

**Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association
Meeting Minutes
Riverton Volunteer Fire Department, Station 1**

Date: April 14, 2012

Time: 9:00 AM

Call to Order: 9:05 AM.

ROLL CALL: See roster

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Lyle Armstrong enters motion to approve minutes from January 7, 2012 in Riverton. Motion accepted by Jim Wamsley. Second by Jerry Munger. Motion carries.

TREASURERS REPORT: Secretary Treasurer Gene Diedtrich. Balance from January 1, 2012 to March 31, 2012 beginning cash balance of \$81, 776.85 with totals deposits of \$218,984.02. Disbursements totaling \$146,532.26, leaving a balance of \$154,228.6, which \$136,906.75 dedicated to SAFER Grant leaving the unrestricted balance of \$17,321.86. Motion to accept treasures report Craig Haslam. Second Nick Hudson. Motion carries.

ASSOCIATION BILLS- Secretary Gene Diedtrich. None at this time.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Gene Diedtrich. At the previous meeting in January Chief Diedtrich requested anyone interested in running for a position to please contact him.

Missouri Valley State Vice President: Chief Mark Young has elected not to run again for the position of Missouri Valley State Vice President. Chief Jim Wamsley with Sweetwater Fire District # 1; was nominated. No other nominations. Nominations closed and a ballot was cast for his election. The Wyoming Fire Chief's Association needs to make a motion to elect Jim at the upcoming meeting of the Missouri Valley Division Conference in Independence, Missouri to represent the Wyoming Fire Chief's Association. Gene Diedtrich makes nomination. Second by Lanny Applegate. Motion carries.

Second Vice President: Two individuals have indicated the desire to serve as Second Vice President those individuals being Chief Tim Cortez from Casper and Chief Scott Hannum from Rawlins. Gene Diedtrich nominates these individuals for Second Vice President. Ballots were handed out for voting.

First Vice President: As in the past the Second Vice President moves up to the First Vice President position. Chief Donny Munger is nominated for First Vice President by Chief Diedtrich. Nominations closed.

President: First Vice President moves up to President as nominated by Gene Diedtrich. Nominations closed. Lyle Armstrong entertains motion to cast a unanimous ballot for Second and First Vice President and President of the Wyoming Fire Chief's Association.

Motion by Chief Wamsley. Second by Chief Watsabaugh. Motion carries. By unanimous vote Chief Scott Hannum is voted in as Second Vice President.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: Swearing in of Craig Haslam, Donny Munger, and Scott Hannum by Chief Chris Riley, First Vice President, Missouri Valley Division of the International Association of Fire Chief's. Officers were sworn in by Chief Chris Riley.

PRESENTATIONS:

Past Presidents Pin: Chief Armstrong was presented a Past Presidents pin by President Haslam.

Northwest Regional Director of NFPA: Crosby Grindle. Crosby covers the region from Alaska to Nebraska. Discussion was held regarding updates on provisional standard on NFPA 56 which is the standard for fire and explosion prevention during cleaning and purging of flammable gas piping systems. This came as a response to the clean energy explosion in 2010. New reports are out on the website (<http://www.nfpa.org>) which include total cost of fires in the US, the Needs Assessment of the US fire service, this also includes state reports and fact sheets.

Discussion was held regarding residential fire sprinklers. Residential fire is still the number one problem within the fire services and the number of fire fatalities and injuries is slightly up for this year. The smoke alarm report shows that 37% of home fire deaths had working fire alarms.

Discussion was held regarding the hiring of regional advisor Keith Worley with the Wild land Fire Operations for the Firewise programs. The Firewise website has a large amount of updated information (<http://www.firewise.org/>). The NFPA has partnered with the US Forest Service for a new program called Fire Adapted Communities. This program is funded by USFS and looks at a wider scope of issues regarding wildland fire. The website is in the early stages of being created but can be found at <http://www.fireadapted.org/>.

Fire safe cigarettes are still an issue throughout the US and now there are issues with do it yourself cigarettes not meeting the same standards and fire safe cigarettes. There are free training resources that are now being sponsored so all of these are free.

Another free program is <http://www.EVsafetytraining.org> , which provides information and training on electrical vehicles and response guides for all makes and models of electrical vehicles. There are also free public access to all codes and standards that are read only.

INTRODUCTIONS

Director Ryan Lance - Office of State Lands, was unable to make it to the meeting today. Terri Craft-Volunteer Fire Insurance Services (VFIS) Area Representative was present.

