

**December 1, 2016, Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Cheyenne, WY**

Meeting called to order at 0800

Pledge of allegiance and Invocation

Welcome by Chief Watsebaugh and Chief Hannum

Roll call taken for Voting delegates for Wyoming Rural Fireman's' Assoc.

Rural Fireman's move to approve minutes

Chief Hannum moved to June 2016 minutes, moved by Jeff Kehl, Brant Godfrey 2<sup>nd</sup>, no discussion, minutes carried.

Rural fire association approved \$2500

Treasurer's report was presented by Chief Hannum

Moved for approval by Moved by Brent Godfrey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Donny Munger, discussion none, vote carried.

Craig Haslam moved to donate \$2500 to the LAST Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brent Godfrey, approved unanimously. This was a friendly nudge brought on by the Rural Association ( I think we should have one upped them with \$3000)

Chief Hannum brought up a big thank you from both associations for the work the LAST Team is doing, Chief Young thanked both organizations for their support

Kelly Hoffman talked about the great support for the man lost in accident in Kemmerer. Willy thanked them as well. Bill Law mentioned the attention that it draws to the fire service and the huge support given to our fire service family. Chief Watsebaugh also echoed the importance of supporting each other.

Agency Reports

**Andy Gienapp-State EMS Manager**, reason im here is potential to see a bill in the next legislative session that could have impact on fire service REPLICA, (get the full name) Agreement between states where the states begin to regulate something. Driver's license recognition in the US is an example of a compact. We have struggled for 4 years about licensure among EMTs throughout the state and solving the issues of recognizing licensure. 3 years ago counterparts in Wyoming Idaho, Colorado and Utah Montana met for 6-8 months. We gave up, couldn't do it. Why, trying to match up state laws among 5 states. Only applies to individual. If those that are part of the agreement, they will show proof that they are from a compact state and can provide care within the state. In order for this to take effect, 10 states have to adopt, right now we are at 7 states. If Wyoming becomes the 8<sup>th</sup> state gets us closer. All states are looking at this issue. We are very confident that it will become law nationwide. My office will have a great impact, rules would have to be used, state would have to move to National Registry form of testing, this would add additional costs individuals for licensure. There would be a big board that would work on adopting laws, each state having a representative and vote. I've been all around the state holding town hall meetings gathering information for legislative committee to help make decisions. Out

of everyone that filled out 5 question survey, 90% range for REPLICA participation, 75% on moving towards national registry. LSO is working on bill.

Eric Quinney- How do we get past the medical director portion, who do they work under. Under REPLICA, each participating state has to have a medical director in their home state. Certified person coming in from another state would fall under the medical direction. Answer to the states medical director can direct care of visiting paramedics/EMT, there will be a medical director tied into incidents somewhere. On scene medical director is probably not going to be possible. With 8 states participating, do you feel confident getting the other 2. There will be 10 states that will adopt. The earlier we are in the better, ground floor participation will be crucial to the success.

Russ-would fire service participation be helpful at the next meetings? Andy, I don't know if they will be open for public comment but with our standing with the legislators just presence and support could help. Russ-if it does go forward, it could go into effect as soon as its signed by the governor if needed before fire season.

Jeff Kehl-Labor and Health committee has drafted a bill, December 12<sup>th</sup>, would a letter submitted by fire service to that committee expressing support. Is there any money attached or needed to be allocated? Andy-I don't know what the fiscal responsibilities would be, we are working on that, it is so important to move this way to help solve so many issues not only on fires but in daily operations. There will not be an appropriation request. Final note if you want more information please get a hold of Andy and will be happy to answer

Chief Hannum asked for \$4500 donation to legislative effort moved by Bryon Mathews and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron Smith, motion passed.

Jeff Kehl-Legislative and Wyoming Fire Chief's association and Wyoming Rural Fireman's Association (Joint Letter-pretty cool) draft a letter in support of the REPLICA bill in front of the Labor and Health Committee.

Jeff Kehl Moved, Byron Mathews 2nd. Discussion Shad Cooper will we have representation? Jeff Kehl says we will have someone at the meeting in Cheyenne, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 9 am Jonah Business Center on Pershing Blvd.

