

Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association  
Meeting Minutes  
Riverton Fire Station #1

**Date:** April 2, 2011

**Call to Order:** 9:00 A.M. by President Lyle Armstrong.

**ROLL CALL:** Roster passed, 32 members were present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Jim Wamsley moves to approve meeting minutes from January 6, 2011 meeting in Riverton. Second by Ray Wiedenhaft. Motion carries.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** At the current time no one has come forward expressing interest in election for an officer position. Per the constitution a request for nominations from the floor was made, there were no nominations from the floor, Lanny Applegate moved to cast a unanimous ballot for existing officers, who are President Lyle Armstrong, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Craig Haslam, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Marlene Aitchinson. Motion Seconded by Dan Oakley. Motion Carries.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Presented by Gene Diedtrich. Report is from January 1, 2011 to March 31, 2011. Gene quoted a beginning cash balance of \$93,909.47 with deposits of \$105,029.08, disbursed \$152,788.87. With an ending balance of \$46,149.68 of which \$33,344.81 is restricted to the Recruiting and Retention Grant, leaving an unrestricted balance of \$12,804.87. Jim Wamsley moved to accept treasures report. Second Nick Hudson. Motion Carries.

**ASSOCIATION BILLS:** Presented by Gene Diedtrich. Discussion was held regarding details of the American Veterans' Traveling Tribute. This tribute wall will be in Cheyenne on June 23-26, 2011 at the Lions Park Soccer Field. Request for volunteers to read the names off of the tribute wall, they will need to contact Lanny Applegate, Kim Lee or Mike Carlson for more information. Motion to contribute \$250.00 to the American Veterans' Traveling Tribute by Gene Diedtrich from the Chiefs' Association. Second by Craig Haslam. Motion Carries.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Chief Chris Riley-Pueblo, Co. Fire Department/International Association of Fire Chief's/Missouri Valley Division 2nd Vice President:** Missouri Valley Division Conference will be held in Wichita, KS on July 13-15, 2011. Chief's Conference will be the first week of December, more information on both of these conferences can be found on Missouri Valley website; <http://mvaafc.org/>. Discussion was held regarding accreditation for fire departments. Accreditation documents from Pueblo Fire Department are available on their website for review; [http://pueblo.us/cgi-bin/gt/tpl\\_page.html,template=11&content=56&nav1=1&](http://pueblo.us/cgi-bin/gt/tpl_page.html,template=11&content=56&nav1=1&). Through the International Association of Fire Chief's there is an Officer Development Handbook book available for \$20.00. This handbook follows the NFPA 1021 Fire Officer Handbook Standard. Center of Public Safety Excellence has information on accreditation, as well as mentoring, which includes a handbook located on the website; <http://publicsafetyexcellence.org/>. Missouri Valley Division board meeting was in Kansas City in March, at which time the strategic plan was reviewed. The plan is located on the Missouri Valley Division website, which includes the new goals that were set at that meeting.

**Crosby Grindle-Northwest Regional Director for NFPA-Regional Director for the Northwest Region:** NFPA has increased budget by one million dollars for Fire Wise and Wildland programs. There will also be new staff being hired for a Fire Wise, Wildland Fire Advisory Committee and several other positions. A study program on Wildland Fire Prevention Effectiveness is being established to determine what is needed for Wildland Fires. Discussion was held on Fire Safe cigarettes and issues that are arising with them in other states. NFPA provides reports on total cost of fire in US, residential sprinklers, firefighter injuries, etc. Discussion and statistics were given regarding smoke detectors in the home and residential sprinklers, these documents and information can be found at the NFPA website <http://www.nfpa.org/index.asp?cookie%5Ftest=1>. More information is available on residential sprinklers at [www.residentialsprinklerinitiative.org](http://www.residentialsprinklerinitiative.org). Assistance is available through the NFPA to create a coalition for residential sprinklers if anyone is interested in starting a coalition contact Crosby Grindle. Chief Armstrong held discussion regarding residential. Residential Sprinklers have not been adopted at the state level, but can be adopted on the local level at the discretion of those individuals. As for the Chief's Association, Chief Armstrong suggested residential sprinkler legislation should be monitored in order to prevent anyone from preventing local jurisdiction from choosing to adapt this code.

Chief Huber suggests preparing a committee to provide the public with information on residential sprinkler systems in order the better educate them so they are aware of what is involved. NFPA is able to provide funding to create a side-by-side burn to show a comparison of residential sprinkler system to an area which does not have them.

Chief Huber was made chair of residential sprinkle system committee. Information on residential fire sprinklers will be available on the Wyoming State Fire Marshall's website.

### **COMMITTEE OF REPORTS**

**STATE FIRE COUNCIL:** Presented by Mark Young. The latest business for the fire council is updating the rules. The rules have been out for public comment and during that time there were no comments made. The committee met last week to adopt the rules, and at that time an issue was caught, once updated the rules will be made available for the public to comment on for 45 days.

