

BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – June 27th, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

Zone 1	x	Matt Brett		Ethan Kunkel		Scott Yenser (alt)
Zone 2	x	Eric Schrack		Chuck Snyder		Ken Quell (alt)
Zone 3		Bob Martin		Corey Houser		Lester Feick
Zone 4	x	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	x	Leon Grim		
BCFPA	x	Bob Englebach		J. David Bossard (alt)		
Training	x	Bob Snyder				
Berks DES	x	Brian Gottschall		Tony Flores		Matt Stairiker
		Craig Wanner		Todd Boughter		Christina Wood

Other Attendees: NONE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Stevens at 18:22 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 May 2013 meetings were approved as written.

DISCUSSION

East-Central Task Force: No new business

RIT Consortium: No update

Radio Advisory: None

Training Committee:

- Bob Snyder reported that the new Forcible Entry simulator will be available for use in 4-6 weeks.
- The Fall Burn session was split into 2 because of high demand. Seats are still available
- Classes upcoming: FF Survival, Large Area Search, MetEd Electrical Utilities Safety class

CAD:

- Christina Wood sent out Officer Update forms for all departments
- 13 Companies have not contacted the County for WEBCAD access.

P25:

- The Blue Mountain site has been topped out, generator installed, utilities installed, etc.

- Kutztown site is primarily constructed.
- Albany site has a final mitigation strategy.
- Bethel still has significant challenges. The Township Supervisors will have a hearing in July 22nd to propose an amendment to the Zoning.
- Longswamp is experiencing DEP/Stormwater regulation challenges, obtaining this permit is a major holdup.

Runcards:

- Brian has asked his staff to put together a tentative schedule for completing runcards in the new CAD system. There was some discussion as to what “special” resource listings will be used in CAD. Christina Wood will send listing to Matt Gehman for redistribution to the WG members.

BCFA: NONE

BCFPA: Tony Riccardi will be conducting a legal class for municipal officials and fire department members @ the Fire Training Site later this year.

New Business:

- Brian Gottschall reported that the P25 radio installs are ongoing. The vendor is having some difficulty contacting certain departments.
- Negotiations with Motorola are ongoing regarding the contract.
- Radio management software will be available for programming through a USB connection over the internet, or through the standard POP25 over the air programming. The benefit of reprogramming over the internet through USB is speed and flexibility.
- Radio Trace option will also be available, this is the ability for the County to remotely key end-users radios for security checks, emergency situations, etc.
- Differential Codeplugs – this allows changes to be made to codeplugs in the radios incrementally, instead of having to write the entire codeplug to the radio every time it is updated/reprogrammed.
- Brian Gottschall asked Bob Englebach about a letter sent to the FCC regarding the Fire Police and the County monitoring the FP private frequency. The letter basically asked the FCC if there was anything the FCC could do to require the County to monitor this frequency. It was learned that the decision to draft and send this letter was made at an Executive Board meeting of the Fire Police Association, and it was unclear whether the general membership was aware of the letter. Chris Stevens requested Bob Englebach to send him a listing of the Executive Board of the Fire Police Association, including Officers and “Zone Reps”.
- Scott Landis commended Vinnie Rush for his work and assistance in setting up the City’s RSAN system.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:16 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 25th, 2013, 1815 hours in the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Gehman
Secretary