Crapser-Gary Hobbs had a bad 4 wheeler accident will be laid up for many months. JT is moved to Idaho, changed the practice for FMO's for the State Forestry Office. Andy Shultz is the new fire manager. Dan Perko retired, no more deputy State forester, moved to 3 assistant state foresters. Lots of new members in forestry but there are too many Ryan's. Budget, we have seen 15% cuts in operating budgets, supplemental budget did not get cut but we expect more cuts. Thanks to all the fire service folks for their hard work throughout the summer. Smoke busters were on 35 fires, helitack was on \_\_\_ fires 215 flight hours. There were 15 EFSA fires this year, 11-12 million out of suppression account, about half the balance, start next season with about 12 million in account. Lava Mountain got a FEMA declaration to help alieve some costs. Crapser is the President of National assoc. of Foresters, working on new Trump administration will be in D C next week to help out with that transition, forest service funding and department of interior funding, continuously a problem, federal partners had ups and downs as always but across the state we have a great relationship and understanding. We are still assisting with the process of creating a one stop shop for training records. Eric Quinney voiced concerns for Linda

Birkefeldts retirement; we would like to make a motion that she can't. Bill and Anthony are adding days to her countdown in hopes that she will change her mind. Trying to double fill her position in the next couple of months, she will retire September 29<sup>th</sup>. We don't think that this will happen. She will be a very crucial loss to our organization. A standing ovation was given to Linda by the group.

**State Fire Marshal Mike Reed-** Thank you and welcome to Cheyenne, and envy that you can leave. Stick to my notes. Director Reed introduced members of staff in the room. Budget is bad, we have been asked to cut \$500,000 out of the budget. Retirements have helped out with this and will be combining different positions. With that supporting a couple of changes in positions that will help stream line the process. Possibility with your approval, moving away from Firehouse and moving to an Emergency Reporting System. This will be a one stop approach and make it easier to gather and retain combined information. We don't have a way to prioritize needs the way we should. SLIB grants, three groups that have grants, they have been moved to approved all three; SLIB is meeting on them now. Numbers and statistics help drive dollars. Training is another place that drives funding. Modular training system is working on more training, online and otherwise. They will be offered during the winters, hazmat ops and other hazmat will be offered. Streamline the online process more accessible on the training websites. More changes will be made to state websites. Ian has been helping to drive that. We are asking for upgrades to the fire academy in Riverton to help drive the ability to provide training statewide. We want to have more recognition for firefighters through their office, not just through the Rural fireman's or Fire Chiefs. We want to put together a board that would review applications made by firemen that have done something outstanding throughout the state. We want to put the marshals office as one that recognizes these acts. Does everyone think that a recognition be beneficial? Majority of the room raised their hands. Closing, LAST program assists in firemen but also law enforcement, hit up the law enforcement associations to help cover some of these cost. Any questions? None taken. Thanks for the opportunity.

**Assistant Marshal Mark Young, LAST co coordinator-**2016 general, explained missions of LAST. 1 LODD, 6 level 2 missions, 5 level 3 missions, over half were help with law enforcement. More and more level 3 missions are being requested. Level 1 missions are supported federally, 2 and 3 are supported on our own. Single visits on 2 and 3's to the fire departments and they are running with it on their own. Randy and I step out of it, line up the resources and let them ride. Training-basic 4 hour at mid-winter, 12 advanced table top at mid-winter also. Cheyenne fire has offered training facility, 4 hour basic, 12 hour advanced tabletop, also honor guard symposium for all departments invited. Many departments want to have an honor guard but not sure how to take it to the next step. Offer a 2 day honor guard training. Pipes and drums, many people around the state are getting into pipes and drums, looking at maybe training on this also. Thanks for donations and gracious support and cant thank all enough for the support. Trailer, we do have an equipment list that is being filled. Trailer is done, will house honor guard storage, pipes and drums, flags large funeral equipment and also a dressing room for honor guard members. How do we donate? Really don't, we don't have a 501c3 but the Wyoming Fire Chiefs is our funding vehicle. Donations are accepted through LAST would not be tax deductible. Public donate to the associations or through local fire departments to get those deductions.

Chief Watsabaugh-We really don't want to supply this but if we are going to do it, let's do it right. This comment was made of the Wyoming LAST and what a great resource they have become.

**Director Cameron-** Small agency 21 staff, strength is at the local level. You help support us at the local level; we have a 20% cut. 85% of our office is federally funded. We are a pass through agency for federal grants. 220,000 cut in budgets. Handouts lay out 86 calls in 2016, 8 were RERT deployments and reimbursed 48,000. Chief Watsabaugh has the largest amount for reimbursement, many events that brought in some very large events that had a lot of high profile folks. Service coming, dealing with hazmat and some training coming out. Grants have helped to achieve plume development and modeling for Tier II facilities that need to be reported. We have partnered with Aristitek in Laramie County to design a program to do worst case plume modeling for your facilities. Chief Kocher was instrumental in helping get this running. All-Hazards certification-Type III team member credentialing, we have been working on these efforts. Spencer Pollack is the chairman and Chief Haslam is the vice chair. Chief Watsabaugh is retiring, I would like to thank you for everything you have done and what you have meant to fire service.

