

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

**ATTENDANCE:**

<b>Zone 1</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Brett	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethan Kunkel	<input type="checkbox"/> "Open" (alt)
<b>Zone 2</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dean Dalious	<input type="checkbox"/> Blair Miller	<input type="checkbox"/> Ken Quell
<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 Bickings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Schaeffer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Fox
	<input type="checkbox"/> "Open"	<input type="checkbox"/> "Open" (alt)	
<b>Zone 7</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Kemery	<input checked="" 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"/> Randy Minninger	<input type="checkbox"/> "Open" (alt)	
<b>Task Force</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Landis	<input type="checkbox"/> Corey Heimach	
<b>Berks DES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Gottschall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tony Flores	<input 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"/> Tom Ladson		

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

**Other Attendees:** Anthony Tucci (WB EMS), Trooper Jansen Herb (PSP)

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The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Colin Hackman at 18:15 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services conference room, located in the Direct Link Building, Bernville Road, Reading, PA.

The August meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

**Forestry 17 / DCNR:** There is a new warden for District 17. Dean Dalious (Zone 2) will work on having him attend a future Working Group Meeting.

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

**Berks County Fireman's Association:** Next Meeting is scheduled for 2:00pm on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at Berks County Fire Training Site.

**East-Central Task Force:** The task force is working on scheduling classes and an exercise for 2018. More information to follow.

**Training:** Nothing to Report

**Zone 1:** There is no report from the Zone; however, Matt Brett (Zone 1) reported that the zone does not meet, and he is unsure of the future for any representatives. He will remain a member of the Working Group and try to keep the zone updated.

**Zone 2:** Dean Dalious (Zone 2) reported that the Zone is in agreement with the previous discussion for activating the GPS feature of the county radio portables. He also reported that Zone 2 has developed a Facebook page to keep the zone members informed.

**Zone 3:** Nothing to Report.

**Zone 4:** Vice-Chair Colin Hackman discussed the current call types. Currently, there is no call type for wires down, and it is grouped in with the miscellaneous call type. There is a concern in Zone 4 about not being able to better define a specific response for wires down. There was no conclusion to this discussion.

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

**Zone 7/RFD:** Nothing to report.

**Guests Presentations:**

**Anthony Tucci:** Mr. Tucci attended the meeting to provide information on behalf of Friends of Reading Health, which is currently conducting a survey to locate gaps in AED coverage. The goal of this is to provide AEDs to groups and services that need AEDs, but do not have one available.

**Trooper Herb:** Trooper Herb is the new State Police Fire Marshall for the county. He attended the meeting to introduce himself, and to let everyone know that he would like to be involved.

**Old Business:** There was no old business

**Department of Emergency Services:**

- Director Gottschall showed the group the newly released Motorola Speaker Microphone that is available for emergency service. This microphone has a channel selector, one side button, and a LED flashlight. The LED light will also flash when the emergency button is pushed. This microphone is listed for \$325.00.
- Director Gottschall reported that Motorola has discontinued the 6-bay bank charger without a display screen for the APX-6000 / APX-7000. Motorola, however, will honor the price for this bank charger if you order the bank charger with the display screen.
- Director Gottschall requested feedback on the current operations. This request started a conversation about a dedicated dispatcher for any significant working incident. Currently, due to financial constraints, this is not possible. A second conversation started to discuss what the possibility is for the county to stop charging for dispatch services. Director Gottschall explained, that even though Berks County is the only county in Pennsylvania that charges for dispatch service, it would require a significant tax increase to make up the financial impact if they county would stop charging.

**2018 Election Nominations:**

- **Chairman:** Vice-Chairman Colin Hackman (Zone 4) was nominated by Chris Schaeffer (Zone 5/6), which he accepted. Tom Rehr (Zone 7) was nominated by Colin Hackman (Zone 4), which he declined. There were no other nominations made for Chairman.

- **Vice-Chairman:** Chris Schaeffer (Zone 5/6) was nominated by Eric Fox (Zone 5/6), which he accepted. There were no other nominations for Vice-Chairman.
- **Secretary:** Chris Bickings (Zone 5/6) was nominated by Chris Schaeffer (Zone 5/6), which he accepted. There were no other nominations for Secretary.

**New Business:** There was a discussion regarding the necessity of the group meeting monthly, or if they could meet bi-monthly. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was decided that starting in January 2018, the Working Group would meet on a bi-monthly schedule, unless additional meetings are necessary.

**For the Good of The Group:**

- Dean Dalious (Zone 2) brought up that he spoke to several companies from Zone 1 and Zone 3, and he feels that there is no support of the zones. He asked how the Group could function without support of Zones, and he stated that the Group needs to work closer with them to make the Group successful. He has no answer to how to accomplish this, but feels the Group needs to do something.
- Vice-Chairman Colin Hackman (Zone 4) stated to the members of the Group, that it is important to define the goals of the Group, which Director Gottschall asked if the Group could work on more strategic aspects, such as group purchasing, county-wide procedures, count-wide recruitment/retention initiatives, etc.

There were no specific ideas presented at the conclusion of this discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 19:13 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 18:15 hours on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Bickings". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Chris Bickings, Secretary