



Date: July 15, 2020

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Agency	Representative Present	Agency	Representative Present
Missoula OEM	Ken Parks (Chair)	MCCHD	Sarah Coefield (Vice-Chair)
MRFD	Chris Newman (Vice-Chair)	DNRC Missoula Unit	Asleigh Burwick (Vice-Chair)
Lolo NF	CJ Johnson (Sec/Treas - acting)	DNRC SWLO	Shawn Bradshaw
Lolo NF	Greg Jacobson	DNRC Clearwater Unit	A.J. Angelo
Lolo NF	Jeff Hayes	DNRC Missoula Unit	Megan Lodders (Sec./Treas.)
Missoula RD	Jesse Kurpius	Missoula FD	Gordy Hughes
Lolo NF Public Affairs	Katelyn Jerman		

1300 – Call to Order (Ken Parks – Chair)

Agenda

Financial Report

Checking Account Balance: **Unknown**

- CJ does not have access to the MCFPA’s checking and savings account at Clearwater Credit Union
- New Sec/Treas will need access

Action Item:

Asleigh Burwick and Kristin Mortenson will get Clearwater Credit Union information to Sec/Treas.

Correspondence Received

- CJ does not have the key to the PO Box
- New Sec/Treas will need access

Action Item:

Asleigh Burwick and Kristin Mortenson will get PO Box key to Sec/Treas.

Old Business

- RFC Grant (Joe Calnan)
 - 2019-2020 RFC (formerly VFA) grant cycle is closed out, last few departments on reimbursement (East Missoula, Greenough) waiting should have the check in their hands this week. Let me know if that doesn’t happen.
 - Ashleigh Burwick heard back from DNRC rep Rhea Blankenship- checks mailed- likely in PO Box
 - 2020-2021 RFC Grant – submitted to DNRC in May, have not heard of award yet.

Action Item:

Contact Joe Calnan with questions.

New Business

- Nominations and Selection of MCFPA Secretary/Treasurer to replace Jordan Koppen (CJ)
 - Nominee: Megan Ladders (DNRC Missoula Unit)
 - Accepted the role- THANK YOU Megan!!
 - mladders@mt.gov
 - 542-5813 Office

Action Item:

CJ will reach out to Megan and Ashleigh Burwick.

- LEPC Replacement for Joe Calnan

Action Item:

Ken Parks volunteers. CJ will let Joe know.

- Updated personnel & tools at Missoula Dispatch (CJ)
 - Kate Holsapple's last week as Center Manager
 - 120-day detail staffed beginning in August by Maegan Maughan @ maegan.maughan@usda.gov
 - Fire Danger Operating Plan
 - This is DRAFT form this year, and we'll be looking at indice breaks (ERC values that move us up through the fire danger ratings as well as run cards
 - FDOP participation is expanded to the entire SW MT Zone, and all the Federal, State, and Tribal partners
 - Interesting to note the Bitterroot Fire Danger Rating Areas are broken up into upper- and lower-elevation
 - Calculates fire occurrence and type, to inform interagency decision-making in the prevention/education realm
 - Fuel Model Y: Open timber/grass; closed, short-needle conifer, and heavy dead fuels
 - Table of ERC values and percentile breaks is in DRAFT form currently, and we'll finalize after comments received in the fall and winter
 - Percentile gives folks a reference or context to the ERC value
 - 90th percentile ERC means that only 10% of days in the area's history have had similar or higher values to inform folks of the relative risk
 - BI (Burn Index) provides a bit more accuracy to determine the level of response we need- i.e. run cards
 - With run cards: at Low, Moderate, and High, the agencies will be expected of their staffing and the response for dispatch
 - [Fuels/Fire Danger Online Tools](#)
 - ERC corresponds to adjective rating
 - BI corresponds to the run card response (run cards active in 2021)
 - 1,000 HR graphs are included
 - Fire Environment Indicators page needs to be adjusted; it shows the current value of ERC and the corresponding fire danger adjective. Good for folks who are headed to the Monday MCFPA meeting, and good for people to know how close we are to transitioning up or down.
 - [Weather Online Tools](#)
 - KMZs for lightning occurrence

- RAWs data
- Fire Weather Forecasts
- Pocket Cards
- Advisory and Monthly Outlook maps
- Fuel Moisture sites
- Smoke Monitoring

Action Item:

Provide Jeffrey.Hayes@usda.gov with feedback

- Fire in a COVID-era Google Earth scenario (CJ)
 - Available online @ <http://www.umd.edu/ces/conferences/fire/> -> "Forms" -> "[COVID Wildfire Scenario](#)"
 - Google Earth KMZ
 - Companion Video
 - COVID-era Incident Action Plan

Action Item

N/A

Department/Agency Round-Robin (All)

Frenchtown Fire (Chief Joe Calnan)

- After numerous early spring escaped burns for multiple acres, wildland been pretty slow
- EMS calls and ambulance transports trending down like most agencies last few months
- Resources look good, all personnel/equipment remain local