Spencer Pollack- We are moving 16 member advisory panel. Adopted a policy that will recognize both sets of credentialing between NWCG and FEMA that will match, working on an all hazards mini mob, reciprocity if you have red cards, couple quick classes and certs will match. Recognition of prior learning, experience will have effect on the reciprocity, portfolio and petition to the board for certification.

**Wyoint.org** is the website that will have all the information about it. Red cross has provided 1000 smoke alarms, we can provide them for you, hands free CPR is another big push to help with local folks, great bags to hand out with great safety and preparation information. **Preparewyoming.org** is the website for the Red Cross information. 900 level classes are available around the state? Mike Bournazian I was under impression that you had to go to EMI for that? We have a cadre from Wyoming that have been to EMI and did the train the trainer classes to provide them now throughout the state.

Report from Ryan DeFord-Fire training specialist gave number of students taught and classes offered. Mike Bournazian, give a brief direction as far as what your job is? Support everyone is the classes that you want, coordination. I can offer training if I can't, contract instructors can meet those needs. We can advertise the classes that you want to promote, arrange for classes to happen wherever you need them. No more questions.

**Ian Kraft, Certification Committee-** documents year to date training report and student attendance, not only what happens at fire academy but regional classes and investigations. Other fire academy upgrades, last winter the roof was damaged to heavy wet snows. Reinforced the roof and upgraded lighting and some office modifications were the result. Grounds-oil pit has been removed and the area involved will be rehabbed and repurposed. The tank that used to be there for confined space and other training was deemed not usable so it will be removed. Burn building will be refurbished to protect brick; training tower is also being upgraded. Grant Report-Fire Chiefs association was awarded another state wide SAFER grant. 4 years just shy of million dollars, all areas will be supported; travel for training, college tuition reimbursement, training costs and physicals, shots and immunizations. I have applications so those that want to participate need to fill it out return it to Ian. Emails are required for correspondence. Requests need to go through the coordinator before expenses are incurred.

Reimbursement goes through the fire department, not individuals. Mike Bournazian? Contract instructors how much money is left and where are we with that? Just structural and just wild land and some cross dressers that take care of both. We do have more funds available, not for sure but I think there will be one more year of funding coming to the fire marshals office from the forestry unless something has changed. Crapser, waiting on the Forestry grants and FSA will determine that. Mike How do you become an instructor and how do you request a class? Both forestry and marshals office for being an instructor are applied for Ian and Ryan will vet those individuals. Once they are approved, contracts are made directly with individual. Russ Wenke- on behalf of all the organizations the SAFER grant has made a huge difference and impact on the states fire service. Thank you for everything that you have done.

Spencer and Craig-Craig, we are missing the boat with Red Cross. They are an incredible resource for families in need. Work with all departments to install smoke detectors

**Mark Haines, Training committee**-The committee has been very busy. By laws were done in January, presented to the fire advisory board in April and they were approved. Engine Boss responsibilities will be required in order to get your engine boss credentials. We were also asked to be on the review and hiring committee to hire the new State Fire Trainer. Fuller qualifications, we follow NWCG and this was presented to the fire advisory board. We reviewed all the 200 and above classes. Found that not very many 200 and above level classes the evaluations are not being submitted. I have two letters of resignation from the board to present and I have two applications for these positions. Clay Westbrook was a member that is stepping down and also Craig Short from the BLM. Applications are Shay Roede and Zeb McWilliams have submitted applications. BIA is an opening on the committee that has never been filled. Mike Bournazian-2009 this body adopted a set of fuller qualifications, when do they start and what if someone is in between? They have been presented but have not been approved; Chief Willy stated that that issue is on the agenda this afternoon.

Chief Willy addresses the training committee by laws not much was changed in the by-laws, moved to adopt by Haslam, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Godfrey. Discussion: Rutherford, with the BIA position never being filled, could we make that an at large position if not filled? Chief Willy would ad that as a friendly amendment to the motion. Haslam agreed to the amendment. Motion: Passed

**Legislative committee, Russ Wenke** – He explained the minutes that were taken at the Legislative Meeting last night. Monitor 17 LSO 110 bill involving budgets, Haslam moved to not support and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quinney. Motion passed that the rural fireman’s association to stand against this. Jeff Kehl-task force came about due to legislative management requested that this is studied. Most of the members of that committee are gone. The chances of the committee doing interim studies like this shouldn’t happen again. With budgets the way they are it shouldn’t be much of an issue outside of budgetary issues.

