

BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – September 25th, 2014

ATTENDANCE:

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|--------------------|---|------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Zone 1 | | Matt Brett | | Ethan Kunkel | | Scott Yenser (alt) |
| Zone 2 | x | Ken Quell | x | Dean Dalious | | |
| 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 | x | Stephen Serba | | Tom Rehr | | Ron Wentzel, Vice Chair Emeritus |
| BCFA | | Roger Weidenhammer | x | Leon Grim | | |
| BCFPA | x | Bob Englebach | | 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 18:19 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 August meeting were approved as written.

DISCUSSION:

Communications: Chris Stevens announced he received a Letter of Resignation from the Working Group from Secretary Matthew Gehman, effective 1/1/2015. Chris Stevens also announced that he received an email of resignation from Vice Chair Eric Schrack, effective immediately. The working group accepted the letters of resignation, and decided not to fill the vacant Vice-Chair position until the January reorganization meeting.

Forestry: Dean Dalious reported that they are scheduling training for the spring, and will coordinate through the training committee.

Fire Police: NONE

Zone 1: Chris Stevens reported that he received an email from Matt Brett regarding a mistake on Kempton FD's part in the programming of the VHF side (alternate frequencies) for their dual band radios. Matt was concerned about the amount of money being charged for essentially a few keystrokes to correct the mistake.

Zone 2: NONE

Zone 3: Question was asked if an OIC voice page also generates a text page? The answer is yes, it is supposed to.

Zones 5&6: NONE

Zone 7: As of October 1st, Billy Stoudt will be appointed Chief of the City of Reading.

Fireman's Association: NONE

Training: NONE

DES:

- Brian Gottschall announced that the radio training refresher period will open on October 17th.
- Brian reiterated the importance of the RM programming software, and getting all agencies on-board.
- Recalls and slow and holds will be done over the Dispatch channel when feasible, and text paging when possible.
- A discussion was held about the possibility of a future re-broadcast of Fire A and B on a VHF frequency so that fire department personnel can monitor those talkgroups. Brian stated that there is no possibility of finding (2) county wide VHF frequencies to stand up 24 re-broadcast transmitters. Brian recommended any organization that believes they require this to stand up a local re-broadcast transmitter for their response area.

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned @ 19:21 hours.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 13th @ 18:15 hours in the Direct Link conference room.

There will not be an October meeting held due to the new radio system implementation timeline.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Gehman
Secretary