**FireSafe Flathead Meeting Notes – Friday, October 26, 2018. 9-11am**



**Next Meeting:** 9am Thursday, November 29, DNRC Conference Room.

Please send updates, events, articles, agenda items!

**Upcoming Event:** Climate Smart Glacier Country is hosting *Wildfire in the City*

Wednesday, November 14th at 6:30pm at Whitefish City Hall

Rick Trembath, Ed Lieser, Jeff Mow, Joe Page, Bambi Goodman, and others will be presenting.

**Recent story on MTPR featuring Dave Soleim and Rick Connell!**

<http://www.mtpr.org/post/kalispell-art-exhibit-highlights-renewal-after-wildfire>

**In attendance:** Wyatt Frampton, Bill Swope, Deb Starling, Allen Chrisman, Rick Connell, Lincoln Chute, Randy Sundburg, Ali Ulwelling

We started with sharing some recently released (and some older) guiding documents from the agencies: [Forest in Focus 2.0: A cross-boundary collaborative approach (DNRC)](http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-assistance/forest-in-focus/FIF2.0_Plan_FINAL_Website.pdf), [Shared Stewardship Across Landscapes (USFS)](https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/toward-shared-stewardship.pdf), [Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)](https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r1/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD510773), and the [Cohesive Strategy](https://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/cohesivestrategy.shtml) – Wyatt Frampton & Rick Connell

The guidance in these documents is clear. We are looking at continued cross-boundary collaboration (state, private, local, federal) that supports & encourages more of what we have been doing: engaging where there is clustered interest, especially in high priority areas. This includes engagement of many kinds including: forester visits, fuels reduction, home assessments, coordination, education, and/or presentations that include fire-adapted community & resilient landscape concepts.

Ali will find stories of successful GNA programs to share. (Emailed the GNA program manager.)

Ali had attended the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG) Prevention & Education Committee meeting a couple of weeks ago where she heard a report from the Missoula area about their use of CMAT and CPAW Teams over the past couple of years. They were pleased with the teams and recommend to other areas. Please review. We will look into this and *consider* applying for one or the other next year:

**Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW)** - <https://planningforwildfire.org/what-we-do/>

**Community Wildfire Mitigation Team (CMAT)** - <https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/fire/cmat>

Reminder of other resources that are out there to sign up for or pay attention to:

**Wildfire Research Team (WiRe)** - <https://wildfireresearchcenter.org/>

**Fire Adapted Community Learning Network**: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/>

Mike and Carol were at the design group meeting for **Fire Adapted Montana** & will report back.

This led to a conversation about the mapping project, grants, and the CWPP – Perfect!

**Fuels mapping project** – There are a few projects proposed or in the works out there, but we would like to move forward and have the conversation with our GIS contact about the feasibility of this project. Ali will schedule with Jason Singleton to start this discussion next week.

**Grants –** NW MT Haz Fuels program has put in a Western States WUI Grant for the area from Badrock south to Ferndale, with areas surrounding Many Lakes as the primary target. (Correct me if I am wrong, please!)

**Randy** with Many Lakes asked if the grants can be used for work on the County Parks? Bill, Carol, or Deb can you give an update on this?

Ali is working on another related project that will pull together a list or spreadsheet of grants available (ex. FEMA, Community Wildfire Preparedness Day 500.00, NRCS, FCD, FEC Round Up for Safety…) along with: Dates, requirements and limitations, who can apply, contact information, link to website. If anyone knows of a grant, big or small, please continue to send links to Ali to add to the spreadsheet.

We are looking at smaller community grants to complement the larger work, such as coordination of “chipping days,” support the *Era of Megafires* film or other community gatherings.

[**Kootenai Forest to Rivers Initiative**](https://kootenaiinitiative.org/) – A question was asked about a project in Lincoln County. This is a project that the DNRC initiated with the [American Forest Foundation](https://www.forestfoundation.org/) (AFF) to target those that own 20+ acres and are interested in managing their forest with wildfire in mind. Ali has inquired for more information from the DNRC Forestry Assistance Bureau.

**Many Lakes** – There is continued activity in the neighborhood, they have arranged for the second road access to be cleared and gated, but available for emergency use. They have more people signed up and using the [NextDoor](https://nextdoor.com/login/) app to communicate within the community. They are planning for the second annual Community Wildfire Event the 3 or 4th weekend in April 2019. **Check your calendars.**

Randy would also like to help bring *Era of Megafires* to the Bigfork Theatre in the spring. Let us know if you would like to help in this effort. Awesome!!

**Bootjack community** is still moving forward, and NW MT Haz Fuels has cost-share obligated in the neighborhood. (Ben and Ali are still working to coordinate a second annual potluck event or home assessment to check in with the community.)

**Haskill Basin** – Bambi would like to plan for a gathering next spring and we will work together to get the [**$500 Community Wildfire Preparedness Day**](https://www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/national-wildfire-community-preparedness-day) (May 4, 2019) grant make that happen.

**The North Fork – Allen** gave a fine and enthusiastic report on the situation and fire season in the North Fork. They had Byron Bonney present at their very successful Firewise Day in July and Allen has already contacted Byron to see if he would be willing & available to present in for the CWPP community meeting in Kalispell this winter. They also compiled a landowner list of equipment capabilities as well as fire training, so they may be even better organized and more of help next time.

A resident wrote and shared an article that was published in the Daily Interlake and Flathead Beacon in September: [***Living with Fire in the North Fork***](https://flatheadbeacon.com/e-edition/09_19_2018/#p=28), by Karina Pettey - Very complimentary to the community, incident management teams, and the Flathead National Forest!

*This reminded us that we are here, present, committed for the long term. This is an endurance event, not a sprint. The North Fork began their concerted efforts after the 2003 fire season and look where they are 15 years later-- Role models for many!*

**CWPP** – Lincoln will be sending out a meeting notice for the first week or two of November. Stay tuned. We will have a couple of meetings before the Community meeting in January or February, but we will need to lock down a date and venue so that we may advertise.

11:15 Adjourn (and post-meeting mingle…)

au 10/31/18