**MISSOURI VALLEY DIVISION, IAFC, LAST:** Presented by Mark Young. Missouri Valley Division deferred. At the last Chief's meeting Mark announced that he would now be the coordinator for the LAST Team in Wyoming. He is once again requesting people to volunteer their time to become a LAST Team member. These team members will provide support on a line of duty death, on request of the fire department and will only provide support and aid as requested by the family and department. There will be training on May 24, 2011 from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M at the Wyoming Fire Academy, this will be an initial training.

**IAFC VCOS-** Presented by Ron Smith. Three representatives from Wyoming attended the Volunteer Summit. August is Fire Rescue International; there are scholarships available for this symposium, in Florida, in November.

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL-**Lanny Applegate informed everyone that Brad Carroll will be resigning from the National Volunteer Fire Council. Discussion has been held with State Forester Bill Crapser, he will provide a recommendation for Brad's replacement, which will be provided during new business at the next meeting of the association.

**WYOMING VOLUNTEER PENSION BOARD:** Presented by Gene Diedrich. Total fund balance as of January 31, 2011 of \$61,212,373. The fund recovered a little over 5 million dollars during calendar year 2010 from losses sustained prior to 2010. Currently, there are 2,278 members in the system; 162 survivor pensions, and 796 retiree pensions are currently being paid, which totaled \$262,784 in January 2011. The smallest pension being paid is \$38.40 and the largest is \$689.62. Currently are in the process of re-writing the rules, these rules will be voted on at the June 15, 2011 meeting.

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS:** Presented by Craig Haslam. Craig proposed that a meeting with the E board be made during the June 15, 2011 meeting to discuss changes. After the June 15, 2011 meeting the changes and discussion will be brought back to the association in the January 6, 2012 meeting.

**WFCA MEMBERSHIP:** Presented by Lyle Armstrong. Membership applications are available from Lyle.

**WFCA MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATIONS:** Presented by Jim Wamsley and Scott Hannum. Chief Wamsley and Chief Hannum have been working to improve communication and find a way to promote membership and increase membership for the organization, to provide a way to promote better communication throughout the organization, make information available to the members and the public, as well as, finding a logo and mission statement. The easiest way to do this is by creating a website. The cost to host the website on a web service would be \$35.00 a month. The \$35.00 also includes e-mail for the team members and a secure document site. Some of the no cost sites they have looked into are Facebook, and Twitter. A sample of the logo was provided by Ron Smith. In order to use this logo permission must be obtained from the Secretary of State to use the trademark bucking horse. Scott Hannum will be responsible for gaining permission to use the logo. Chief Haslam made a motion to continue to pursue this website and create a test site, in which \$35.00 a month would be committed to creating this website for members to view and test. Second by Chief Aitchison. Motion Carries.

**LEGISLATIVE:** Presented by Chief Marlene Aitchison. Senate File 94 passed. Liability for donated emergency response equipment donations. This bill provides who donates emergency equipment to another party will not be liable for damages and any civil actions, or subject to prosecution in any criminal proceeding due to the nature, age, or packaging of the equipment. House Bill 10, insurance fraud prevention. House Bill 71 seat belt evidence and civil actions. Senate File 8 elections, dates for special district and bond elections, Senate File 78 elections and special elections, all of these bills the committee previously decided to monitor and they were not brought up during this year's legislative meeting. House Bill 120, public meetings, died in the senate. There will be an interim study on this bill. The fire restriction bill was defeated during the 2011 session, at this time Gari Gill is currently working with local legislatures for a fire restriction bill for 2012. Supplemental budget of 35 million dollars for the SLIB fund will be available after June first. Under the supplemental budget, rural fire districts which are impacted by mineral exploration and production, one million dollars that appropriated to purchase supplies necessary to the standard operation of the rural fire district to mitigate the impact of mineral exploration and production, not to be used to purchase major

equipment. This money will be available through grants, which will need to go through the county commissioners and then will be forwarded on to the Governor's office.

Shad Cooper requested information on presumptive language being on the agenda for future legislative meeting. Presumptive language is something the committee has chosen to move forward with, but will do so cautiously. Continued research is needed to provide more information. Presumptive language deals with injury claims that are submitted to Worker's Compensation. Burden of proof is a responsibility of the individual to prove that it is work related.

**FALLEN FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL:** Presented by Phil Oakes for Jay Phipps. Fallen Firefighter Memorial pictures have been moved from the classroom A & B to the main hallway. There will be a section of the World Trade center available to view at the memorial, this is provided by the town of Burns. The speakers for the memorial this year are Secretary of State Max Maxfield, and State Forester Dana Stone.

**WYOLINK TRAINING:** Presented by Lanny Applegate. The State Fire Marshall's office is still providing training for individuals who would like it. Natrona County is now entirely transferred over to WYOLINK, there is approximately a year and half left for training in WYOLINK.

**WYOMING FIREFIGHTER'S CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE-** Presented by Chairman John Rutherford. During the meeting there will be discussion on Fire Officer II Leadership guidelines that have been discussed previously. Term limits will be reviewed again, Chief Armstrong has drafted a policy change on term limits. The committee has received a resignation letter from Chief Armstrong.