Motion was made on possible support for the presumptive cancer coverage for firefighters in the state. We have to bring information and numbers that will help support this. Kelly Hoffman and Chief Watsabaugh agree that information must be gathered to help drive this legislation. We don’t know what we don’t know. Cooper-lots of national research on this subject but very little in Wyoming. Nationally

the numbers are incredible that firefighters are going to get cancer. Where does the volunteer fit into this? It is almost impossible to separate their regular life compared to the firefighter exposures. Use national studies and research to drive the train. With that, everyone in the room knows a firefighter that have died or been diagnosed with cancer. Jeff Kehl-Chief Cortez was contacted by Rep. Landon and he wants to propose or draft a bill. Get our foot in the door and let the workers compensation division start studying. Chief Haslam made a motion and Sam Wilde 2<sup>nd</sup> to support possible legislation. Motion carried.

The rest of the minutes were addressed especially about WyoLink. Motion was made by Shad Cooper for all public safety commissions and organizations to collaborate and examine this information and track it to make sure that we don't have this happen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Godfrey. Chief Watsabaugh. I'm not supporting or taking a stand, if this does come to fruition, maybe nobody pays the bills when they truly come out. The system will fail, all the money spent on WyoLink capable radios and now are all going to be held hostage. BLM said we were dragged into this to have interoperability. Bill someone said we are being held by Motorola because of industry stands. Cooper, the motion is to reach out to all these other groups, add who can reach out to the other organizations. Mark Young and Mark Harshman reach out to these groups. Cooper, it was discussed that we don't have representation; Chief Hannum will be the fire service representative to help build this coalition and collaborative effort.

Wenke-Please get with me and get on the calendar to get involved and enjoy the process. We are successful because we firefighters on sight to talk about fire service issues. Face to face is the greatest yaw to make this work. Mark Young-I learned this morning the LSO could be getting legislation being drafted by hi-up folks that might end up reorganizing PSCC. Moving it more to a local level, keep an eye on this.

**Eric Quinney, National Volunteer Fire Council-** Rusty Dunham and myself are the members and lots of work being done on a national level especially when it comes to cancer. Solving the problems of getting cancer is the stance that we are taking. Clean gear, SCBA used during salvage and overhaul, physical fitness drive to reduce heart attacks, also the national hotline to help prevent suicide. Every state has a voice with NVFC. Each state has two members that help with all the different standard groups. The voice is huge in NFPA, Fire Chiefs all organizations that help volunteer fire departments. Huge benefits and information at [nvfc.org](http://nvfc.org) is the website.

#### **After a short break we heard reports from the Federal Agency Reports**

After lunch, Chief Hannum brought up some old business. He stated that Chief Young would like to move the fallen firefighter's memorial to May 13<sup>th</sup> from the first weekend in April. The desire is that the weather might be better in May. By-laws state that the meeting can be moved with the board of director approval. Chief Young, the planning team has legitimate concerns. The planning board wants to enhance the event and making it growing. The desire is to bring in more families of deceased and getting more folks involved. Comments always say that if we have good weather it is almost based back to "luck". As a team, when can we realistically put it back to and still have a good opportunity. All months were discussed and the middle of May seemed like a good fit. Approached the board with the thought

and wanted to bring it up. Craig Haslam, 2<sup>nd</sup> Byron Mathews to move the memorial and Chief's meeting to May 13<sup>th</sup>. Chief Watsabaugh asked if there is anything underlying problem that would cause issues. Shad, is it the intention to meet quarterly, are the meetings too close together? Are we putting them too close together but Chief Watsabaugh brought up that we do that now, meeting in December and then in January. Does it cause problems with any existing training? Kraft, no it doesn't cause any problems with training. Chief Watsabaugh pointed out that it really important that Russ has been around a lot longer than anything else. Question was called: Motion carries for the move of the meeting.

**Wyoming Rural Firemans' Association** moved to discussing equipment rates, backfill, highest rates, faller and SOFR

**New Business Wyoming Fire Chief's Association**-There was no new business to come before the group.

**Rural Firefighters Association**-AOP language,

Emergency Reporting-will this program replace firehouse software. We are discussing this and right now it looks really good. The state level has large problems with firehouse also. It is all integrated; trouble shooting support is included in the program. There will be a lot of questions that will come up with reporting data migration etc. The state fire marshals office is pushing really hard to move over to emergency reporting. Kelly Hoffman- How are you going to encourage departments to use whatever program no matter what. How you are going to get departments to do this? Anthony- State Fire Marshals office gets 55% reporting from fire departments. The desire is that on the forestry side that their reporting will increase at least some. Having this available should drive the reporting. Both agencies will drive the bus on getting departments to report.

Moved by Byron Mathews to adjourn meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 1706.

I will not be attending Friday and Saturday. Complete minutes are available from Lynda Berckefeldt. She offered to share her minutes with the fire chiefs. I will contact her and also send her my minutes.

Respectfully,

Nick Hudson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, WFCA