

Boulder County Wildland Fire Cooperator
Business Meeting Minutes – October 1, 2010

MISSION:

The mission for the BCWFC is to support safe and effective wildland fire training and provide a forum for open discussion of wildland fire activities.

Meeting called to order 1008 hours

Introductions

Approval of August 2010 Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve. 1st J Benson, 2nd A Moschetti. All in favor – none opposed.

- Fire restrictions packet available (J Stalnacker) will be sent with the minutes. More fire restriction signs are being ordered and posted.

Training:

- S270, S290, L280 being postponed until spring 2011.
- S 133/131 classes being offered by Joint Fire. Check out www.jointfire.com for more information and to register.
- Discussion regarding offering an S270 fall 2010; L McConnell will work on getting this scheduled for fall 2010.
- J Stalnacker will also work on getting aviation and urban interface workshops put together for agencies.
- S215 is being reworked now – J Stalnacker is working on getting the Beta version of this course brought to Boulder County. Suggestion is to wait until this can be done vs. teaching the old material. Group agreed.
 - Contact J Stalnacker if interested in participating.
 - J Stalnacker will also create a training package for agencies to take back to their agency.
- J Stennes suggested training regarding power lines and how these utilities affect our operations. Contact J Stennes if interested in tying in with utility companies to get this type of training for your agency.
- A Owen/V Jones would like to present an IQS/Ross information session beginning of 2011. Requesting all agencies send a representative.

Financial update – E Philips

- \$1251.15 is the current balance.
- Change was from \$16 check written for website.
- Deposit of \$3000.00 from S130/190 being made today.
- New expected balance \$4,251.15

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Fourmile Canyon Fire Discussion:

- Fuels treatment projects were very effective! They did exactly what they were intended to do.
- Discussion regarding safety issues – i.e. air packs use on the incident due to all that was burning.
- Discussion regarding when and when not to engage in fire operations.
 - Having more resources isn't always the answer – having trained resources can be.
- Discussion regarding the rarity of an event like the Fourmile Canyon Fire, and the level/need for trained personnel and how to determine where the balance is.
- Safety Zones were determined pretty much in the black.
 - This was a big concern in all areas.
- Communications posed a challenge.
- Not everyone conforming into one command structure posed a larger safety concern. Agencies as a whole need to understand and agree that in a situation such as this all agencies need to work under one ICS Command System instead of having several throughout and not all working together.
 - Discussion held regarding how agencies responded – some agencies chose to hold back units in their district.
 - Discussion regarding the need to formulate a better way for all agencies to participate, and communicate in an event like this.
 - Incoming teams need to listen to local agencies – where are the fuel breaks? What has been done to mitigate certain areas? Escape routes, mountain address maps systems ...etc...
 - **Suggestion** is for Chief's to develop a work group to start addressing these issues across all agencies without the BCFFA and BCFCFA separation.
 - Kudos to Chief Gibson for tying in early with the IMT3 to relay information and turn incident over. The willingness to work directly with the incoming team was tremendously helpful in identifying needs of the local jurisdiction(s).
 - Discussion regarding individual agencies having a draw down plan within their departments for incidents like this. Know what and when to keep resources in your district.
- Agencies throughout the county need to work together and address needs of all agencies so that they can uniformly work together on an incident regardless of their status as volunteer/paid/combo.
- The ongoing and changing status initially was very difficult for firefighters that had never seen something like this before.
- Air operations and the need for training in this subject is another need for several agencies.

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- Discussion regarding installing additional county repeaters. Bendix King radios are a major part of this! Agencies need to have this type of programmable radios.
- Discussion regarding agencies having an identified Agency Rep to be there for agencies if the Chief is unavailable.
 - Attempts to keep agencies/Chiefs informed was made at all IMT levels. Proved very difficult when Chiefs were directly involved in Operations. Having an Agency Rep when Chief is unavailable would have helped.
 - BCWFC was the contact list used – please be sure that your information is correct – send updates to LMcConnell
- Suggestion to bump these concerns to the Chief's level (meetings).
 - This has been elevated to the BCFFA level for the 10/7 meeting.
 - Group agreed that all agencies need to work together to come to a larger plan of mutual aid.
- One major concern is that there are too many agencies in the county and trying to get everyone together, on the same page, and to agree on plans of action has proved difficult in the past.
- The largest issue that needs to be solved is agencies not operating together under one command system.
- Discussion regarding on the working relations with the insurance companies that came in to defend homes.

Overall takeaways:

- Bumping up above concerns to BCFFA
- Agency reps are needed in the case of the Chief's absence
- What information can be created/shared across all agencies. (i.e. Mountain address books/maps)
- What is each individual agency's overall ability to respond but still manage the ongoing needs back in their district?
- **Motion** to request to the BCFFA and BCFCFA:
 - to figure out how all agencies can work together in the future and operate effectively as a whole with an established chain of command.
 - compatibility of communications.
 - establish an agency rep for agencies.

1st J Stalnacker, 2nd J Benson. All in favor – none opposed.

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Discussion regarding co-chair positions for BCWFC. This was a 1-yr appointment. Both B Haberstick and F Koch are willing to continue but also want to give others an opportunity to serve the group as well.

Motion for open nomination for elections for co-chairs due by November 1 – send to Lmc_Connell@yahoo.com to be voted on at the Nov. 5 meeting. 1st J Stalnacker. 2nd A Moschetti. All in favor – None opposed.

Meeting Adjourned: 1215 hours

**Next BCWFC meeting will be Friday, Nov. 5, 2010 at Boulder Rural Station 1.
(Fire Training Center is unavailable.)**

****2010 Dec and 2011 Jan meetings not scheduled due to holiday conflicts.**

**** 2011 meetings will be held at Fire Training Center**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura McConnell on Friday 10.3.10

