

Berks County Fire Services Working Group

September 28, 2023

Officers: Chair Colin Hackman, Vice Chair Chris Schaeffer, Secretary Mike Kline

Meeting was called to order at 1801 hours. There were no additions or corrections to the previous months minutes, they stand approved as read.

Attendance:

Zone 1: Matt Brett

Zone 2: Rusty Wagner

Zone 3: Bob Martin

Zone 4: Colin Hackman, Lance Parmer

Zone 5&6: No one in attendance

Zone 7: No one in attendance

BCFA: Roger Weidenheimer

BCFT: No one in attendance

BCFPA: No one in attendance

Forestry: No one in attendance

DES Brian Gottschall, Mike Smith, Matt Stairiker, Christina Wood, Philip Salamone

Additional Attendance:

Communications: None

Zone 1: Nothing to report

Zone 2: Chief Wagner ask what resources the County currently has for lithium ion battery fires. Director Gottschall advised that this is what the Lithium Ion sub-committee is currently working on and that a report would be provided under DES.

Zone 3: Bob Martin advised that Cory Hauser could be removed as Zone 3 alternate representative.

Zone 4: Chair Hackman reported a new Zone 4 representative Lance Parmer.

Zone 5 & 6: Vice Chair Schaeffer messaged Chair Hackman that he was unable to connect to the meeting and there was nothing to report.

Zone 7: No attendance / report

BCFA: Nothing to report

BCFT: No attendance, Roger Weidenheimer reported the group is working on the 2024 Training calendar.

BCFPA: No attendance / report

DES: Director Gottschall reported Motorola had a solution to fix the open mic issue with portable radios and that Motorola would be reaching out to each Department's Radio Administrator to schedule a date and time to re-program all portable radios. In the process of scheduling, DES and Motorola created the same issue with a newly programmed portable. The re-programming has been postponed until an updated fix can be developed.

Lithium Ion Sub-Committee: Currently meeting and working on the following items:

Creating a document of model policies addressing, describing scenarios for adoption by the AHJ.

Vet / envision solutions

Advocate for procurement of equipment at local / regional levels as required

Education to include public and emergency services

Identify scenarios – portable, small vehicles, large vehicles, residential installation and utility industrial and facilities installation.

Old Business: Tax Credit Sub-Committee is meeting to discuss the program thru out the county. Paul Janson with the Center for Excellence is assisting with promoting the Tax Credit. The Sub-Committee will be making themselves available to Zones, Departments and their local government to help create a program if interested.

New Business: None

The next FSWG meeting will be Thursday December 7, 2023 at 1800 hours via TEAMS

There being no further business to come forth, Chair Hackman adjourned the meeting at 1901 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colin D. Hackman