

MINUTES
WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION MEETING
June 12, 2002
Wheatland, Wyoming

Association President, Brad Sarff, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

- A roster was passed around for signatures of those attending today's meeting (attached herewith).
- Ken Sutton made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 6, 2002 meeting as written. Jerry Munger seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION #1

- Treasurers Report deferred to later in the meeting, as Gene Diedtrich had not yet arrived from a Pension Board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Missouri Valley* – On behalf of Chief Mark Young, Brad reported that the meeting in Castle Rock, Colorado would be held July 10-12th. The information packets have been mailed out. The ballot for 2nd Vice President for IAFC has also been mailed. Any questions, please contact Mark.
- Certification* – No report.
- Legislature* – Jim Noel reported the Counter Terrorism Commission met with the Interim Committee on Transportation and they have a package of legislation that was endorsed by the Governor last legislative session. They are going forward it and it includes a hazardous materials piece. The committee will break away for a separate meeting on domestic terrorism issues.
- WFIRS* – Elaine Codianne reported that most departments are current on reporting. The deadline of June 1st was given via a letter to all departments, for reporting for calendar year 2001. This is considerably later than normal, but additional time was given due to the transition to version 5.0. Letters were also sent to departments who were grant recipients from the FIRE ACT. Some were not aware that WFIRS was a requirement tied to that grant. Any departments that received Firehouse software and are not using it have been notified by letter that they need to return the software back to the State. In addition to the WFIRS classes at Cody Fire School and Mid-Winter Fire School, Elaine is providing one-on-one training to any department that requests it. Brad asked what is, ideally, the deadline for annual reporting. Elaine responded that normally the cut-off is the

end of March for the previous year, but additional time was given this year due to the transition in progress. Brad mentioned that when he was back at the National Fire Academy recently, reviewing grants, one of the questions on the grant was "do you report" and the second question was "if you do not report, will you report" and of course the answer was "yes". The discussion among the reviewers was that should change, that departments should be reporting.... period. The general consensus among reviewers was that there were 19,000 applications and the ones that are not reporting should be automatically eliminated from review. Cliff Smith asked what percentage of departments reported. Elaine stated that with version 4.1 it was around 74% and with the conversion to 5.0 it dropped off to about 54%. We would like the percentage to increase as high as possible, but would be pleased with 80%. Charles Carpenter asked about the reporting system used in Fremont County. He wondered if it would be better for each battalion to report directly to the State instead of reporting to their administration office. Elaine responded that it was the decision of Fremont County Administration to have the process set up the way it is. Elaine stated she is not receiving much in the way of reports from Fremont County, but understood there was a lot going on in that county causing them to fall behind with WFIRS. The Fremont County administrative office has been notified by letter of the need to report for last year.

- *Fallen Firefighter Memorial* – Brad reported that Geri Dewey had contacted him regarding possibly getting the president of IAFC, Chief Buckman to be the speaker for next year. There are costs associated with that and apparently she has also contacted Chief Gary Scott and Gene Diedtrich about this idea. Larry David stated that First Interstate Bank had donated \$2,000 for the memorial service, for bringing in families of fallen firefighters. Brad suggested that perhaps this was not a Chiefs' Association issue, but should fall in the hands of the memorial committee. Ken Sutton recommended leaving the decision of a speaker up to that committee. Gene Diedtrich stated that there are plenty of speakers available at the local level that would not involve the related travel expense and speaker fee.

- *Fire Academy* – Larry David reported that 640 students had attended classes at the Academy since January. The construction of the new offices for SFMO staff was almost complete. There is a plan for expansion of 50 x 70 feet on the east end of the existing building. The Prison Farm supplied personnel to clean up the grounds and they did an excellent job. Ken mentioned that they also discussed projects that would qualify for available grant money. Brad suggested anyone who had ideas for training needs should contact Nancy Kubalanza at the SFMO. Chuck Fraley, WEMA discussed future monies coming down from the Feds. Nationally, there will be huge changes, such as FEMA going under Homeland Defense as will the Secretary of State's office. Jim Noel stated that he was involved in a meeting with the US Attorney's office and that at the national level they want to keep their finger in this whole emergency responder issue. They are finding money at the end of the year, approximately \$100,000; they would like to spend on local responders. They called a meeting and asked what we could do

with this money. Kim Lee mentioned that the focus was on Federal programs. We need to be involved in planning and training programs. We also need to work together with the SERC.

- *Volunteer Fire Council* – No report.
- *Fire Chiefs' Volunteer Chief Officers* – Chief Scott was not present to report. Brad stated the NVFC Dispatch newsletter has information regarding a Recruitment and Retention kit. It is \$20 for non-members and no charge to members.
- *Haz-Mat* – Brad stated that the first request for bid for equipment for approximately \$300,000 just went out. There is still a lot of work to do. That is the first major step in the regional response team.
- *Recruitment and Retention* – Brad mentioned that Nancy Kubalanza and Jim Wingert are working a program to spend the \$2500 grant we have for R&R. One thought is to have Chief Jeff Johnson from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue in Oregon come in to do a class. Jim Noel made a motion to spend this \$2500 grant on Chief Johnson's class. Ken Sutton seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION #2

- *Arson Investigators* – Cliff Smith stated that this group has now formally joined the Fire Chiefs' Association and have created their bylaws. As president of this group, he is trying to stay on top of Cody Fire School. He has not been in steady contact with Chief Wingert on certification for Fire Investigator. He has been formulating some ideas and hopes to forward them to Chief Wingert. Cliff mentioned that just yesterday he was reassigned to the fire prevention division of the Laramie Fire Department.
- *Fire Investigation Task Force* – No report since last meeting in April.
- *State Fire Marshal's Office* – Jim Noel revisited the regional response issue. On July 17-18th in Gillette they will submit some information on training and planning to the SERC for some decisions. Please mark your calendar. Time and location is pending. We are in the process of hiring 4 of the 5 positions we were given in the legislature. We had hoped to have interviews for training, but it has been deferred, pending release of applications from A & I. We will interview for the plan reviewer in 2 weeks and the fire inspector for Green River in a few weeks. Interviews for the electrical inspector will be after the first of the year. Staff support for the Riverton office will be hired after the new trainer is in place, so that person can be part of that hiring process. For the most part we have been dealing with weapons of mass destruction and working with the counter terrorism commission.

