**Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association**

**Meeting Minutes**

**August 5, 2010**

**Call to Order**

Vice-President John McDonald called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. at PCDEM located at 2501 South 35th Street, Tacoma, WA. The following were present:

Dexter Habeck, Eatonville FD Jim Sharp, Lakewood FD

Ken Sharp, Lakewood FD Mitch Sagers, UPFD

Dave Dupille, UPFD Lloyd Christianson, UPFD

Dan Rankin, University Place FD Bob Black, Gig Harbor FD

Doug Willis, CPFR Ruth Obadal, CPFR

Keith Wright, CPFR Judy Murphy, CPFR

Gary McVay, PCFD #13 Cliff McCollum, PCFD #13

Guy Allen, PCFD #16 Chris Grant, PCFD #17

Gary Franz, GFR Todd Jensen, GFR

Jerry Thorson, EPFR John McDonald, EPFR

Bob Vellias, SPFR Steve Bailey, PCDEM

Ken Parrish, PCDEM Marci Scott, PCDEM

Wayne Wienholz, PCFPB Norma Pancake, PCEMS

Denise Menge, Recorder

**Flag Salute**

Steve Bailey led the flag salute and welcomed everyone to the EOC. This is a great location to hold training and he’d like to extend kudo’s for the amount of training accomplished in this County on a regional basis. The grant cycle has begun and committees will be meeting and working on this. The county is struggling with budgets and finance just like so many others. The legislators are working on adopting to add twenty cents to the 911 tax. There is a 60 day time lag from when it is adopted to when it can be collected. He has not heard from the Executives office regarding the time line on this. Everyone should stay tuned to and be aware of this issue and make your political contacts aware of this issue as well. The state law specifies that if the County does not implement this then they could lose state funding which would be around two and a half million dollars. Please encourage your elected officials to move on this issue.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the June 3, 2010 minutes. MOTION CARRIED.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Vice President McDonald reported that Treasurer Kathy Hale will not be attending today’s meeting, however, she is sending the report with Gary Franz. We’ll come back to this when he arrives.

**Correspondence**

No correspondence.

**Guest Speaker**

Vice President John McDonald reported that Tom Miner will not be presenting today as he is back in Ohio on a USAR exercise.

Vice President John McDonald introduced Bill Lokey with Witt Associates to give an update on the Structural Collapse Rescue Annex. Updates had been e-mailed out to everyone prior to the meeting. He went through a powerpoint presentation of what they have done and what they still need to do, etc. They are working on getting feedback from the Chiefs Associations, adjust the plan per input and then submit a draft for approval, hopefully in September. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Bill Lokey at wlokey@wittassociates.com and/or 253-572-2262.

Vice President John McDonald reported that a correspondence was received from Dr. Charles Horne, Executive Director of the Tacoma-Pierce County Chaplaincy thanking us for our participation and sponsorship of their Annual Benefit Golf Tournament. The letter states to “Please save the date of June 24th, 2011 at Meadow Park Golf Course, Lakewood, WA” for next years event.

Vice President John McDonald reported the Treasurer’s Report for the month of July, 2010 shows we have an account balance of $15,195.35. Judy Murphy asked what the EMS Balance is, John reported EMS has a balance of $5,687.83.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Program/Speaker Committee**

John McDonald reported Casey Hill from Graham Fire & Rescue will be speaking on his experience with the Haiti response. He is going to see if Chuck Duffey, the new State Fire Marshal, is available for either our October or November meeting. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for a guest speaker, please contact him.

**Audit Committee - DORMANT**

**Banquet/Awards Committee**

Todd Jensen reported the Commissioners Association has stepped up in a huge way this year and recommended the annual banquet be moved to the Fircrest Golf and Country Club. They have already voted and approved to do this.

**Nominations Committee- DORMANT**

**UASI Committee**

No representative present.

**Regional Communications Committee**

Jim Sharp stated that Steve Bailey already summarized the twenty cents addition. The County Council needs to pass an ordinance for this to take effect. Jim Sharp made a motion that a letter of opinion be written to the County Council asking them to adopt the twenty cents additional 911 fees. Lloyd Christianson seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

Jim Sharp reported he met recently with Mike Carson, the new interim Director of LESA.

**Code Committee**

Gary Franz reported he attended a meeting regarding the County process to consolidate development codes. The Fire Code ordinance update is being worked on.

