

Berks County Fire Service Working Group Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2010

ATTENDANCE

ZONE 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Schlegan (46)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Yenser (21)
ZONE 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Reeser (82)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Schrack (41)
ZONE 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Lester Feick (27)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Martin (47)
ZONE 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scot Landis (67)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bruce Longenecker (79)
ZONE 5/6	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt Gehman (22) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike DeTurck (25)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Schaeffer (20) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Stevens (17)
ZONE 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Moyer (RFD)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Wentzel (RFD)
BERKS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Gottschall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Wanner
BERKS COUNTY FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION	<input type="checkbox"/> Dick Trostle	
BERKS COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION	<input type="checkbox"/> Leon Grim	
BERKS COUNTY FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Englebach	
OTHERS:	Robert Ashton (DES) & Eric Lessig (25)	

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Stevens at 1820 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services Conference room, located in the Direct Link Building, Bernville Road, Leesport, PA.

DISCUSSION

Previous meeting minutes

Brian Gottschall mentioned that DES would post the minutes to their website if they were provided to his office. This had been past procedure, but was not made known to the current secretary. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.

Water Rescue Task Force

Eric Lessig, Deputy Chief of the Exeter Fire Department presented information on a water rescue task force started in Zones 5/6. The task force started as a group of Zone 5/6 companies working together and will likely expand to a countywide group. They are working on training and equipment needs to obtain state recognition as a water rescue team. The current request of the group is to obtain a tone set for the team rather than using the Zone 5/6 all call tone. Also there was discussion as to holding a county wide meeting/presentation to encourage interest in the task force.

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A preliminary date of August 18th was set for a meeting of all interested companies and/or personnel to talk about the task force. The meeting would be held at the Fire Training Site at 1900 hours.

A motion was made by Bob Martin and seconded by Chris Scaheffer to have DES provide a pager tone to the Task Force. Brian Gottschall warned the group that personnel will have to check as their pagers could be approaching programming limits. The motion carried unanimously.

New Cad System

Mobile CAD costs are being discussed, but this is still not an integrated part of what the County will be purchasing. The vendor has indicated that pricing for mobile CAD would be held for a period of three (3) years.

New Radio System Update

The RFP is being developed. A public outreach / training program is forthcoming which is intended to raise the level of understanding of radio systems. This should happen in mid to late summer of 2010. There is no specific timetable for the implementation of the new radio system, this will not be defined until the contract is signed with a vendor.

East Central Task Force

Scot Landis presented a report on the recent activities of the Task Force. Highlights are as follows:

- Incident Management Teams – there will be an annual training of the incident management team this summer; Incident management teams are available and can be requested thru County Emergency Management
- Pennsylvania Interstate Mutual Aid System – a plan is out for review and is being presented by the State Fire Commissioner's office
- New HazMat Standard – a new hazardous material standard is coming out; instructor training sessions are starting July 1; all companies are urged to confirm that any hazardous materials training they receive after July 1 is conducted by an individual that has received the new training and is using the latest curriculum; in Pennsylvania the new curriculum is a DELMAR program and NOT the IFSTA program, or something developed by a local community college

Run Cards

Submissions of reformatted run cards have been very slow. To date Craig reported receiving only three (3) sets of cards. Everyone was reminded that the municipal authorization forms had to be signed in ink and could not be photocopies. Additionally the forms had to be signed by an elected official or include documentation from the elected officials that the person signing the form was authorized by action for the elected body to sign the forms.

RIT Consortium

The RIT Consortium requested use of the County All-call tone to announce upcoming meetings; the group seemed to be opposed to this concept, however they were to take this back the zones for discussion and report back the group. Brian indicated that the schedule of meetings would be placed on the DES website and in the DES newsletter.

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The RIT Consortium requested four (4) talk groups in the new radio system specifically for their operations. The group felt that this request was very premature and would be tabled until the new radio system is much farther along.

Total Visibility

A question was raised as to the timeline for getting apparatus entered into the total visibility system. DES has not set a timeline to have everyone's apparatus entered, the entry will be monitored and when the data appears to be well populated, a deadline will be looked at to get the work finished.

Working Group Feedback

Brian Gottschall reported that he has been asked by the County Commissioners to get feedback from the fire services on the entire Working Group Concept. Essentially three questions should be answered:

1. **Does the Working Group truly represent the fire services in Berks County?** Do the zones feel the representation is working?
2. **Is the communication flow from the working group working as it should?** Is the important info being transferred back and forth both accurately and without bias?
3. **Should there be rules and/or guidelines set for the operation of the Working Group?** Things such as quorums for meetings, order of meetings, etc...

A discussion was held on this overall topic. The entire group recognized that the function of the working group seems to have transformed from the original intent. A round the table survey was made around the table as to what each person thought the mission of the group was to be, while the thoughts were somewhat similar, no two people were alike. As a result, everyone was directed to go back to their respective zones and discuss this issue. The primary goal at this time was to develop a mission statement for the working group; essentially to determine **what the true task of the working group is to be moving forward.**

Secretary Position

Scott Reeser reported that he was taking a new job that would make him unable to attend future meetings of the group; therefore a new secretary would be needed. There was no volunteer at this time.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday June 24, 2010 at 1815 hours in the conference room of the Berks DES at Direct Link.

The meeting was adjourned at 2009 hours.