

BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – February 28th, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|--------------------|---|------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Zone 1 | x | Matt Brett | | Ethan Kunkel | x | Scott Yenser (alt) |
| Zone 2 | x | Eric Schrack | | Chuck Snyder | | Ken Quell (alt) |
| Zone 3 | x | Bob Martin | | Corey Housman | x | Lester Feick |
| Zone 4 | | 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 | | Tom Rehr |
| BCFA | | Roger Weidenhammer | | Leon Grim | | |
| BCFPA | x | Bob Englebach | x | J. David Bossard (alt) | | |
| Training | x | Bob Snyder | | | | |
| Berks DES | x | Brian Gottschall | x | Tony Flores | | Matt Stairiker |
| | x | 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 January 2013 meetings were approved as written.

DISCUSSION

East-Central Task Force:

- Scott Landis unable to attend tonight's meeting, but will report at next month's meeting.

RIT Consortium: No update

Training Committee:

- Essentials classes have started and are at capacity. Registration is open for Water Rescue classes and FF Survival classes. The Professional Certification schedule will be up on the website soon and all applications will go through Berks County Fire Training Site.

CAD:

- 26 requests so far for Webcad access from the Fire Service
- Reminder that Firehouse Software can interface with Webcad through a module offered by Firehouse. Information regarding this can be found on the County Website. Contact person for Firehouse Software is Mike Hall.
- Runcards – Discussion ensued regarding new format and issues with similar type apparatus in the same physical location. Several concerns regarding this new format brought forth to DES

from the WG members. Christina Wood will investigate items from discussion, and report next month.

- P25:**
- 11 towers in some sort of construction phase, 5 additional towers/sites still major concerns due to issues
 - Brian Gottschall reported that each radio will be programmed with an Trunking ID, Radio Alias, and User Assignment. Eric Schrack and Matt Gehman have been tasked with coming up with a standard numbering convention within the boundaries of the system.

BCFA: No report

- **BCFPA:** Bob Englebach handed out information sheet regarding legal aspects of Fire Police and how they are sworn in, who they report to, etc. Tony Riccardi is interested in holding a “Fire Police Misconceptions” class for any Fire Chiefs, municipal officials, etc, who are interested in attending.
- Mid-Atlantic Air Show – Fire Police will be receiving a letter from Bern Township regarding assistance with Traffic Control for this event.

Zone Reports:

Zone 1: Nothing to report

Zone 2: Nothing to report

Zone 3: Nothing to report

Zone 4: Report from Zone 4 Meeting – concerns about the use of the “MISC” response category and questions on how the dispatchers determine to use this category. Discussion ensued about original intention of MISC call type, its intended use, and issues that the field users are seeing. DES will discuss internally and investigate, and report back next month.

Zones 5/6: Discussed County IMT – Zone in favor of forming such a group.

Zone 7: Nothing to report

New Business:

- Joe Sherman, District 17 Forestry Warden, has been invited as a non-voting member to the Working Group, to provide information to a broader audience. Announcement of Air Drop Training, Friday March 22nd at the West Hazleton Comfort Inn, 10:00 am.
- Brian Gottschall reported on continued voice testing that is taking place on the new system. Tests have been conducted at the Fire Training Center and the County Jail. Brian reports excellent voice quality, even with diminished signal strength and moderate to severe background noise. Proper use of the radio, including proper speaker mic use and position are critical to the audio quality produced. Brian also showed the group a “Gear Keeper” spring-loaded tether for speaker mics, to allow movement of the speaker mic from a coat lapel or airpack to the proper position for radio transmission. This device is very robust and should hold up to the rigors of use by the Fire Service. The cost of the “Gear Keeper” is around \$20 each.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Gehman
Secretary