

Berks County Fire Services Working Group

March 27, 2025

Officers: Chair Colin Hackman, Vice Chair Chris Schaeffer, Secretary Blair Miller

Meeting was called to order at 1800hours. There were no additions or corrections to the previous month's minutes, they stand approved as read.

Attendance:

Zone 1: Mark Richards

Zone 2: Blair Miller

Zone 3: No one in attendance

Zone 4: Colin Hackman

Zone 5&6: Brian Sierocinski, Chris Schaeffer

Zone 7: Andrew Getka

BCFA: Roger Wiedenheimer

BCFT: No one in attendance.

BCFPA: Greg Moll

Forestry: No one in attendance

DES: Brian Gottschall, Michael Smith, Matt Stairiker, Christina Wood, Philip Salamone

Additional Attendance: Scot Landis, Matt Brett

Communications: New FP, Todd has resigned. Tim Goodhart is now the alternate FP representative. Flyer for Mental Health for Public Safety on 6/16/25 was sent out. Motorola speaker mic issues was sent out. Mike Herbert – new contact for the Red Cross, he would be interested in coming to a FSWG meeting. Mike wants FSWG to know that they offer other services as well.

Zone 1: Nothing to report

Zone 2: Nothing to report

Zone 3: Nothing to report

Zone 4: Nothing to report

Zone 5&6: Nothing to report

Zone 7: EMS is running out of the firehouses now. DES folks think it's going well, positive feedback from employees. 11 probationary employees are currently in the academy. Started the process to get lieutenants on aerials next year. Run cards are completed and submitted.

BCFA: Nothing to report.

BCFT: No attendance / Report

BCFPA: Nothing to report.

Forestry: No attendance / Report

DES: Wood is working with select department for new run card format – out on the street, waiting for feedback and it will then be released. C. Hackman reported that Wood did a good job on the forms with including questions and answer in the document.

Gottschall – if not familiar w/ corporate/non-profit filings yearly. Beginning this year, all corporations, have to do an annual filing with the Dept of State to update their filings. Both FD and Relief will have to do this. Failure to do this risks moving your corporation to orphan status. Feel free to reach out to Gottschall for assistance.

Old Business: Colin – EMS proximity-based dispatching, is QRS being dispatched this way now? Gottschall reported this is not occurring yet. Step 1 was getting RFD incorporated into the existing response plans. Next step is to move all of EMS to GPS based and then QRS. There are irregularities that need to be worked out prior to moving forward – work in progress.

Colin – I sent current delegates for the working group, if anyone has any new delegates, please let us know so the list can be updated.

New Business: B Gottschall from Co25 – Engaged Sen. Schwank to bring legislation to make fire/EMS entities exempt for Right to Know Act. There is belief that Right to Know requests should go through local government, not Fire/EMS entities. Sen Schwank has replied to letter and agrees with Co25 with their belief. Fire service needs to get together and communicate the expectations to legislative officials. More information on this will be forthcoming, this is just an FYI at this point.

Getka – working group had a discussion for the third-party apps as far as recalls. It was questioned that RFD got a recall message. Per M Smith this was approved in FSWG and a County Policy was incorporated which covered the entire County. RFD will be contacting Gottschall for some guidance.

Next meeting is Thursday, May 22nd, 2025 at 1800hrs.

There being no further business to come forth, Chair Hackman adjourned the meeting at 1821 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Blair Miller