**Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association**

**Meeting Minutes June 2, 2011**

**Call to Order**

President John McDonald called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. at Pierce County DEM located at 2501 So. 35th St, Tacoma WA. The following were present:

Dexter Habeck, Eatonville FD Jeff Jensen, Tacoma FD

Mitch Sagers, WPFR Lloyd Christianson, WPFR

Karl Roth, WPFR Jim Sharp, WPFR

Dan Rankin, WPFR John Burgess, Gig Harbor FD

Eric Watson, Gig Harbor FD Steve Nixon, Gig Harbor FD

Bill Jarmon, Gig Harbor FD Tom Sutich, Gig Harbor FD

Keith Wright, CPFR Baron Banks, CPFR

Judy Murphy, CPFR Radcliffe McKenzie, CPFR

Andy McAfee, Riverside FD Tom Lique, Key Peninsula FD

Guy Allen, Key Peninsula FD Bob Vellias, SPFR

Tony Judd, GFR Ryan Basket, GFR

Todd Jensen, GFR Bob Skaggs, GFR

Jerry Thorson, EPFR John McDonald, EPFR

Ed Goodlet, EPFR Garry Olson, PCFD #23

Michael Smith, PCFD #26 James Harte, PCFD #26

Mike Patti, PCFPB Dic Gribbon, PSCAA

Norma Pancake, PCEMS Chuck Frame, DNR

Dave Crossen, KCFCA

**Flag Salute**

Steve Bailey led the flag salute and welcomed all to DEM. He provided a brief report on the anticipated decline in grant dollars due to the large budget deficits at the state and federal levels.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the May 5, 2011 meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

**Treasurer’s Report**

No report as Kathy Hale was not in attendance.

**Correspondence**

None.

**Guest Speaker**

VP Wright introduced Dr. Robert Mann, UPS Professor of Economics as our guest speaker. Dr. Mann provided an informative report on the outlook for recovery following the recession. The key concepts presented included the following:

* In real gross domestic product, Pierce County has outperformed the national economy for 2000-2007, 2.5% vs. 2%.
* Conversely, in the recession period 2008-2010, Pierce County economy fell faster than the US.
* We will see modest growth through 2011, but slower than anticipated.
* The external factors influencing recovery include: JBLM troop growth, local aerospace strength, the national economy momentum, and increases in borrower confidence and improved credit markets.
* Locally, technology and medical services are the primary economic engine; and large companies are expanding, therefore sustaining building and investments.
* The extremely poor housing market continues to restrict recovery: underwater mortgagees, restricted available credit, and few qualified borrowers all contribute to this condition.
* Unemployment continues to hover in the 9-10% range and it is hoped we will see it improve to 8-8.5%. Workers who went back to gain education and retirees will re-enter the job market.
* Per Capita Personal Income is now back to 2008 levels.
* Retail sales by the end of 2011 will be at 2004 levels.

**Unfinished Business**

Surface Water Fee exemption: President McDonald reported CPFR looked at their fire protection contract revenue from Pierce County related to Surface Water Charges and was in favor of forwarding a request to Pierce County to exempt fire department properties from the fees. There was no further discussion. A letter pertaining to this request will be sent to Pierce County on behalf of PCFCA.

Liaison to King County Fire Chiefs: President McDonald thanked EPFR Chief Jerry Thorson as he has agreed to serve in this role.

DNR Burn Ban: President McDonald met with FM Mike Patti regarding DNR’s July 1 implementation of a burn ban. Enforcement by local fire jurisdictions prior to the fourth of July was of concern. A letter will be sent to DNR indicating PC FCA’s position will be to enforce burn bans that are implemented in response to specific weather conditions and not arbitrarily selected on a date.

Hydrant Maintenance/Pre-Plans: BC McKenzie had nothing new to report.

**New Business**

President McDonald reported on a request from the PC Fire Marshal’s office looking for workgroup volunteers to look at the implications of the new bill passed regarding “No Mans Lands”. This bill goes into effect July 22, 2011. Those interested should email Mike Patti and Steve Bailey.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Program/Speaker Committee**

VP Wright reported speakers are confirmed through September. Speakers are needed for October and November. There is no July meeting. August speaker will be from the State Auditor’s Office. Joe Quinn will discuss Impact Fees in September. Contact VP Wright if you have suggestions for speakers.

