

Fire Council Meeting  
9/19/17

Present: Bryan Bartholomew, Bill Pronovost, Carol Arkell, Nancy Rohde, Nick Jacobs, Terry Brumfield, Travis Hansen, Larry Elder, Chad C, Sue Leuthold, Duane Buerke, Cliff Brophy, Drew Brown

Minutes – Bryan went through the minutes, no modifications and approved as submitted

Old Business:

1. Guidelines for billing on burn permits – committee has not met; will continue to work on it for next time
2. Auto-Aid – everyone received the documents that were sent out. Helps everyone out on what equipment is out there to start working on auto-aid. Bryan asks that all departments get the truck information completed by the next fire council meeting. If need help, call Bryan or Nick.
3. No other old business

New Business:

1. Fire apparatus update – Bill says Molt and Absarokee have not sent in their information for the emergency management plan. Molt will get theirs filled out and Bill will contact Absarokee.
2. Fire pages on county fire repeater – Sheriff Brophy agrees we will give a 6 month trial, beginning on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>. All fire calls, pages will go out on fire repeater, no longer will go out on EMS. Affects Columbus, Park City, Reed Point will be in with Columbus. Will update pagers and some radios. Bryan asks that the sheriff keep everyone updated with problems and all will help out as they can.
3. Dry Hydrants – no one has inspected their dry hydrants in their districts. PCity uses theirs probably more than anyone else. Question remains as to who will pay for repairs, etc. Should be the subdivision but how is it enforced?
4. Stage 2 Fire restrictions – Carol emails everyone before the Billings area restriction calls. They happen on Mondays in the am. Input from BLM, FS and DNRC indicated that the west side of the State is going to rescind their restrictions. Carbon, Sweet Grass, Yellowstone and Stillwater all discuss whether to stay in or go out and try to be consistent with each county. All other counties were going out because of the amount of rain received so Stillwater County will rescind Stage 2 and will not have any restrictions. Can keep the burn system shut down if need to. This week the restriction call will take place on Friday to see what the weather is doing. Larry (BDC/DNRC) stated most counties are out of Stage 2 restrictions but many also have a burn permit system and can keep that system shut down if warranted.

Bryan brings up a good point on the emails – when Carol sends out the email, have everyone respond quickly and reply all so that the information is given to all those included in the email string.

5. Fire Cache – Bryan goes through history of how this came about. Fire at Pine Crest and two of the departments had to discuss fire costs. Was suggested to use some of the grant money Carol receives to fund a cache to mainly help with consumables that are used up during a fire. Nice to have a centrally located area (probably Columbus) to have the things available. Ex. Fire hoses, fittings, nozzles, foam, etc. The grant this year was \$9000 so thinking would take \$5000 to start with to purchase things. After a few years, would probably be built up. Provides instant access instead of trying to order from suppliers during the height of fire season.

Carol brings up state budget cuts and need to look at the grant we have this year to see what it can be used for.

Bill asks who would be in charge. Bryan thinks that deputy fire wardens can track the inventory. Carol will have to take care of the financial part of it. There needs to be a method used for everyone to access and use. Bryan is willing to get things off the ground if the interest is there.

6. End of the season recap meeting with all the departments – probably end of October or November. What went well, what didn't, what needs to be improved on. Will help with statistics too with what the departments dealt with during the season. Bryan will work on dates.

Sue: Valley Creek, PC lost a call because could not get up the road. Sue thinks it is a liability because emergency vehicles cannot access. Sue has talked with county officials and are told the county will not gravel because there are no funds for it. Carol suggests the Fire Council draft a letter with council signatures (chief from each department) about this issue and cc to commissioners, county attorney, Carol.

Round Robin: Terry suggests for the end of the season meeting, to include what equipment broke down. Nick says there will be an EMT class in December. If interested, get ahold of Nick. Will be an info meeting about it in November. Travis – fire chief conference is in October, Columbus still needs one resident fire fighter at the station. Bryan says they are in the process of buying a truck and getting it ready to go.

Next Meeting: 11/14/17 at 11:30 a.m. Absarokee to host