COMMITTEE OF REPORTS

MISSOURI VALLEY DIVISION, IAFC: Presented by Chief Chris Riley. He provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Missouri Valley Division, IAFC. This presentation included the history of the MVD and the eight divisions of the IAFC and the current elected members. The Missouri Valley Division and IAFC website is www.mvdiafc.org. There is an upcoming conference for IAFC July 31- August 4, 2012 in Denver, Colorado and this conference moves each year between Denver, Chicago, Dallas and Atlanta. The Missouri Valley Division Conference will be June 13-16, 2012. Mark Young provided information on the stipend program that has \$2, 500 available for funding of education in each state. This funding generally helps fund the Chief Officer Symposium in Wyoming.

WYOMING STATE FIRE COUNCIL: Presented by Chief Mark Young. This organization was created by state statute and the representative serves 6 years. The new council and department rules were adopted and approved, and are posted on the State Fire Marshal's website. The new 2012 codes should be adopted by October 2012. The next meeting will be April 24, 2012 in Cheyenne. There is currently an appeal that will be reviewed at this meeting.

IAFC-VCOS: Presented by Ron Smith. VCOS has two \$1,500 scholarships available. You have to be a member of the VCOS and IAFC in order to receive the scholarships. These scholarships need to be applied for by June 15, 2012. More information on these scholarships are available at www.vcos.org. There are also leadership and safe driving award and scholarships available through the symposium in Florida, in order to receive these scholarships and awards you do not need to be a member.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL: Presented by Mike Bournazian. Mike will be attending the National Volunteer Fire Council in Washington DC in 2 weeks. This organization represents 49 of the 50 states, as Hawaii does not have a volunteer fire department. The Council is currently working on the budget and grants. Currently looking at different means of recruitment there are very low numbers for members in this organization from Wyoming. The National Volunteer Fire Council is currently working with the US Forest Service in developing mitigation assessment for home owners and firefighters that will be addressed in a one day course. There are also funds available for junior fire fighter programs as well as getting a junior fire fighter program up and running. This committee is currently working on the Fire Core Program which is a support program for auxiliary and other support structures for your department.

WYOMING VOLUNTEER PENSION BOARD: Presented by Gene Diedtrich for Tracy Brown. As of February 29, 2012 the fund balance was \$62,408,442.70. There are 2,243 active members, which is down in the last three months due to retirements and deaths. Currently the system pays out 164 survivors pensions and 868 retiree pensions. Monthly pension cost is \$286, 900.55, with the smallest payment being \$38.40 and the largest \$689.62 Voted on April 13, 2012 to reevaluate rules and regulations to re-govern the operations. The Retirement Board performs random meeting attendance audits and members that do not meet the 50% meeting attendance rule may be suspended for a full year and the membership may be in jeopardy of being cancelled.

WFCA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS: Presented by Chief Lyle Armstrong. The first objective to review the current by-laws and constitution that are dated 1997. These bylaws and constitution were patterned after the Missouri Valley Division and there's were recently changed. The recommendation would be to keep in line with the Changes to Missouri Valley Division. These changes include changes to membership and the way the meetings are organized. The amendment to the membership would be to remove the affiliate membership. The dues that are affiliated with this membership can be set up according to the organization. Motion to accept the changes in the Constitution and Bylaws as purposed, made by Willy Watsabaugh. Seconded by Ron Smith. Motion to accept amendment to membership made by Lyle Armstrong. Seconded by Jim Wamsley. Both motions Carried.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS: Presented by Chief Gene Diedtrich. Nothing further on this matter to be discussed at this time.

WFCA MEMEBERSHIP: Presented by Chief Craig Haslam. Brief discussion was held regarding the need for new members and anyone interested or requesting further information is to contact Chief Haslam.

LEGISTLATIVE: Presented by Chief Don Huber. Request for any ideas or issues that were not reviewed last year should be submitted to Don at this time so that everyone involved can get an early start for the next legislation. Don introduced his Division Chief of Operations Mike Ratcliff for Campbell County Fire Department.

WFCA MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATION: Presented by Chief Jim Wamsley and Chief Scott Hannum. Logo was sent into trademark registry and it was approved for our use . There was also a domain name that has been secured for the website which will be www.wyofirechiefs.org a facebook page has also been set up for further networking. The website should be up and running within the next week.

