

# **Berks County Fire Service Working Group Meeting Minutes**

**April 26, 2012**

## **ATTENDANCE**

ZONE 1:	X Bob Schegan (46)	Mark George (11)	
ZONE 2:	Chuck Snyder (50)	Eric Schrack (41)	Ken Quell (37)
ZONE 3:	X Lester Feick (27)	Bob Martin (47)	
ZONE 4:	X Scot Landis (67)	Bruce Longenecker (79)	Mark Hostetter (85)
ZONE 5/6:	Matt Gehman (97)	X Chris Schaeffer (97)	
	X Eric Fox (34)	X Chris Stevens (17)	
ZONE 7:	X Stephen Serba (RFD)	Thomas Rehr (RFD)	Ron Wentzel (RFD)
BERKS DES:	X Brian Gottschall	X Tony Flores	X Craig Wanner
BCFA:	X Roger Weidenhammer	Leon Grim	
BCFPA:	X Bob Englebach		
OTHERS:			

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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.

The minutes of the February 22, 2012 and March 29, 2012 meetings were approved as written.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **ECTTF:**

1. Scot Landis reported that several equipment requests were submitted for the Collapse Rescue Task Force totaling approximately \$100,000; this money will be used to “close the gaps” in relation to equipment for the overall companies that comprise the Task Force.
2. There is money allotted for training that can't currently be spent because of Department of Homeland Security requirements, and the PA State Fire Academy is searching for a person with “credentials” to approve PA's program so it is NFPA 1006 compliant. If the training money can't be spent it may go towards equipment – at the risk of having to return some of the monies to PEMA. A suggestion was made to look at spending this money towards items that each county in our region could use (i.e. Delmar books, Haz-Mat Awareness or Operations student manuals, etc.). This suggestion will be forwarded.

**Training Committee:** Roger Weidenhammer reports that the committee is working on the next round of classes for Fall of 2012, and hope to finalize everything within the next month.

**Text Paging:** Tony Flores reported that the text-paging “anomaly” discussed last month was corrected internally. Tony also pointed out that some users in the county who are assigned to 2 or more “groups” will sometimes receive two text pages (i.e. an EMT from Co. 525 who also is a firefighter with Co. 17 when both are dispatched for an MVA with Injuries).

### **CAD Update:**

1. Information services is doing testing on the New World CAD. The following are projected upcoming dates: Users of MCTs begin training the week of June 11, 2012; CAD training for telecommunicators the weeks of June 18, 2012 and June 25, 2012 (each telecommunicator must go through 16 hours of training); projected “go-live” date the week of July 9, 2012.

2. In regards to Fire and EMS mobile CAD: DES assures that the CAD side of Fire and EMS Mobile will be built. The client side of this will be the financial responsibility of the end-user. The issue of connectivity is still being investigated.

**P25 Project:**

1. Tower sites: The County received notice from SHPO that their findings indicate “adverse impact” for the Blue Mountain site (specifically the flashing light on the tower). There is tentative approval for final land development at the Bally site, and a future meeting looks optimistic for formal approval. The county is still working with local government with several issues regarding the Kutztown site.
2. Fleet Mapping: Productive and forward progress. Another month of meetings are slated before the end product is available for public consumption.
3. Subscriber Ordering for AFG: For the Region 2 grant there is adequate money to fund all needed radios and an adequate surplus to extend warranties on the same. The County will be working with FEMA, Womelsdorf and RCC (the grant writer) to try to establish what can be done in this regard. The process to assess agencies in the Region 1 grant is started.
4. Promissory Notes: The County’s legal department is nearing resolution to the existing issues.
5. Coverage Mapping: To improve coverage at the Longswamp site, an omnidirectional antenna with down-tilt could be deployed. This has a detrimental effect on coverage in Albany Township. If additional sites are deployed to improve the coverage there, this will be a non-issue. An antenna placed in Port Clinton will improve coverage in Port Clinton, Rattling Run and portions of northern Albany Township. The “hole in the valley” (Eck) in Albany Township remains an issue but is also being worked on. There has been no commitment to development of additional sites in Albany. This matter is still being engineered and costs are being developed.

**Zone 1:** There is a group purchasing plan in place for MSA Altair multi-gas meters. Any companies in the county interested in participating are asked to contact RJ Schegan from Kutztown Fire Company ([kutztownff@yahoo.com](mailto:kutztownff@yahoo.com)). A future group purchase for turnout gear is also in the plans.

**Zone 2:** No representation.

**Zone 3:** Nothing to report.

**Zone 4:** Nothing to report.

**Zone 5/6:** Nothing to report.

**Zone 7:** Nothing to report.

**Fireman’s Association:** Nothing to report.

**Fire Police Association:** Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1945 hours. The next meeting will be Thursday, May 31, 2012 at the Direct Link building beginning at 1815 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chris Stevens, Chairman