



Missoula County Fire Protection Association  
 General Board Meeting Minutes: May, 2014

Location: Frenchtown Fire Department Station #1

- Call to order: (Matt, Chair)
- Introductions and sign-in (All)

Matt Hall, Chair	DNRC	Sarah Coefield, Board	MCPH
Brent Christopherson, Board	Missoula Rural	Chad Nicholson, Board	Missoula
Chris Johnson, Secretary/Treas.	Lolo NF	Taylor Blakely	Frenchtown
Charlie Lambson	Florence	Tom Martin	Florence
Bill Tucker	Clinton	Joe Calnan	Frenchtown
Jesse Kurpius	Lolo NF	Greg Jacobson	Lolo NF
Cory Calnan	Clearwater	Shaun Ellinghouse	Seeley
Justin Iverson	Green/Potomac	Bill Colwell	Missoula Rural

- Approved Minutes from March General Board Meeting
- Financial Summary
  - Checking           \$5,732.73
  - Savings:           \$23,402
  - Paid Out:
    - \$500 from Exchange Club donation for School Presentation Laptop (MFD)
    - \$157.70 for GS Write (Webmaster- March 2014 invoice)

OLD BUSINESS

- Spring Incident Scenario (All)  
 Sheriff's Department and agencies need to get together in the spring over a table and discuss roles and responsibilities related to evacuation roles and responsibilities. Rob Taylor is interested in doing this. Come June, we should interface with TJ McDermott (newly elected Sheriff in Missoula County) to determine time/date/agenda. Christopherson and Colwell reinforced the need for an evolution of the evacuation process and communications. The missing piece is the solidification of a process by the MCSD.

ACTION ITEM: Chief Colwell will work with Rob Taylor and Adriane Beck is interested in helping out in the planning.

- VFA Grant (Joe Calnan)  
 June 1 is 2013 VFA grant deadline for submission. Levels of funding are the same as last year. Matt will determine if there is any funding left in the accounts.

ACTION ITEM: Joe Calnan will survey fire departments as they are due May 15<sup>th</sup> each year.

NEW BUSINESS

- Structure Assessment Program and Open House at Frenchtown Fire (Joe Calnan and Taylor Blakely)  
 The report given to the board illustrated a months-long project that FFD has been working on. Ben Murphy and Taylor Blakely are the leads. Problem: all current data on home assessments in Frenchtown are difficult to access and out-of-date. The department is building an electronic

database in Google Earth that will serve as a repository of structure locations and assessment as to its relative fire risk. FFD employs the same triage as is listed in the 2014 IRPG. The staff at FFD has a goal to assess over a thousand homes in 18 subdivisions. The staff takes an informative pamphlet, structure assessment form, and information regarding fuels treatment cost-share opportunities with the homeowner and FFD personnel who are available to actually perform the recommended fuels treatment.

Each home's latitude/longitude is recorded. Information is added to a net-linked database so the information on the GE map is constantly updated. This initial assessment will not serve as the final tactical decision, but will be a structure protection plan. Active incidents are included on the map as they happen and disappear as they are declared "out." This capability is active at MIDC. There are hydrants and draft sites identified as the staff is out and about. There is a link to spot weather forecasts, and they hope to get this software on tablets soon.

- National Forests/Grasslands ban on Exploding Targets (CJ)  
A one-year ban on exploding targets is in effect, and FS leadership hopes to add it to the national CFR as a permanent law by 2016.
- Bobble Head Night @ Osprey Stadium (CJ)  
July 18<sup>th</sup> is the night. MRFD, Missoula RD, Frenchtown Fire, Florence, and the DNRC will all have firefighters and Smokey there that night. CJ will coordinate Smokey's appearance. The bobble heads have been paid for and 750 will be distributed that night by the fire fighters. There are seats available for those who help out. Call CJ with questions.

