

BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – January 31st, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

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

Other Attendees: None

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

The minutes of the November 2012 meetings were approved as written.

DISCUSSION

Officers: Nominations were opened for WG Officers for the 2013 year. The following members were nominated and elected by the body:

Chair: Chris Stevens
 Vice Chair: Ron Wentzel
 Vice Chair Alt: Eric Schrack
 Secretary: Matt Gehman

East-Central Task Force:

- Funding is available from Homeland Security for enhancement of current capabilities. An exercise is being planned for the Taskforce in September, and the planning for the type of scenario is ongoing. The incident management team met recently, and the following regions are participating: South Central, South Central Mountain, North Central, East Central.
- Discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of a Berks IMT, and its use for incidents that may be above day-to-day scope, but not large enough to warrant activation of Regional IMT. Representatives were instructed to reach out to their zones as to if there is a want and a need for something like this.

- PIMUS – **PA Intrastate Mutual Aid System**. In the future, departments will be asked to go online to enter their resources into a statewide system for mutual aid agreements.

RIT Consortium: Still looking for ideas for a Mission Statement. Chris Stevens will check on and provide update next WG meeting.

Training Committee:

- Delmar system and text book are not being updated by publisher. The State is in the process of choosing a new Textbook later in the year.
- New classes are up on the Training Website. www.berkscountyfiretraining.org

CAD:

- Webcad: A letter will be going out for fire departments to execute an agreement and send back to begin using Webcad if they so desire.
- Runcards: Representatives are asked to reiterate the use of the “Station” identifier at Zone Meetings. There still seems to be some confusion regarding this designator.
- NewWorld CAD: Still working through Fire Departments and correcting runcards. Discussion ensued about notifications of change in apparatus, specs, etc. Christina Wood is actively compiling apparatus lists similar to Craig Wanner’s previous listing. Creation of a “change form” to be created and put on website so that departments can fill out and submit to County when apparatus changes occur.

P25:

- Construction at tower sites that are not being contested are moving along.
- Scanlists for new radios will be user editable.
- Initial scanlist will be pre-populated in radios based on discipline (FIRE, PD, EMS, etc.)
- Training for new radios will be “train the trainer” based.
- Mobile radio installs will begin sometime in February. RMI will contact department to start scheduling installs. This is due to FEMA grant and need to complete purchase and install of equipment. Departments should start to think about install plan for their apparatus such as permanent locations vs temporary, antenna placements (perm vs temporary), and what radios will be kept for the long haul.
- Towers – 2 towers are currently in a testing phase, the Courthouse Tower and North Campus. Brian Gottschall demonstrated audio quality from within DES.

BCFA: No report

BCFPA:

- The fire police requested the ability to create an Admin group in RSAN for county wide fire police communication of events and help needed. It was discussed that one already exists for the County to activate in emergency situations. The Fire Police Association will return and poll their members as to whether this is something that is definitely wanted and needed. The issue would be as to who would have administrative rights to the RSAN group from the Fire Police Association.
- Training from the Fire Police Association will be more pronounced this year. Any officers who want to attend FP classes can do so free of charge, and are encouraged to attend. Training schedule in on Berks Fire Police website. (www.berksfirepolice.com) There will be a link to the FP website added to the Berks Fire Training Website.

Zone 1: Ethan Kunkel and Matt Brett have been assigned as representatives for Zone 1, Scott Yenser will continue to serve as an alternate representative. Also checking on interest from some Company 32 officers.

Zone 2: Nothing to report.

Zone 3: Bob Martin and Corey Houser will represent Zone 3 at Working Group.

Zone 4: Zone 4 requests a further explanation of the fleet mapping and how it will be setup.

Zones 5/6: Nothing to report.

Zone 7: Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:00 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 28th, 2013, 1815 hours in the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Gehman
Secretary