

BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Zone 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt Brett	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethan Kunkel	<input type="checkbox"/> "Open" (alt)
Zone 2	<input type="checkbox"/> "Open"	<input type="checkbox"/> Dean Dalious	<input type="checkbox"/> Cody Rahn
Zone 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Martin	<input type="checkbox"/> Lester Feick	<input type="checkbox"/> Corey Hauser (alt)
Zone 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colin Hackman	<input type="checkbox"/> "Open"	<input type="checkbox"/> "Open" (alt)
Zone 5/6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Stevens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Schaeffer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Fox
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Bickings	<input type="checkbox"/> "Open" (alt)	
Zone 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Kemery	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Rehr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Thorpe (alt)
BCFA	<input type="checkbox"/> Roger Weidenhammer	<input type="checkbox"/> Leon Grim	
BCFPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Randy Minninger	<input type="checkbox"/> "Open" (alt)	
Task Force	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Landis	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Lassar	
Berks DES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Gottschall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tony Flores	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean Hart
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Boughter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christina Wood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Fritz
Forestry 17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Ladson		

***Ron Wentzel, Vice Chair Emeritus**

Other Attendees:

The meeting was called to order by Chris Stevens, Chair at 18:20 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services conference room, located in the Direct Link Building, Bernville Road, Reading, PA.

The January 26, 2017 meeting minutes were not available for review. They will be distributed for reviewed prior to the March meeting.

Forestry 17 (DCNR): Tom Ladson introduced himself to the group. He is replacing Troy Withers as the Berks County Representative. Troy will still be the county's contact for any DCNR training; however, Tom will be the contact for all wildland fires.

- **Spring Fire Season:** DCNR expects an early Spring fire season.
- **Air Support:** Tom announced that although they expect an early Spring fire, the air support program is not finalized. He is expecting air support to be ready late March.
- **Wildland Fire Reporting:** Tom stressed the importance for reporting all wildland fires, no matter how minor or even if it was after the incident was over. Reporting is still to be submitted through the wardens.

Berks County Fire Police Association: No Report

Berks County Fireman's Association: No Report

East-Central Task Force (Landis):

- The Task Force has no new information to report.

- It was recommended to the Working Group to replace Mike Lassar with Corey Heimbach (Captain 95-2) as the Berks County's second representative on the Task Force. The recommendation was approved by the Working Group. DES would make the necessary notifications of the change.

Training: No Report

Zone 1: No Report provided to Chairman Stevens

Zone 2: No Report provided to Chairman Stevens

Zone 3: No Report provided to Chairman Stevens

Zone 4 (Hackman):

- It is believed that Avery Leshar (DC 18-1) will be the second representative from Zone 4 to the Working Group. The Zone is still working on filling the Alternate position.
- The Zone was asked about changing their meeting schedule to be consistent to the remaining Zones. At this time, Zone 4 does not wish to change their meeting schedule.

Zone 5/6: Nothing to report

Zone 7/RFD: Nothing to report

Department of Emergency Services (Gottschall):

- DES is currently working on the changes to the Communication policies for the pre-alert changes. Brian asked for clarification for pre-alerts on MVA with Entrapments. After some discussion, it was agreed to remove MVA with Entrapments from the pre-alerts. He plans to have the draft version of the policy available for Working Group review in March, and then the final review in April.
- Motorola is still working on finishing the radio system. Once this is completed, Brian will have more information on when the warranties start.
- Several companies still need to complete radio updates before DES can roll out any more. A list of deficient companies will be emailed to Chairman Stevens.
A letter of "concern" was sent to the County Commissioners regarding DES policies related to fire police units. Brian reported that the concerns within the letter pertained to the safety of the fire police units on scenes, and he requested that zones be reminded that crew safety is the primary responsibility of the incident commanders and their designated incident safety officers.

Randy Minninger reported that Fire Police Association had no knowledge of any concerns.

Old Business:

- **Total Visibility:** A sub-committee was developed to review the program and update the resource listings. The committee is as follows:
 - Jon Fritz – Chairman
 - Colin Hackman

- Scott Landis
- Chris Stevens

Chairman Stevens will also ask Dean Dalious is interested sitting on the committee.

New Business: No New Business Presented

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 19:08 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 18:15 hours on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Bickings, Secretary