**WYOMING ASSOCIATION FOR FIRE MARSHALL'S:** Presented by Chief Carl Blanksvard. There will be a class in Casper the second week of June, which will include commercial building inspection and plan review. Pushing for 2006-2012 Fire Code and Building Code class for early next year.

#### **DIVISION REPORTS**

**WYOMING STARE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION:** Presented by Bub Parker. State Fire Convention will be June 16-18, 2011 in Lander. There will be a lady's brunch on the June 17, 2011 and a golf tournament that day as well. The banquet will be on Saturday June 18th.

**WYOMING STATE RURAL FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION:** Presented by Ray Weidenhaft. Chief Steve Haines, is the president of the Wyoming State Fire Advisory Board, and Chief of the Powder River Fire District, he is replacing Chief John Blaha of Sublette County.

#### **STATE AGENCY REPORT**

**WYOMING STATE FORESTRY:** Presented by Bill Crasper and Ray Weidenhaft. During the legislature they removed the hiring freeze and there is now an opening for one field mechanic. Ron Graham presented information on Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant application is on the website [http://lands.state.wy.us/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=334&Itemid=58](http://lands.state.wy.us/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=334&Itemid=58) The application for Rural Fire Assistance grant is not available. WYOFIRE will be May 20-22, 2011, which is a type III live- fire simulated incident. The registration forms have gone out via email and registrations will be accepted through May 2, 2011. Ray Weidenhaft provided information on the revision of the Cooperative Fire Management Agreement, this agreement expires February 2, 2012. Due to the process of this agreement there is no way that this new agreement will be completed by this date. They are pushing for the current agreement to be renewed for the next five years with a few exceptions being addressing all risk, and billing issues, and how to deal with out of state fires. Some of the local fire districts and fire departments to get a type III team together and have State Forestry Division be involved more with all risks. Ray Weidenhaft announced his retirement; his last day with State Forestry will be June 3, 2011. Ray Weidenhaft and Bill Crasper have discussed with Ron and he has volunteered to take Brad Carroll's position on the National Volunteer Fire Council. Motion to accept Ron's position to represent the Wyoming fire service on the National Volunteer Fire Council by Jerry Munger. Second Jim Wamsley. Motion Carries.

**FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE:** Presented by Director Lanny Applegate. Online Electrical licensing and permits will soon be available online. Certification Committee Chairman Rutherford presented Chief Armstrong with a plaque for his dedication and time spent on the Certification Committee. Mike Carlson provided information regarding fire prevention and the 2012 codes adoption is currently in process. Phil Oakes provided information on the monthly news letter and requested anyone who would like to write an article or provide information to please contact him. Discussion held regarding the WMD conference and some of the classes that may be offered, this conference is supported by the Office of Homeland Security.

**WYOMING OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY:** Presented by Kim Lee for Director Guy Cameron. Joe Moore has been appointed a Federal Marshall and the new Director is Guy Cameron. Currently the Office of Homeland Security is working on Flood Preparedness and pushing through for an IMT Type III team.

**WYOMING HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** No Report

**OLD BUSSINESS:**

- Wyoming Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Grant-Presented by Phil Oakes. There is currently an application for a new Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Grant for Fire Prevention, that we're waiting for a response on. They are also trying to transfer funds around to provide more funding for training. There is still currently some money available for physicals and tuition, but all bills will need to be submitted by April 29, 2011.
- Report on VCOS Volunteer Summit in Washington D.C. on March 17-19, 2011- Presented by Chief Craig Haslam and Chief Marlene Aitchison. Chief Marlene Aitchison provided a summary of her experience at the VCOS Volunteer Summit. Her group focus was on attendees and attendance. Chief Craig Haslam also provided a summary of his attendance at the VCOS Volunteer Summit.

**NEW BUSSINESS:**

- **Safety Week 2011:** "Surviving the Fire Ground-Fire Fighter, Fire Officer & Command Preparedness is June 19-25, 2011.
- Sixth Annual National Mutual Aid Stakeholders Meeting hosted by the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Emergency Management Committee in St. Charles, MO on May 23-25, 2011. Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association has received an invitation for a representative to attend this meeting. Chief Lyle Armstrong will be attending on behalf of the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association. Mike Carlson will also be attending with support of Director Applegate to ensure state involvement.
- 2011 Fire Chiefs Presidents Forum to be held at NFPA headquarters in Quincy, MA, October 27-30, 2011. Crosby Grindle extended an invite to the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association and Chief Lyle Armstrong will be attending this as well.
- Phil Oakes handed out information regarding free training in Anniston, Alabama and Clark County, New Mexico. The training division is also in the process of developing a podcast and web nuggets for the website. If you would like to provide information or speak on a subject contact Phil.

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE:**

- In conjunction with the Wyoming State Firemen's Association convention in Lander June 15, 2011 at approximately 3:30 PM. Place Lander Firehall.
- In conjunction with the Wyoming Rural Firefighters Association convention in Gillette, November 30, 2011
- In conjunction with Mid-Winter Fire School in Riverton on January 6, 2012 at 12:30
- Annual meeting in conjunction with the Wyoming Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service in Riverton on April 14, 2012 at 09:00. (Easter is April 8)

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.