WFCA LOGO AND MISSION STATEMENT: Discussion on this matter was held during the WFCA Membership Communication

WFCA RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER COMMITTEE: Presented by Chief Carl Blanksvard. April 3rd Cathy Clay and Carl traveled to Chicago for the Residential Fire Sprinkler Summit. Since returning they are in the process of forming a Wyoming Fire Sprinkler Coalition. This is currently in the infancy and will continue to grow. At this time the targeted group is the fire service and as the coalition grows they will be meeting with fire chiefs throughout the state.

WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF FIRE MARSHALS: Presented by Carl Blanksvard. Wyoming Association of Fire Marshal's met on March 15, 2012 and the main discussion was the upcoming adoption of the new codes. The next meeting will be June 20, 2012 in Casper and further discussion will be held on adoption of codes. Local jurisdictions will need to adopt the codes by October 2012.

FALLEN FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL: Presented by Ian Kraft for Jay Phipps. The memorial will be located inside this year due to weather it is scheduled to start at 1:00 PM today

WYOLINK TRAINING: Presented by Chief Mark Harshman. Not present. Lanny Applegate provided information on the grant money that is still available for training on the WYOLINK system. The grant will end in June so anyone wanting training will need to schedule it prior to June.

SECTION REPORTS

WYOMING FIREFIGHTER'S CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Captain John Rutherford. There will be a meeting today following the Fallen Firefighter Memorial. There will discussion on entertaining bylaws changes and term limits that were voted on and approved at the last meeting. The main issue to be discussed will be regarding Fire Officer I. Chris Kocher has been added as a member to the certification committee. Kelly Hoffman also has resigned from the committee and Rusty Dunham has also been named to the committee.

STATE FIRE ASSOCIATION REPORTS

WYOMING STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Presented by Jerry Munger. The annual State Firemen's Convention will be held on June 14-16, 2012 in Wheatland. The Pension Board Meeting will be held on June 13, 2012 at 1:00 PM at the training center. The Wyoming Fire Chief's meeting will follow this meeting at approximately 3:00 PM

WYOMING STATE RURAL FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Presented by Russ Wenke. Every 5 years Wyoming State Forestry Division enters into a cooperative agreement with all of the federal land management agencies. This year, discussion was held regarding the language that is used covering Wyoming firefighters with federal workers compensation, while working on Federal fires. The Wyoming Workers Compensation stated that all Wyoming firefighters would be covered anywhere. There were concerns regarding the coverage and compensation, while on these fires. These concerns have been forwarded to Ron Graham, who forwarded them to Wyoming Worker's Compensation. There will be a meeting with them on April 26, 2012. Chief Willy Watsabaugh provided information on the upcoming Rural Firefighters Conference November 28-December 3, 2012 in Jackson. Willy has brochures with information for hotel accommodations in Jackson.

STATE AGENCY REPORTS

WYOMING STATE FORESTRY: Presented by Bill Crapser. The main office in Cheyenne has been moved to 5500 Bishop Blvd. The FFT program has been very successful and several departments have taken advantage of this program. The 2012 federal dollars through US Forest Service has come out, the state and volunteer fire

service has taken a huge hit. The loss to state fire service took a hit by \$15,000 and the volunteer fire service to a hit by \$50,000. There is a new sub-grant book that is out and will need to be followed for grant disbursement. The AOP's are out for signature and there will be a meeting on April 26, 2012 regarding the worker's compensation issue. The US Forest Service has handled all billing for out of state assignments. They no longer want to participate in this and would like states to bill states. There were some concerns with this issue that will continue to be monitored. The center manager for the High Plains District is leaving this month, the fire management officer and the assistant fire management officer is vacant as well. The district manager in Cheyenne is the acting associate director. The High Plains will have no institutional knowledge this year or experience for this fire season. There was a dispatch review with discussion of closing the Rawlins dispatch center and consolidating it with Casper, or close both, and transfer them to Cheyenne. New web based fire reporting system will be a lot more user friendly and should be out in April. The Helitack will be available in June. WyoFire will be at Camp Guernsey June 1-3, 2012. There have been changes in the FMAG with timing requirements with FEMA.

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE - Director Lanny Applegate introduced the staff that was present at the meeting. There are two vacancies within the agency a Licensing Specialist and Chief Electrical Inspector. Interviews for the Chief Electrical Inspector will be in the next two weeks. The meeting with the Governor will be next week regarding the budget cuts that will be effective July 13, 2013 which will be a cut of 4%, which will be cut through personnel through attrition. Any suggestions to the website get in contact with Ian, the website will be going through changes in the next couple of months. Rita Lee and John Rutherford presented Rusty Megeath with a plaque for his years served on the Certification Committee.