#### ROUND-ROBIN

- MRFD (Colwell)  
September 13<sup>th</sup> is Patriot's Day. Chief will mail out the details regarding a parade being organized in Missoula and the organizers are inviting wildland and structure fire fighters to participate as entrants.

MRFD district passed the mill levy that they were hoping would pass. Nearly 70% support was earned. The mill levy will raise \$400k per year and will continue to employ 6 career positions.

EIM is on-hold; therefore Type 1 and Type 2 Incident Management Teams will continue to function, as-is for the near future. The EIM process has been tabled at this time. Local teams maintaining available locally is driving the concern.

- Greenough/Potomac (Iverson)  
Eerily quiet @ G/P. Communicating with homeowners regarding response issues, "Can we get to your home in times of emergency?" They've been hosting community events to get word out on challenges of ingress and egress. Paws Up is trying to balance wilderness aesthetics with fire wise recommendations. They are marking septic systems and power shut-offs. The effort is progressing positively.
- Seeley Lake (Ellinghouse)  
Two debris burns have escaped this year. Neither burner had a permit. Campgrounds are getting busy. Still looking for a chief- it has been outreached and applications are there.

- Clearwater Unit (Calnan)  
It has been a busy spring with 5 fires. The largest fire was a one-acre grass fire. Seasonal crews start at the end of May. They will have 16 fire fighters, and six of them will be new.
- Missoula RD (Jacobson and Kurpius)  
One fire has been IA'd in Pattee Canyon. Tim Garcia is in place as new forest supervisor. The new ranger will be in place in 2-4 months. Crews start Monday. Lolo IHC also starts on Monday.
- Frenchtown Fire (Calnan)  
A few fires have been initial-attacked. Thanks to FS and DNRC and FireSafe MT for their support of FFD open-house. The department was handing out reflective address labels for homeowners who attended.

The department will start fuels mitigation projects in June. Thanks to MCFPA for extending puppet show to Mineral County. New red ambulance is due mid-June. There have been two separate incidents of rags with accelerants having been lit and tossed to the side of the highway in the Ninemile area. Within a hundred feet of each other on two separate occasions, several rags were tied together and lit cigarettes were inserted to burn as fuses.

- Clinton Fire (Tucker)  
Clinton is finishing mitigation work. CFD has issues with 911 dispatching procedures. MRFD is being dispatched to Clinton and vice-versa. A meeting with dispatch will be forthcoming to clean this up. Burn permits are being approved every day which is burdensome for permit holders. Coefield informed CFD that burn permits must be approved on a daily basis. Everyone acknowledged that the phone system for activation was not user-friendly.
- Florence Fire (Martin)  
Posed a question of the group: "Shouldn't any major incident east of Rock Creek trigger a Med-Star aerial evacuation?" It was the consensus of the group that, "Yes, it should."
- DNRC-SWLO (Hall)  
June 17<sup>th</sup> @ MRFD Station #1 on South Avenue: Missoula Area Dispatch Protocols @ 0900.

The first week of June, DNRC will host S-230 and S-290. Talk to Matt for details.

Vice-Super will be filled: public relations position. May 28<sup>th</sup> will mark the beginning of interviews.

- County Health Department (Coefield)  
3k permits applied for to date. Only a few smoke complaints have been issued. Neighbors are concerned with their neighbors' pile locations and intensities. This is an issue for sheriff's department. Software upgrades are anticipated soon that will allow restrictions to be pre-loaded.
- Missoula County Type 3 IMT (Colwell)  
Applications for the team are due by Friday. All are welcome to apply.

The planning document for potential flooding is being finalized. EOP says the sheriff takes the lead if flooding occurs. May 28<sup>th</sup> is the target for plan finalization.

Consortium administers test from June 2-5. There are 468 registered to take the test in Great Falls. Usually 250-280 will pass to be considered for a position.

- Next Meeting: Seeley Lake Fire Department on Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will be served bbq style at 6:30 and the meeting will start @ 7 pm.