

BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2012

ATTENDANCE:

Zone 1	X	RJ Schegan		Mark George		Scott Yenser (alt)
Zone 2	X	Eric Schrack		Chuck Snyder	X	Ken Quell (alt)
Zone 3		Bob Martin	X	Butch Feick		
Zone 4	X	Scot Landis	X	Bruce Longenecker		
Zones 5/6	X	Chris Stevens	X	Chris Schaeffer	X	Matt Gehman
	X	Eric Fox				
Zone 7		Ron Wentzel	X	Stephen Serba	X	Tom Rehr
BCFA		Roger Weidenhammer		Leon Grim		
BCFPA	X	Bob Englebach				
Berks DES	X	Brian Gottschall	X	Tony Flores		Craig Wanner
	X	Todd Boughter	X	Christina Wood		

OTHERS: Bob Snyder (Z4),

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

Training Committee: Bob Snyder asked to relay to all fire companies to go to the website (www.berkscountyfiretraining.org) for upcoming training. The committee is putting together a class schedule for 2013; Essentials are planned for the spring and fall. Bob is planning to attend upcoming zone meetings to talk to fire companies about registering for classes. Discussion occurred in regards to the BCFPA approaching the County Commissioners asking for money for a class without first approaching the Training Committee

RIT Consortium: Based on lack of forward momentum with the RIT Consortium the Working Group has decided to gather ideas from their respective zones in order to develop a “mission”.

P25:

- The Cumru site has now become a contested location by members of the community, and zoning hearings will be held.
- There will be additional zoning hearings for the Bethel site due to opposition.
- Upon receipt of Special Temporary Authority from the FCC, the Mt. Penn, Courthouse, and North Campus tower sites will be “lit-up” to begin system testing.
- The Ontelaunee site is moving forward quickly.
- AFG: FEMA will not consider an extension unless it’s within thirty (30) days of time expiration. There are a small number of agencies that still have not submitted their radio orders; all entities except one have given an indication that they will move quickly to complete their orders.

- Promissory Notes: There are agencies who have received their 7-year promissory notes who now are requesting 5 years; any agency who desires changes to their promissory notes needs to contact DES immediately.
- The total number of radio subscribers has crossed the 3,000 unit threshold at this date with projections to be well over 4,000 when all orders are received. This falls well within the maximum discount pricing for end-user equipment.
- Warranties on all end-user equipment begins at Final System Acceptance.

CAD:

- New World Systems has made some technical fixes to CAD. These fixes will be tested in the computer lab before being released “live” on the dispatch floor.
- There is progress on operational issues such as data entry, common names, premise flags, and run cards.
- Christina Wood will be meeting individually with fire companies to fix issues with their respective run cards.
- There was discussion on how Task Forces operate within NWC. NWC will replace tankers that are already on-scene or busy on another call. Tankers and support apparatus (supply pumpers) will be cross-manned and replaced. Replacing fill engines was discussed and a separate list will be generated with apparatus that meet the needs of a “supply pumper”. Brush Task Forces operate the same way in NWC as Tanker Task Forces. Water Rescue Task Forces do not get backed-up or covered.
- “Station” concept: An agency that puts “Station” on a run card will have their tones activated as a courtesy regardless of the company’s status (i.e. Company 100 is busy with an AFA and a 2nd call comes in for a brush fire; Company 100 has “Station” on this card, so their tones will be activated as a courtesy and cover apparatus will be dispatched).
- “Company” usage: After much discussion it was decided that if you use “Company” on your cards, and your station/department is busy (manpower, apparatus, or both) the OIC needs to place the company “busy” with Berks until available.
- House sirens: Companies have a choice of whether they want their house siren activated for calls or not, HOWEVER this will be by call type on every card for that company AND will be for 1st and 2nd dispatches; New World CAD will handle the tone activations and cannot differentiate between 1st and 2nd dispatch.
- Text paging: DES cannot control much of the initial text information that is received by end users but CAN control the length of narrative.

Local Level Alarm Concept: As of this time, Zones 3, 4, and 5/6 are in favor; Zone 1 is NOT in favor; Zone 2 has not made a determination yet.

Zone 1: Nothing to report.

Zone 2: Nothing to report.

Zone 3: Nothing to report.

Zone 4: Nothing to report.

Zones 5/6: Nothing to report.

Zone 7: Nothing to report.

BCFA: A reminder of the upcoming membership meeting.

BCFPA: Offering Legal Concepts for Fire Police on November 10 & 11; if interested contact Bob Englebach. Additionally, the radio on the 19th floor of the courthouse will be narrowbanded for the Fire Police Association and will stay live until the new radio system goes live.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2140 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2012, 1815 hours in the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Stevens, Chairman