

## **Berks County Fire Services Working Group**

**December 7, 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:** No one in attendance

**Zone 2:** Rusty Wagner, Blair Miller

**Zone 3:** Bob Martin

**Zone 4:** Colin Hackman, Lance Parmer

**Zone 5&6:** Chris Schaeffer, Brian Sierocinski

**Zone 7:** Tom Kemery, Andrew Getka

**BCFA:** No one in attendance

**BCFT:** No one in attendance

**BCFPA:** No one in attendance

**Forestry:** No one in attendance

**DES:** Brian Gottschall, Mike Smith, Matt Stairiker, Philip Salamone, Nelson Lopez Jr

**Additional Attendance:** Scot Landis

**Communications:** PSP email regarding scene pictures (was already sent out 12/08 at 0732)

**Zone 1:** No attendance / report

**Zone 2:** Rusty Wagner ask about an Active Alert interface with CAD. DES reported they send the same information out and that the issue is with Active Alert to figure out how to send the additional information to its users.

**Zone 3:** Bob Martin advised that the Zone has new officers and the Working Group representatives will remain the same.

**Zone 4:** Chair Hackman advised that Zone 4 currently has a sub-committee that is working on a standardized scene size up, accountability and training for standardization throughout the Zone.

**Zone 5 & 6:** Vice Chair Schaeffer advised that Zone 5/6 is working on standardized SOG's and 95, 97 and 19 will be trial. Vice Chair Schaeffer ask about the Crew Force as his Zone is now discussing and requested the information that was originally sent out to the Working Group delegates. Vice Chair Schaeffer reported Zone companies were unable to contact the new Fire Training site Superintendent. Matt Stairiker confirmed contact information and advised if they are unable to reach the Fire Training Site Superintendent, to contact Matt. Vice Chair Schaeffer advised of the new Zone 5/6 Working Group representatives. Brian Sierocinski ask about a dispatching issue that occurred during two different re-locates. Director Gottschall advised that those issues are not for this meeting and need to be addressed at the time of the issue or immediately after the incident has been cleared. Director Gottschall stated these issues should be directed to the on duty Watch Officer at the time of the incident or Senior Watch Officer Mike Smith.

**Zone 7:** Tom Kemery introduced the new Zone 7 Working Group representative D – Platoon Chief Andrew Getka. Reported the probationary class of new hires were on the street and would be fully released in February, there Fire Mechanic is in place and designated as Shop 1, and they just purchased two engines, one ladder and one rescue which will be arriving over the next three to four years.

**BCFA:** Nothing to report

**BCFT:** No attendance / report

**BCFPA:** No attendance / report

**DES:** Director Gottschall reported Motorola is still working on a fix for the open mic issue with portable radios. The next RM release would be in March 2024 and a hopeful solution to correct the issue.

Lithium Ion Sub-Committee: Currently meeting and working on a document of model policies describing scenarios for adoption by the AHJ. This is a work in progress.

**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:** Election of Officer's was held with the following results:

Chair – Colin Hackman, Vice Chair – Chris Schaeffer, Secretary – Open. The Working Group is in need of a Secretary. Any interested in filling this position should contact Chair Hackman.

Zone representatives need to provide an updated list of delegates for the Working Group with email address so DES can send out an updated calendar invite for the 2024 meetings.

The next FSWG meeting will be Thursday January 25, 2024 at 1800 hours via TEAMS

There being no further business to come forth, Chair Hackman adjourned the meeting at 1838 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Colin D. Hackman*