

Berks County Fire Service Working Group Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2011

ATTENDANCE

ZONE 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Schegan (46)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Battista (33)	Mark George (11)
ZONE 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Snyder (50)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Schrack (41)	Ken Quell (37)
ZONE 3	<input checked="" 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)	Mark Hostetter
ZONE 5/6	Matt Gehman (22) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Fox (34)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Schaeffer (20) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Stevens (17)	
ZONE 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Kulp (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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tony Flores
BERKS COUNTY FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roger Weidenheimer		
BERKS COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leon Grim		
BERKS COUNTY FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Englebach		
OTHERS:			

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Stevens at 1815 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services Conference room, located in the Direct Link Building, Bernville Road, Leesport, PA.

DISCUSSION

Zone 1 Representation: Scott Yenser has stepped down as Zone 1 WG representative and has taken the roll as the 2nd Alternate. Bill Battista from Virginville will be Scott's replacement and Mark George from Temple will be the Zone 1 first alternate.

Collapse Task Force: Scot Landis presented equipment requests that are to be forwarded to the Fire/Rescue/Hazmat Committee of the East Central Task Force for approval. Approval for recognition of the Collapse Rescue Task Force is pending.

Box Alarms: Craig Wanner gave an update, as of time of the meeting 39 emergency agency's have been uploaded into the system (52%). DES will continue to provide weekly updates online.

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911 Advisory Board: Brian G communicated that a request of an amendment change to the 911 Advisory Board By-Laws to include 2 representatives from the BCFSWG has been submitted. A second representative needs to be selected.

RCC: Tony Flores met with RCC. Tony was informed that RCC is working on a narrative and strategy for the AFG. To date, AFG has not provided 2011 guidelines or an application time period. \$810 million has been appropriated to the AFG with \$405 million to support Fire and EMS. RCC also provided a list of private foundations where additional monetary support may be found.

Water Rescue Task Force: Chairman Stevens communicated that he was contacted by Jarrod Emes from Hamburg Fire Company about Hamburg and Shoemakersville interested in possibly joining the county's Water Rescue Task Force. Chairman Stevens provided Jarrod contact information for Eric Lessig of Exeter Twp Fire.

P25: Brian G gave an update stating the county has secured several land leases for communication tower sites. However, the county is having problems with state agency's for several tower sites in northern Berks on the Blue Mountain near the Appalachian Trail. The tower sites include Bethel, Strausstown and Pulpit Rock. DES plans on meeting with the state in the future to discuss. Brian also reported he is still completing radio needs assessment reports and that any fire company who has not had one completed needs to contact him to schedule.

Web Base Reporting: Eric Fox stated that several technical issues with the new web based reporting system seems to have been corrected.

Training: All County Fire Zones have reported to Chairman Stevens. 55 Fire Depts responded and 71% fire depts communicated that they do not wish the county to continue its relationship with RACC for fire training. 24% failed to respond and only 5% said they supported RACC. Chairman Stevens met with the County Commissioners and RACC and relayed this information. The Commissioners asked if the fire training program can be fixed and it was expressed that the general consensus of the county fire service is they no longer want to work through RACC. The Commissioners are concerned of not having any type of open enrollment training in the county for fall of 2011 and possibly spring of 2012. The County Commissioners would like a letter from the Working Group stating that as a whole, the Berks County Fire Services agrees in full that they do not want a relationship with RACC for fire training and it is understood that without a relationship there will be no open enrollment classes at the county training site.

Brian Gottschall tasked the Working Group representatives to reach out to their zone companies one more time, asking the following question:

"Do you want open enrollment training for the next year, possibly two years?"

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Working Group representatives were asked to gather this information as quickly as possible and forward it to Chairman Stevens.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday June 23, 2011 at 1815 hours in the conference room of Berks DES at Direct link.

The meeting was adjourned at 2035.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chuck Snyder, BFSWG Secretary

DRAFT