



Missoula County Fire Protection Association

- **March General Membership Meeting Minutes**

6:30 PM, Wednesday, March 16, 2016
 Missoula City-County Health Department
 301 West Alder Street, Missoula, MT 59802
 (406) 258-4755

(Dinner served @ 6:30 – Meeting to follow @ 7:00)

Call to Order (Joe- Chair) @ 7:00

Approve Financial Report / Correspondence Received (CJ- Secretary/Treasurer)

- Savings: \$ 16,070.37
- Checking: \$ 7,539.45
 - Webmaster (Accounts Payable)- \$560 for Jan & Feb
 - Assessments +20% mailed 1/27/2016
 - Missoula County Account +\$798.79

Assessments Received as of 2/29:

Department	Total	Department	Total
East Missoula FD	120	DNRC-SWLO	960
Seeley Lake FD	480	Missoula FD	600
Clinton FD	360	SVSA	120
Missoula DES	360	Missoula Rural FD	600
DNRC- Swan	240	DNRC- Missoula	600
GPFVD	240	Florence FD	360
Lolo NF		DNRC-Clearwater	800 3/16
Frenchtown FD	600 3/16		

NEW BUSINESS

1. Cory Calnan (Fire Restrictions): Restrictions are a challenge in Seeley Swan with the length of time we were in. Can we start to look at if restrictions are really what we want for that length of time? Are we really getting what we want with restrictions? There's a great deal of time and energy devote to restrictions. We'll bring this up at the SW Zone meeting this spring. Stage I has been in position for some time. Meeting will be 5/19 at MIDC.

2. Bob Deaton (CISM): Passed out red contact cards for CISM resources. The lime green card is obsolete. We are currently surveying Missoula County area emergency responders- EMS, law enforcement; if you get a call for that, please know it is a legitimate call. If you have questions about the survey, call Bob. Departments are seeing high burnout responding to calls regarding restrictions campfires. 227 incidents since 1988; we have wildland firefighters, mental health providers, two chaplains, a couple of law enforcement individuals. When people call us, it doesn't mean we have to come, it's just healthy to call and ask for ideas on how to handle it.
3. 2016 Bobble Head Planning (CJ)

July 9th is Bobble Head Night. Board approved Woodsy Owl in November 2015. CJ has received approval from USDA and vendor to use the image. We will incorporate One Less Spark in the design of the box. Historical contributions. I will enquire about the space.

DNRC FAMB	DNRC SWLO	KMG	MCFPA
\$750	\$500	\$250	\$3000

4. Large Group Function Rules (Shannon Therriault) When there are a 1,000 or more people, and you don't have a stadium or a venue, and you're going to be in a field, like TestiFest etc. This all started with the Aber Day keggers in the 70s and they became fairly large problems, which included trenches, traffic problems, fire danger, etc. It was recognized that something needed to be done; the Health Board is the department where the responsibility was housed. The county can only pass a regulation if the legislature gives them the authority. The city of Missoula has the authority. You have to turn in an application with required elements; consulting with fire and law enforcement. "I, fire chief, have looked at this, and they are taking adequate precautions, or they aren't." Having a permit made the vendor *at least* talk with law enforcement and fire chief. However, over time, some chiefs are unwilling to sign the permit; signing the permit makes you feel as if you have somehow sanctioned the event and that things will be done safely.

Some folks know that there are few teeth behind the permit. What if no one signs it? Our rules: it will cost you \$200/day if you violate the permit.

Potential solution: change the application so someone isn't put on the line as the responsible party. The Health Board has the authority to deal with filth, public health, sewage, but the county attorney has indicated that the Board is overstepping its authority by asking LE and Fire to sign off on the event. Board is regulating the numbers of portable toilets needed, for example. We are thinking of taking away the requirement of approval from Fire and LE.

Question: Are you comfortable with this plan; are there authorities we can take advantage of? What is the best way to alert you that there is a Large Group function about to occur? There is no plan to go to the legislature to get some teeth behind the permitting system. Our attorney thinks we have the authority for LGFs to have to provide medical services. If there is a liquor license, they are under the authority of the state fire marshal, and they can withhold their liquor license. By the authority of the state fire marshal, they can pull the liquor license. Tomorrow, we

are asking the board to set a public hearing, and individual departments are encouraged to bring their concerns to the hearing. We don't want to cut the fire departments out, but we see a limit to our authority. The hearing will likely be on the third Thursday in April mid-day, and Shannon will alert MCFPA of the hearing. A county commissioner is on the board of health. MCFPA can provide a statement of support to a position to be presented at the meeting.