Doug Willis stated the Puyallup City Council is looking at residential sprinklers, Randy Stephens is representing the Fire District on this issue. John McDonald stated that they are also dealing with this issue with Sumner, Bonney Lake, Edgewood and Milton. They are looking at a 5,000 sq. ft. and larger exemption. Sumner acted on this first and adopted as proposed. Bonney Lake looked at the same proposal and one of the members asked why they are exempting anything? They approved sprinklers in all residential structures. Edgewood and Milton are having their initial presentations this week.

**DIVISION REPORTS:**

**EMS**

Judy Murphy reported on the Divert Committee. When the committee started, divert was at 20%, as of the second quarter for 2010, divert was at 1.08%. Trauma divert is not as good as it was at 7.9% for second quarter 2010. She has more data on this topic, please contact her if you are interested in more information.

Judy reported the Paramedic Airway Management course has been going on for about a year now. EPFR has donated a medic unit for all of the equipment to be kept on and used for training, etc. They are working on coming up with a plan for fueling and maintenance for this vehicle.

**MetroTraining**

No representative present.

**Training – TEW Training/Exercise**

Marci Scott distributed handouts. There will be a State-wide earthquake exercise in 2012 on the Tacoma fault. They are looking at MCI and windshield survey forms being done. There is $50,000.00 allocated towards this drill. There is an upcoming healthcare mutual aid plan being worked on dealing with evacuations. This will be held at the Puyallup Fairgrounds on October 14th with a seminar and tabletop exercise.

The preliminary numbers for the grant are in: $900,000 for equipment, $400,000 for training and $100,000 for exercise. Committees are working on this.

**OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS:**

**American Red Cross**

No representative present.

**Department of Emergency Management**

Ken Parrish stated that both Steve Bailey and Marcie Scott mentioned the RCC and grants. He gave an overview of the state funding allocations for Homeland Security grants. They see this funding dropping in the future.

The PC Alert is going strong. It was used in Fife over the weekend. It is there for you to use. August 10th from 0800 to 1000 will be Incident Command Training held at the EOC.

Ken reported on a document from FEMA regarding the philosophy changes on FEMA response. He will send it to Denise to e-mail out to everyone.

**EMS**

Norma Pancake reported on the issue of human intubations for new paramedics and that the hospitals have put a moratorium on paramedics in the Ors, etc. An e-mail has been sent to the State on this issue regarding having to provide training for invasive procedures for certifications, etc. She will continue to pursue this issue.

The recovery response center has opened at Western State Hospital. She has heard that the RRC staff has not been receptive to accepting patients, etc. She is working with the Director on this as far as 40% are from the ERs and why aren’t they transporting there directly. There will be more to come on this issue.

**Fire Marshal**

Wayne Wienholz reported the monthly reports are going to be sent out electronically from now on. He shared pictures of the new smoke tunnel fire hydrants, tree props, etc. to be used at fairs, etc.

**State Chiefs/Western Chiefs**

No representative present.

**PS Clean Air Agency**

No representative present.

**PC Fire Commissioners**

They have filed for incorporation so that donations can have a tax exempt status. They voted to move the annual banquet to the Fircrest Golf Course as it is a better facility.

**Dept. of Natural Resources**

No representative present.

**Unfinished Business**

Wayne Wienholz reported the burn ban was put on in July. This year was the first year that a set time for start and end of the burn ban was used – July 1st through September. He had petitioned for it to be begin after July 4th and it was agreed to hold off until July 15th. He would like to thank Chuck Frame for all of his work on getting this to happen.

**New Business**

Nothing at this time.

**Good of the Order**

John McDonald reported that he is on the WA Fallen Firefighters Memorial Committee. This event will be held on October 10th, a week after the National event. The attendance at previous memorial services has been disappointing. He asked that everyone put this event on their calendar. They are working on formalizing a location. In the past it has been held at the Rotunda in Olympia and it’s just not acoustically a good location and it’s not centrally located. They are also contemplating holding it later in the day so that hopefully more departments can participate, etc.

Ruth Obadal reminded everyone of Assistant Chief Thomas’ retirement party being held on Sunday, August 15th at King Oscar’s in Tacoma from 4:00 to 8:00 pm.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

*The September 2, 2010 Meeting beginning at 11:30 will be held at University Place, 7909 40th St. W.*