

**BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP**  
**Meeting Minutes – January 26, 2017**

**ATTENDANCE:**

<b>Zone 1</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethan Kunkel	<input type="checkbox"/> "Open"	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt Brett (alt)
<b>Zone 2</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> "Open"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dean Dalious	<input type="checkbox"/> Cody Rahn
<b>Zone 3</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Martin	<input type="checkbox"/> Lester Feick	<input type="checkbox"/> Corey Hauser (alt)
<b>Zone 4</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colin Hackman	<input type="checkbox"/> "Open"	<input type="checkbox"/> "Open" (alt)
<b>Zone 5/6</b>	<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)	
<b>Zone 7</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Kemery	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Rehr	<input type="checkbox"/> Brian Thorpe (alt)
<b>BCFA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roger Weidenhammer	<input type="checkbox"/> Leon Grim	
<b>BCFPA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Enlebach	<input type="checkbox"/> J. David Bossard (alt)	
<b>Task Force</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Landis	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Lassar	
<b>Berks DES</b>	<input 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
<b>Forestry 17</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Troy Withers		

**\*Ron Wentzel, Vice Chair Emeritus**

**Other Attendees:** B. Miller

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The meeting was called to order by Chris Stevens, Chair at 18:17 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services conference room, located in the Direct Link Building, Bernville Road, Reading, PA.

The October 27, 2016 meeting minutes were not available for review. They will be reviewed for approval at a future meeting.

**2017 Reorganization:** Chairman Stevens opened the meeting with the 2017 reorganization of position of Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary. He announced to the WG that Matt Brett was going to step down as a Zone 1 Rep; therefore, he did not wish to be reappointed to Vice Chairman.

- **Chairman:** Chris Stevens was nominated to Chairman by Scot Landis and seconded by Eric Fox. There were no other nominations for Chairman.  
Chris Stevens was reappointed as the Chairman
- **Vice-Chairman:** Colin Hackman was nominated to Vice-Chairman by Chris Schaeffer and seconded by Eric Fox. There were no other nominations for Vice-Chairman.  
Colin Hackman was appointed as the Vice-Chairman.
- **Secretary:** Chris Bickings was nominated to Secretary by Eric Fox, and seconded by Colin Hackman. There were no other nominations for Secretary.  
Chris Bickings was reappointed Secretary.

**Zone Representation Status:** Chairman Stevens had received emails from Matt Brett (Zone 1), Ken Quell (Zone 2), Josh Keller (Zone 4) stating that they will be stepping down as their respective Zone reps. There is no indication to who will be their replacements.

**Berks County Fire Police Association:** No Report

**Forestry 17 (DCNR):** No Report

**East-Central Task Force (Landis):**

- Currently the Task Force is working with Boyertown Area Fire and Rescue in setting up a Structural Collapse certification class.
- It was discussed to the amount of contribution Michael Lassar has been providing the Task Force as a representative of Berks County. After the discussion, it was decided to see if there was anyone else with more availability to replace Mike. Chairman Stevens was going to contact Boyertown Area Fire and Rescue to see if they had someone to still on the task force.

**BCFA (Weidenhammer):** The General Meeting of the Berks County Fireman’s Association is Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 14:00 hrs.

**Training (Weidenhammer):**

- Jeff Reinert is currently working on setting up other classes besides the Essential’s program for 2017. The Essential Program’s dates are finalized and available on the website.
- The WG discussed the possibility to offer the Basic Vehicle Rescue program this year. Rodger will report back to Jeff about this.
- The committee is currently working on a website upgrade that will allow people to register electronically. More to come on this upgrade.

**Zone 1:** There was no representation in attendance. No Report

**Zone 2:** Nothing to report

**Zone 3:** Nothing to Report

**Zone 4:** Nothing to report

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

**Zone 7/RFD (Kemery):**

- The city is currently receiving some radio reprogramming.
- The Active Shooter training will be starting soon.

**Old Business:** Chairman Stevens shared the vote tally for the fire department’s wish to move forward with the proposed addition of a pre-alert announcement in Fire ‘A’ and Fire ‘B’.

37 Fire departments voted “In favor”  
8 Fire departments voted “Not in Favor”  
9 Fire department did not respond.

Since 68% of the fire departments voted in favor of the change, the WG made the recommendation to move forward with the proposed change.

Sean stated that he would speak to Brian Gottschall about this, but it will take some time for training. He estimated minimally one month for the training.

**DES:**

- Todd asked the WG on the status of the various operational task forces, such as tanker task force and brush task forces.
  - Zone 2 (Daliou): It is unsure what the status of Zone 2's Tanker Task Force, but would like to keep it in the CAD if possible. Christine reported that the TF does exist.
  - Zone 3 (Martin): Reported that TTF does still exist.
  - Zone 4 (Hackman): Reported that the TTF does still exist. He would check to see currently in charge of it.
  - Zone 5/6 (Stevens): Reported that the TTF does still exist. He advised Todd to contact Don Sterling from Company 4 about Zone 5/6 Tanker Task Force and Brush Task Force. He also reported that the Water Rescue Task Force, although is primarily Company 16, still exists.
  - Neversink Brush Task Force: No one knew the status of this task force. Todd will speak to Don about this too.
- Sean discussed the possibility to reorganize the flow of the dispatch when the new pre-alerts begin. He explained that now there can be a delay to the announcement of the address and nature due to lengthy apparatus assignments.

The current dispatch flow is: Apparatus, Municipality, Address, Nature.

The recommended flow is: Municipality, Address, Nature, Apparatus.

After a lengthy discussion, the WG authorized this change since it will speed up the announcement of the address and nature.

- Sean also asked the WG to remind the departments to have the radio programmers updated to the current version. Without all departments completing the necessary upgrades, DES is unable to move forward with additional changes to the radio firmware.

**New Business:**

- Chairman Stevens brought up the possibility to change WG meetings from a monthly basis to bi-monthly so that the meetings coincide with the current Zone meetings. All Zones meet on the same months, except Zone 4. Colin Hackman will speak with Zone 4 to see if there is a possibility to change their meeting months to coincide with the other Zones. This topic was tabled.
- Prior to this meeting Chairman Stevens shared some thoughts / concerns of some members related to the effectiveness of the WG, and how the general feeling is that the WG is nothing more than a conduit between DES and field user. After some discussion, all the present members believe that, although the WG was in fact developed to be a conduit between DES and the field users, the WG is a vital group for Berks County fire departments and should continue. The following list is items that the WG plan to research:

- Survey of the fire departments related to their company membership size, recruitment and retention programs.
- Fire Prevention
- Resource Lists
- Apparatus Typing Standardization
- Total Visibility Resource Lists – which Jon Fritz will make a presentation on during the February meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 19:56 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 18:15 hours on Thursday, February 23, 2017 at the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chris Bickings, Secretary