5. Video Project (Jordan Koppen)

Video project is in full swing. Call for planning 5/19.

6. Agency Round-Robin (All)

Missoula Unit – Seasonal hiring, turnover of two. Have three calls, one illegal burn, a tractor-trailer crash without a WF component. Someone lit a pile in a beetle-kill unit and it burned for likely a week. We can staff an engine in the field right now.

Gordy (MFD) - Cathy at MFD will schedule Match Safety shows. One more week and schedules will be out. Sign up for those shows where you can. Three folks per show is the minimum we need, but the more the merrier. This will be the second week of April. Kicked it in the stair climb. Activity has been light with burn issues. Gearing up for summer.

DNRC Clearwater – spooling up to fill 2 vacancies. We will staff an engine first week of April. Annual training at June 6-10 will be S-230 and S-290. 13-17 is engine school. L-courses the week of the 24th. Cory will take on coordination at Lubrecht from Larry Bush, so watch for emails from Cory.

Seeley Fire – calm. Grant money for a smoke detector program has been successful. Hoping to pull of a community wildfire preparedness day on May 7.

Missoula RD – busy hiring season; hired three new permanents and 12 new seasonal employees. There is a lot of experience in the hires; full staff at 27 with 4 engines in 2016. We have Blue Mountain staffed for the summer. Looking at spring burning on Blue Mountain and in Butler Creek below Snow Bowl Road. Marshal Woods project update: decision signed in January. We got all the \$ we asked for, including \$ to fund burning. We will be out there implementing those projects, including grants. There are opportunities to work with communities; we will stump at regular community meetings. That work will likely begin sometime this summer. A lot of the work will be a fair amount of hand thinning, and eventually a commercial thinning project after it is marked. We have fire prevention funding that Anna Henderson procured for us- and we'll be reaching out to local schools.

Greenough – Fire training school was a success; raising money for a new truck, and nearly to our goal. It is in Missoula, just waiting for accessories. Pancakes for Permits was last Saturday, and we had a quiet event.

SWLO (Matt) – Realizing legislative FTE cuts- broke down to 4 seasonal positions- no Union Peak L/O. Cory will dispatch Lincoln Field Office from Clearwater. Larry Bush retired at the end of the year; working on PD changes; process is on hold.

Sarah – 2,177 permits sold; 1600 were renewals; 1700 activations; 100 burns per day right now. There have been large, visible fires around town. People in Missoula are not used to see so many burns and a fair amount was as a result of the wind fall. Mailed out over 400 permits in the last two weeks. Burning will be closed tomorrow in the impact zones and it will get cold tomorrow night and winds will chill and smoke will build up if we let folks burn.

A state-wide call illustrated an enhancement, someone can alter the actual location of their renewed burn, and folks will be able to see surrounding counties burning. Ravalli County has a great deal of burns because they are free and there is no smoke restriction. Trying to get better functionality for using smart phones to activate permits – but the app is \$34k; going back to the decision-making to see if this is even something that it is something that counties may even want as an enhancement. Program is in its first year of being in the black.

Clinton Fire – Quiet; nice.

OEM- Rob Taylor – this is grant season. There are two pieces of \$ that we are going after for mitigation (federal and state). Secure rural schools grants. Adriane is back to half days, plans to be back full time in April.

Frenchtown – Taylor- basic S-290 nominations due to Taylor by the end of the month. April 18th and April 25th for S-190 and S-290 respectively.

Hired one more career position – ENGB, Critical care paramedic. Quiet now; January was busy. Evaro area is going to be coming after permits.

MRFD – slow; vehicle accident; illegal burn was already talked about. Business as usual. All the fire chiefs should have received a notice to collect names of folks who were out 14-21 days to award them with a coin and recognition. The coins have been jointly funded. Chief is looking for fire department folks. DNRC has a contact for the program. The coin will be accompanied by a letter of thanks. Each organization will receive the coins and distribute them to their folks.

Florence – 30% above average call volume; 3 new EMTs.

Restrictions (CJ) –

Glenda – Webpage has a stat counter- getting 30-40 hits per day from the 9th thru the 16th. 1.3k hits people taking a look at the post on the burn permits. Stair climb poster got 800 views. 86% are search engine results that bring them to us. Looking for bobble head information.

NEXT MEETING:

Date of Meeting: May 18, 2016

Location: Frenchtown FD Station 1