

September 8, 2017

Fire Briefing

Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Darren Coldwell, Brent Teske, Ben Pratt, Darren Clabo, Ernie Anderson, Steve Lauer, Scott Beagle, Craig Barringer, Darren Short, Alan Gerstenecker, Kathi Hooper, Wendy Drake, Lora Ercanbrack, John Blodgett, Jennifer McCully, Vic White, Sheriff Bowe and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Present from Eureka via VisionNet were Commissioner Cole, Tammi Michels from the Red Cross, Tracy McIntyre, and Michael Mee.

9:00 AM

EOC: Jennifer said the people helping at the EOC are well trained and she is thankful for the county help.

IT: Ernie said he gave a presentation at a public meeting on Code Red. Ernie informed everyone that N95 masks need to be provided to employees working in the smoke such as road crew employees.

County Services: Ernie said that Robin sent out information from MACo on the N95 masks to department supervisors and to all employees. Kathi said Libby and Eureka air quality is unhealthy. Eureka animal shelter is housing 87 animals and the Libby animal shelter still has space. Tammi said the Red Cross is meeting the needs in Eureka; a lot of people are coming in and there may be a need for large sheds to house materials and supplies that are arriving. Large groups are coming in for meals. Tracy commented that cash donations are best so specific needs can be met. The Eureka and Libby Red Cross are coordinating donations to meet specific needs.

Finance: Darren said he is researching what funding the county can receive due to the fire emergencies. The finance department is tracking payroll and other expenses such as gas, food, OT and supplies to account where our money is going. Dallas created timecards specific to work by county employees to the fires. Commissioner Peck commented that it is critical to track employee time because it may be reimbursable.

Schools-Craig said the upcoming football game may be canceled or moved depending on air quality.

Fire Department: Steve said the Libby Fire Department is working alongside the Type II structural protection group and is patrolling Rawlings Tracts and Bobtail based on fire activity.

Sheriff's Department: Sheriff Bowe said there are six road blocks at this time countywide. Sheriff Department staff has arrived from Gallatin County to help. The Sheriff's Department is trying to accommodate people in North Lincoln County who are wanting to get back to their homes. Brandon said the Big Horn Terrace evacuation was completed but there were a lot of refusals.

County Commissioner's: Commissioner Peck asked about potential fuel mitigation to protect our city water systems; do we want to put up a road closure on Flower Creek to protect any potential fire hazards. Commissioner Cole and Commissioner Bennett said there was no need to protect water systems at this time in Troy or Eureka. Commissioner Peck commented that repeater sites may also need fire protection.

Commissioner Bennett commented on public meetings yesterday in Troy and in the Yaak; they were well attended.

Commissioner Cole said the Gilbralter fire is 27% contained and the Caribou is 20% contained. Commissioner Cole expressed his concern about the winds coming in.

I.C. Information and Fire Update: Gregg said that everything is focused on potential Saturday winds coming in. Darren Clabo said the winds will impact fire activity starting late tonight through Sunday. The long-term forecast shows no precipitation. Commissioner Peck expressed concerns about potential fire activity at McGinnis Meadows.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board