

BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – August 28th, 2014

ATTENDANCE:

Zone 1		Matt Brett		Ethan Kunkel	x	Scott Yenser (alt)
Zone 2		Eric Schrack		Dean Dalious	x	Ken Quell (alt)
Zone 3	x	Bob Martin		Corey Houser		Lester Feick
Zone 4		Scot Landis		Bruce Longenecker		
Zones 5/6	x	Chris Stevens	x	Chris Schaeffer	x	Matt Gehman
	x	Eric Fox				
Zone 7	x	Stephen Serba		Tom Rehr		Ron Wentzel, Vice Chair Emeritus
BCFA	x	Roger Weidenhammer	x	Leon Grim		
BCFPA	x	Bob Englebach	x	J. David Bossard (alt)		
Training	x	Bob Snyder				
Berks DES	x	Brian Gottschall	x	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 18:24 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 June 2014 meeting were approved as written.
 There was no meeting held in July.

DISCUSSION:

Fire Police: Bob Englebach stated that the Fire Police Association is interested in purchasing 700 Mhz radios for the Association to be used with their Portable Command Center. Brian Gottschall stated that the proper user agreement, order process, and such needs to be completed in order to move forward. Bob Englebach also asked about the RM Software and if it was available for a Mac computer. Brian Gottschall stated the software only runs on the Windows 7 and Windows 8 operating systems.

Zones: No issues or reports from any of the Zones.

Training: Bob Snyder reported the following:

- 2015 courses are being populated to the website, watch website for updates.
- There is a second Education Methodologies class being scheduled
- Fire Officer I testing is being scheduled to follow the Fire Instructor I testing

- There will more than likely be price increases for the MOD classes due to changes in cost for books and training materials. The Committee is weighing a stipend type incentive program for companies committing apparatus to the Essentials/Hazmat/BVR series of classes

DES:

- Brian Gottschall reiterated the use of the Yahoo Groups service for important information regarding the 700 Mhz radio system. Anyone can sign up to receive emails.
- Brian Gottschall also stated that many agencies have not had any contact with DES regarding the radio programming software. Other agencies have sent paperwork, but have not confirmed install of the software.
- Steve Serba expressed concerns with his portable radio re-acquiring signal in the Courthouse area of the City. The City will work with RMI to reproduce the issue and analyze.
- Bob Snyder inquired about the backup paging and dual tower dispatches for areas of questionable coverage. Brian Gottschall stated that in areas where this is a concern, tones and voice dispatch will be done off of multiple towers.
- Brian Gottschall reminded everyone to again bring up the September 15th start date for narrowbanding of the VHF pagers.
- Brian Gottschall reminded everyone that a Letter of Concurrence from Berks is needed for any out-of-county agencies using legacy Berks Frequencies for Interops on the new radio system.

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned @ 19:16 hours.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 25th @ 18:15 hours in the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Gehman
Secretary