- We will be looking to have a burn protocol working group in January.
- We plan to meet with the planning board on subdivision regulations on January 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Plan on chipping and burning for KFRI in Pipe Creek this spring.
- The Fire Protection Bureau will be doing a pilot home assessment training in Ravalli County. I plan to attend and see if this will work for Lincoln County.

Kelly May –

- Kelly looked into QR codes for the group and Google analytics.
- 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](mailto:Kelly.may@mt.gov).

Ali Uwelling –

- Ali is a great resource for prevention education and information.
- She primarily works with forestry assistance and fire protection in the NWLO - DNRC.
- A big focus for her is Fire Adapted Communities. This includes different approaches to communication and community outreach techniques.
- She is available for support in Lincoln County. If you need any assistance with prevention, Fire Adapted Communities, outreach, and education, etc., feel free to contact her. [AUwelling@mt.gov](mailto:AUwelling@mt.gov) 406-751-2246

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

- **Home Assessment Package – Kelly May**
- Kelly shared the current education documents that he has compiled. He will get these out to everyone electronically for review. The hope is to get a baseline package for the county and include these documents on a USB drive. The drive will also include extra documents that may apply to other areas.
- Kelly would like to create a door hangar and brochure that is specific to the county. There are already templates that are out there. We just need to put in what is relevant here and contact information. A tear off postcard would also be a good tool for sending out information.
- Flathead FireSafe created a couple one-page documents that we could incorporate here.
- Kelly shared a couple home assessment forms. We need to figure out what we want to go with.
- Kelly has been engaging with the schools in Libby for the art contest. If you need help getting this out, please get with Kelly.
- **Subdivision Regulations**
  - Additional staff is needed for enforcement (Code Enforcement Officer)
  - Use IWUI Code instead of Firewise Covenants.
  - Who is doing the vegetation assessment or fire assessments for these new subdivisions?
  - Change language from should to shall.

- Fire protection agencies need to have input on new subdivisions.
- The board has given us till January 21<sup>st</sup> to present these recommendations. We will meet with them for a working group meeting to work through what we may want changed.
- The group started a list of suggested changes. We will continue this discussion on **January 3<sup>rd</sup> at the fire hall. 9:00-12:00**

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

- Trying to bring another event to Lincoln County that focuses on fire education and outreach. This would look to be a bigger event to the scale of the Wildland Firefighter Games in 2015.
  - Objectives: #1 Fire Education and outreach for fuels mitigation and prevention.  
#2 Local Fire Department Recruitment
- We will look to start planning this event in February. Looking at the spring of 2021.

- **Previous Action Items –**

- 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 – Looking to have a large event in Lincoln County plan for Spring 2021
    - **Ongoing Action Item – An event was discussed. We will continue planning efforts in February**
- 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 presented documents for the home assessment package. He will email them out for review. If time allows (January will focus on subdivision regulations), we will review these for the baseline package.**
- 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**
    - **I will send out an invite for January (Doodle Poll)**

## New Action Items

- Action #1 – Subdivision Regulations - Group
  - Review the current regulations. .
    - Timeline – **Plan to further this discussion January 3rd**
- Action #2 – Community Wildfire Education Day – Logan
  - Have a proposal to the group.
    - Timeline – December Meeting
    - **A proposal was given for a larger event in Lincoln County. We will begin planning in February.**

Adjourned