

BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – August 30, 2012

ATTENDANCE:

Zone 1	X	RJ Schegan	X	Mark George	X	Scott Yenser (alt)
Zone 2	X	Eric Schrack		Chuck Snyder	X	Ken Quell (alt)
Zone 3	X	Bob Martin		Butch Feick		
Zone 4	X	Scot Landis	X	Bruce Longenecker		
Zones 5/6	X	Chris Stevens	X	Chris Schaeffer	X	Matt Gehman
		Eric Fox				
Zone 7		Ron Wentzel	X	Stephen Serba		Tom Rehr
BCFA		Roger Weidenhammer	X	Leon Grim		
BCFPA	X	Bob Englebach				
Berks DES	X	Brian Gottschall	X	Tony Flores	X	Craig Wanner

OTHERS: Bob Snyder (Z4), Mark Burkholder (Z4)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Stevens at 1817 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services conference room, located in the Direct Link building, Bernville Road, Leesport, PA.

The minutes of the July 2012 meeting were approved.

DISCUSSION

Training Committee: Bob Snyder reported that the fall classes are on the training website. Essentials Mod 4 is full, and the SBS has enough to run. Pump 2 doesn't have enough registrations at the present time, and the training committee is awaiting registrations for other class offerings. They are planning to complete the 2013 schedule at their next meeting.

RIT Consortium: They are planning to meet in the future and re-organize.

P25:

- The tentative "go-live" date is now November, 2013.
- There will be a zoning hearing for the Bethel site on September 18th, 7PM at the Bethel Township Building. This is a critical tower location from a coverage aspect.
- NEPA/SHPO decisions will be coming soon regarding the Appalachian Trail issues. The County needs support from all disciplines regarding this radio system, specifically the Blue Mountain tower sites.
- Maxatawny site: still ongoing to push zoning appeal.
- A list is available showing agencies whose orders are not finalized because said agencies failed to reply back to RMI confirming the correctness of their orders. This is delaying promissory notes as well as placing the order with Motorola.

CAD:

- New World CAD has gone “live”. Performance issues are being addressed.
- Run Cards: There is a new group of employees onboard to work through “bugs” regarding fire and EMS run cards. Cards are being entered through the “test” side of NWC to ensure that the CAD properly assigns units. These employees will be reaching out to every fire company individually to verify correctness of their cards in the near future.
- Regarding complaints from field users, DES urges everyone to be patient, as the dispatchers are under a great deal of stress due to the CAD issues.
- Discussion occurred regarding cross streets and mapping. Issues are being looked into.
- With NWC comes a new incident numbering system. Every agency will be assigned an incident number starting with 100000; a “call for service” number is assigned as well, running in a cycle from 0001 to 9999 and starting over again.

Zone 1: A questions was raised about radio warranties and when they begin; Brian will investigate/research with Motorola.

Zone 2: Nothing to report.

Zone 3: Nothing to report.

Zone 4: Still concerns with how media details are given to fire chiefs; all zones are still obtaining feedback from their respective companies. The “Local Alarm” proposal is still being reviewed and discussed by each Zone. As of this date Zones 3 & 4 have endorsed it, Zones 1 & 2 are waiting to discuss, and Zones 5/6 have tabled the topic until their August meeting. Zone 4 also passed on concerns that certain call types are getting downgraded assignments during “storm mode”.

Zones 5/6: Nothing to report.

Zone 7: Progress. The latest “probie” group is well on its way through training. RFD is also applying for another SAFER grant.

BCFA: Nothing to report.

BCFPA: Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2015 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 27, 2012, 1815 hours in the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Stevens, Chairman