Missoula County Wildfire Preparedness Coordinator (Max Rebholz)

- Held a chipping event in the Upper Rattlesnake along Highland Dr. in late June. 25 homeowners participated and Team Rubicon helped complete the chipping. Successful event that was the driver for action in the community.
- For an assessment report out: total Missoula County numbers will come, but I've been tracking my numbers and have completed 40 since May 15th.
 - Public requests them by sending an email to livingwithwildfiremt@gmail.com
 - Kristin Sleeper collects requests and sends them out the agencies that do home/property assessments
 - Agencies active in home/property assessments in Missoula County
 - DNRC SWLO and Units
 - Missoula County
 - Missoula Rural Fire Department
 - Frenchtown Fire Department
 - Lolo NF
- Upper Rattlesnake presentation was a lively discussion and about 30 people signed up for an assessment. Thanks to Kirk Paulsen for representing MRFD
- [Living With Fire](#) podcast is nearly ready- waiting on one more interview with CS&KT re: tribal perspective

MCFPA Community Preparedness Subcommittee Update

- Actively engaged with Max

MCFPA Social Media Subcommittee Update

- WAMCo site is nearly live; CJ and Max will prepare a show-and-tell presentation for MCFPA when ready

SW MT Zone Prevention Update

- Prevention/Education Team will seat soon
- Delegation of Authority will be initiated

- One Less Spark
- www.BeOutdoorSafe.org
- Focus on increased wildland visitors in Missoula County in COVID-Era
- MCFPA will be asked to fund effort
- Interested people are encouraged to initiate PETM or PETL position task books
 - Formalize participation
 - Build Zone capacity for future teams
- Restrictions calls will start on July 27

Trenton Johnson Remembrance:

- Sunday, **July 19** is a day of remembrance to celebrate the life of Trenton Johnson, who died in stewardship of public lands three years ago. He is remembered as a beloved member of his community taken from his family and friends at a very young age. He is remembered by his Grayback Forestry family as a vibrant young man who brought a positive, playful attitude to work. We will not forget him, and we honor his memory in a Missoula Dispatch moment of silence on the anniversary of his death on July 19, 2017. We honor his legacy by reminding each other to take care of each other each day, and to be aware of the dangers associated with working around snags and fire-weakened trees.

Clinton:

- Chief Bill Tucker
- Looking good; questions on fire danger (why is it HIGH when it is green on the hillside) from community members coming in good numbers this year
- Very quiet with COVID
- Press releases could include what indices go into the decision to move up or down - heard

Jeffrey.Hayes@usda.gov for Fire Danger Rating feedback

Sarah Coefield

- Air is good
- Pivoting to fire season and preparing
- 4,463 permits (13,562 burns logged) in 2020

MRFD:

- Chief Chris Newman
- One vacancy at MRFD, Friday is application deadline
- Quiet on the fire response

OEM:

- Ken Parks
- Busy around COVID response
- Health department has had their Type 3 team going since March. Call out for Liaison and Operational assistance. Training or brushing up on all-hazard arena is available. Current focus is engaging all the way into fall 2021. This is going to be with us for the long term. Assistance would be GREATLY appreciated.
- Direct COVID-related questions to Ken and Randy Okon
- As ICT3, looking to see if we can stand up the SW MT Type 3 IMT; looking good for August

DNRC Missoula:

- Ashleigh Burwick
- Slow fire response
- All resources are locally available
- Shaded fuel break in Deer Creek to tie in w/ WAM project
- Service Forestry (Bill Burdick) did many home assessments in WAM Focal Point. Thanks to all the personnel who responded rapidly to complete multiple assessments in Hayes Creek area.

DNRC SWLO

- Kristin Mortenson (vice- Jordan Koppen) – welcome aboard!
- Filling in the prevention/education roles Jordan had
- Please reach out to Kristin.mortenson@mt.gov
- Shawn Bradshaw (AFMO)
 - Ops normal

Missoula Fire Department

- Gordy Hughes
- All folks back, fully-staffed
- Lessons learned available on-call from Gordy
- Couple of engines in AZ, but they're back from assignment

Missoula RD

- Jesse Kurpius
- 3 engines staffed, one on its way back from AZ
- 7-day staffing on Sunday
- Fuels project in Pattee Canyon
- Contractors in Marshall Woods (Rattlesnake)
- Starting 1.5 sections in Blackfoot Corridor adjacent to Jonsrud Park

COVID UPDATE

- Testing for 1st Responders
 - Randy Okon has been spearheading the effort
 - Testing is in high-demand; if we needed to test a large group of responders rapidly, we'd face issues of backlogged tests. Zone partners thought of forming a 1st responder testing group to augment the testing capacity in the county and potentially speed results. If this "COVID testing strike team" were available, it would be a valuable tool in the effort to meet eventual needs when teams assemble and responders congregate for incident management.
 - Contact information will be forthcoming from OEM (Ken Parks)