Mike Carlson provided information on the adaption of the 2012 codes. These codes went in effect on February 22, 2012. These codes include International Fire code, building code, existing building code, mechanical code and fuel gas code. For the State Fire Marshal's office these codes are effective May 1, 2012 for local jurisdiction will be effective October 1, 2012. These codes are effective for the plan review effective October 1, 2012 as well.

WYOMING OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY: Presented by Kim Lee for Director Guy Cameron. Willy Watsabaugh is the new regional coordinator for the Regional Response Team 8 set up in Teton County. Office of Homeland Security moved to 5500 Bishop Blvd., in Cheyenne as well. There is a low possibility of a flood season with the exception of any flash flood. Rick Lopez has been recently hired to work directly with Kim with the Regional Response Teams and the Bomb Squads.

FEDERAL AGENCY REPORTS

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Presented by Meteorologist Chris Jones from Riverton. Discussion was held on the services available from the National Weather Service for fire weather season. There is a new mobile website application available.

Tuesdays and Thursdays you can watch the video briefings through the NWS. Information was provided on the closest offices for regions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WYOMING 2010 VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION GRANT:

Presented by Ian Kraft. The chief's grant is administered through the DFPES for about a million dollars on behalf of the WFCA. The grant is used for travel reimbursement college scholarships, physicals and immunizations. The performance period ends July 2015. The ending of the first year will be July 2012. There are roughly 40 departments that are currently taking advantage of this grant. The first year there has been roughly \$200,000 spent. Currently, the DFPES has supported 214 classes with 2,294 students, totaling 13,079 man hours, which has produced 268 certifications, with 63 being accredited. The grant has funded the following events Mid-Winter Fire School, 2 Firefighter Practical weekends, Cody Fire School, Buffalo Fire School, Chief Officers' Symposium and Wheatland Fire School.

There are currently some improvements that will be going on at the Wyoming Fire Academy. There will be a new parking lot, a new store front entrance, new lighting, new flooring and a new HVAC system and training ground improvements with the help of WYDOT.

MISSOURI VALLEY DIVISION BOARD MEETING: Presented by Lyle Armstrong. The Missouri Valley Division board meeting was held March 1, 2012.

EMS SUPPORT TO WILDLAND FIRES: Presented by Chief Watsabaugh Met with Directory Gienap in regards to the changes and questions regarding support from the EMS service to wild land fires. In Wyoming, our people can provide the same type of coverage as they would in their home unit regardless of where they go. You cannot reduce the amount of care that you are capable of providing. They are currently working on a letter to get out to everyone with this information. The current issue is with the Type 3 level of care and what is able and needed to be provided at this level.

NEW BUSSINES

WFCA REPRESENTATIVE ON WYOMING PUBLIC SAFETY

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (PSCC)- Chief Harshaman's term has expired. A motion was made by Lyle Armstrong to have Chief Harshman continue to represent this organization. Seconded by Chief Jerry Munger. Motion carries.

WFCA REPRESENTATIVE ON THE WYOMING PUBLIC SAFETY MOBILE

BROADBAND WORKGROUP- There will be a work group being put together for this organization. Lyle Armstrong makes a motion for Chief Harshman to be the head of this committee. Second Rick Cozad. Motion Carries.

Mark young provided an update on the status of firefighter Adam Longo who suffered a stroke while responding to a call. He is currently in ICU at the Wyoming Medical Center. Chief Watsabaugh provided an update on Mike Moyer who was involved in a helicopter crash in February. He is still recovering from injuries sustained during this accident.

Mark Young also provided information on the Fire Rescue GPO that all members of the Missouri Valley Division can participate in to purchase discounted merchandise. The Western Division of the International Association of Fire Chief's is available online and you can purchase books through them were a percentage of the cost of the books is given back the Wyoming Chief's Association.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

- Annual meeting in conjunction with the Wyoming State Firemen's Association convention in Wheatland on June 13, 2012 at 3:00
- In conjunction with the Wyoming Rural Firefighters Association convention in Jackson, November 28 to December 1, 2012
- In conjunction with Mid-Winter Fire School in Riverton January 11, 2013 at 12:30
- Annual meeting in conjunction with the Wyoming Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Riverton on April 6, 2013 at 09:00

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11: 20 A.M. Motion by Rick Cozad. Second by Jim Wamsley. Motion Carries.