- State Forestry* – No report.
- WEMA* - Chuck Farley stated they are continuing on with the Homeland Defense. He said Bob Bezak apologized for not being able to attend this meeting. As the grants come through, they will pass the information on as quickly as possible. There will be many over the next couple of years.
- TREASURER'S REPORT:** Gene Diedtrich gave the report for the period March 20th through May 21, 2002. There was a beginning balance of \$7,302.56; deposits of \$1,183.76; withdrawals of \$137.40 leaving a balance of \$8,348.92. As of this date there is a balance of \$2400+ in the Recruitment and Retention grant; \$532.12 in the website grant leaving an unrestricted balance of \$5,360.34. Duane Stolns made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Cliff Smith seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION #3

OLD BUSINESS:

- Jim stated that Chief Mark Young has decided to run for 2nd vice president in 1 year. He recommended the delegation from Wyoming definitely attend that meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Brad mentioned that Jim Noel had requested from the Fire Chiefs' someone to be on a committee to look at radio communications in the state. Lanny Applegate, on behalf of the county commissioners, was their representative. We kind of volunteered Kim Lee to represent the fire service interest. Kim is willing to do this. Jim said that the Governor has selected Sleeter Dover in the Department of Transportation to get this inoperability plan in screen. As part of that plan they will establish a steering committee. This committee will be chaired by SALECS, whose chairman is Kelly Hamilton with the Livestock Board. They are going to have representatives from all of these groups, including the Fire Chiefs'. Brad asked if Kim was interested in continuing to represent us and he agreed he is. Ken Sutton made a motion for Kim Lee to represent the Fire Chiefs' Association in statewide radio communication issue. Speed Hartbank seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION #4

Cliff Smith stated he had heard rumors about 800-mhz and having backbone from the state of Wyoming to really run it and the federal government is selling off all of our frequencies. What is the current status of this? Jim responded a group of individuals had been working for a number of years to solve this inoperability problem. One solution was this 800. They always have been told they need a

formal plan. They took it to a committee in transportation last summer to discuss the issue of where the whole communication plan needed to go and to get funding for the plan. It would cost \$300,000 for the study. They tried to appropriate the money and that failed. Because this was a big issue with the Counter Terrorism Commission, they established a sub-committee to deal with that. This sub-committee, which Jim chairs, went to the Governor and they have since come up with the \$300,000 to start this plan. They are going to issue the plan by the end of the summer. They look at full implementation to be 2-3 years out. They will look at the 800 and other options that are available through some sort of consultant. As part of that they will establish a steering committee. Cliff asked whether local departments would have to buy new radios and frequencies. Jim said no and in fact in theory, the state will need to take the lead role. Through this study they will have to figure a way for the locals to buy into it. Kim stated that normally funding is in place prior to technology, but now it is just the opposite. We need to stick together to do this as a statewide effort instead of everyone doing their own thing. Jim said the sub-group is doing basically a need analysis and defining functional issues associated with communications vehicles. The recommendation now is to go buy six. Jim then read a statement Brad made on behalf of the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' regarding this issue. Please contact Brad for a copy of the full text of this statement.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. at the Graham Ranch during the Buffalo Hunt.

ADJOURNMENT:

Jim Noel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. Ken Sutton seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION #5

Minutes respectfully submitted by Elaine Codianne, Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Office.

AGENDA JUNE 12, 2002
WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION
WHEATLAND

CALL TO ORDER-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL-(PLEASE SIGN ROSTER)

- MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - April 6, Riverton
- TREASURER'S REPORT

Start 7,302.56 bal 8,348.92

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STATE FIRE COUNCIL (Young)

MISSOURI VALLEY CHIEFS (Young)

Remember the conference is in Castle Rock, Colorado this year July 10-12, 2002. Also, for members of the IAFC, you should have received an election ballot for the new 2nd V.P. of the IAFC. If you have any questions about the ballot, conference or wish to inquire about membership in the MVAFC/IAFC please let Mark know.

- CERTIFICATION (Lyle Armstrong?)
- LEGISLATIVE (Applegate) - Jim talked about meeting with interim committee
- NFIRS (Sutton) Transportation
- FALLEN FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL (Gerry Dewey)
- (Gerry has a request either here or New Business) Buckman
- WYOMING FIRE ACADEMY (David)
- NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL (CJ)
- IAFC VCOS (Scott?)
- HAZ-MAT (Huber?)
- RECRUITMENT & RETENTION (Wingert) Tool kit from NVFC - motion to spend Grant money
- WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS (Rick Jones)
- FIRE INVESTIGATION TASK FORCE (Wingert) (Cliff Smith) Nancy + Jim
- FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
- WYOMING STATE FORESTRY
- WEMA

Refer back to committee (\$2000, from donations available)

Regional Response info to SFRC

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Gerry would like to try to get Chief John Buckman (President of the IAFC) to speak at next years FF Memorial Service. There would probably be some travel expense involved and wonders if the Chief's would support this idea. Defer back to committee
2. If there are no objections from the body, Kim Lee is representing us in discussions to improve radio communications in the State. (probably should have a motion and vote) Does Kim want to do this long term?