

BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – June 26th, 2014

ATTENDANCE:

Zone 1	x	Matt Brett		Ethan Kunkel	x	Scott Yenser (alt)
Zone 2		Eric Schrack	x	Dean Dalious	x	Ken Quell (alt)
Zone 3		Bob Martin		Corey Houser		Lester Feick
Zone 4		Scot Landis	x	Bruce Longenecker		
Zones 5/6	x	Chris Stevens	x	Chris Schaeffer	x	Matt Gehman
	x	Eric Fox				
Zone 7		Stephen Serba		Tom Rehr		Ron Wentzel, Vice Chair Emeritus
BCFA	x	Roger Weidenhammer		Leon Grim		
BCFPA	x	Bob Englebach		J. David Bossard (alt)		
Training		Bob Snyder				
Berks DES	x	Brian Gottschall		Tony Flores		Matt Stairiker
		Craig Wanner	x	Todd Boughter	x	Christina Wood
DCNR		Joe Sherman				

***Ron Wentzel, Vice Chair Emeritus**

Other Attendees: NONE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Stevens at 18:21 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 2014 meeting were approved as written.

DISCUSSION:

Zone 1:

- Questions about the warranty start date for the 700 Mhz radios were raised. Brian noted that there are negotiations in progress with Motorola for warranties to start at the time of final system acceptance.
- The question was asked as to what radio talkgroups to use for End User Training? Brian reiterated to see the training document for the listing.
- Interop with neighboring counties: no formal document will be provided by Berks. Those agencies who interface with neighboring counties should contact their mutual aid departments in those counties and discuss communications and the options provided by DES for interoperability.

Zone 2: Nothing to report

Zone 3: Nothing to report

Zone 4: Nothing to report

Zone 5&6: Questions were raised about general status keeping of officers and apparatus. Brian noted that all apparatus will be status kept. Mutual Aid officers will not be status kept in general, but

can announce their response on the radio in the form of 1 part messaging as an informational message. This does not, however, preclude a mutual aid officer, if the first resource on location, from calling Berks and giving an initial incident report, requesting resources, etc.

Zone 7: Not in attendance.

Training: Bob Snyder reported the following:

- The first Education Methodologies class has been filled
- There is a second Education Methodologies class being scheduled
- Fire Officer I testing is being scheduled to follow the Fire Instructor I testing
- Mod 5 has been filled
- The FFII test will more than likely run.
- Very few classes have not run this year due to lack of enrollment
- There will more than likely be price increases for the MOD classes due to changes in cost for books and training materials.

DES:

- Brian Gottschall brought up the topic of UAV's, or drones. As of right now, they are legally allowed (and easily obtainable) for recreational use only. Use by a business or service organization brings with it a litany of regulations.
- Brian reiterated the use of the Yahoo Groups service for important information regarding the 700 Mhz radio system. Anyone can sign up to receive emails.

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned @ 19:34 hours.

The BCFWG will not be holding a meeting in July.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 28th @ 18:15 hours in the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Gehman
Secretary