**Audit Committee - DORMANT**

**Banquet/Awards Committee**

No report.

**Nominations Committee- DORMANT**

**UASI Committee**

Jeff Jensen reported there are still several programs likely to receive some grant funding: Regional Haz Mat Teams, Structural Collapse and Multi-Jurisdictional Exercises for Mass Gatherings and Aviation.

**Regional Communications Committee**

Jim Sharp reported on the tax initiative “South Sound 911” which is the 1/10 of 1% for County-wide communications. This would be a dedicated funding stream along with the $0.20 per 911 call that started 1/1/11. In addition there was a recent meeting of interested VHF users regarding the opportunities that might be available with a 700 Mhz system previously discussed by Pierce County.

Jim Sharp announced there will be a Fire Comm Oversight Committee meeting following this meeting.

**Code Committee**

No representative present.

**DIVISION REPORTS:**

**EMS**

Judy Murphy reported the new cardiac, stroke, and trauma triage guidelines will go into effect July 1. It is anticipated all agencies are performing ACLS, PALS training updates now.

EMS is working with Law Enforcement on the response to violence protocols. The Active Shooter class was recently offered in Gig Harbor. Chief Burgess indicated the training was excellent and encouraged all agencies to pursue it. There is an effort to promote more ICS training for LE and Fire. LE hopes to put on a Street Survival Awareness Class.

**MetroTraining**

No representative present. The June drill will be a Water Rescue exercise at Lake Tapps.

**Training – TEW Training/Exercise**

No report.

**OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS:**

**American Red Cross**

No representative present.

**Department of Emergency Management**

Ken Parrish reported on the significant cuts to grant funding. Washington State will see a reduction greater than 50%. The greatest cuts will be in equipment.

**EMS**

Norma Pancake reported Dr. Waffle is starting data collection on all cardiac arrests. EPFR will be working on this as well. Reports on all cardiac arrests are desired. It was emphasized this study is to improve outcomes and reports are not being reviewed for QA or punitive reasons.

**Fire Marshal**

Mike Patti reported the office will have four Deputy Fire Marshals on staff by the end of June. Firework stands open for business June 28. He cautioned not to collect confiscated fireworks but rather use law enforcement or their office.

**State Chiefs**

President McDonald thanked Jeff Jensen for his 12 years of dedicated service on the State Chiefs. VP Keith Wright has been elected to this position and will continue his position on the PC Chief’s Executive Board as long as the workload is manageable. Keith thanked the PCFCA for their endorsement and all who campaigned and voted. He reported State Chiefs has a program for Political Action and encouraged participation. He has forms to effect payroll deduction or credit card contributions.

**King County Fire Chiefs**

Dave Crossen reported their association has not met since our last meeting.

**PS Clean Air Agency**

Dic Gribbon reported there is no plan to ban residential burning. Their agency is still eager to enforce illegal burning and he urged agencies to contact them with issues.

**PC Fire Commissioners**

Bill Jarmon reported their last meeting was at Key Peninsula and included a presentation by the Tacoma-Pierce County Chaplaincy. State Commissioner President Skaggs reported on a recent meeting with State Fire Marshal Chuck Duffy. The State is looking for 32 million dollars for urgent repairs/replacement at North Bend. Currently there is around 8 million dollars in the basic firefighter training fund and he would like to have access to that money. State Commissioners will not allow more than 50% of that fund to be spent. The State FM and WSP Chief want 100%. President Skaggs indicated access to monies for this purpose would require a change in state law. The State Chiefs’ should be receiving an informational letter in the near future.

**Dept. of Natural Resources**

Chuck Frame reported the outlook for fire season appeared to be normal through September.

**Good of the Order**

Andy McAfee reminded all about the Wildland Meeting at EPFR Station 18. Keith Wright provided a reminder on the Disaster Planning Summit at DEM on June 7 at 8am. Ed Goodlet provided a brief update on the Data Collection Committee’s progress. The Committee will likely finish up their scope of work this month. The Chiefs’ website has a link to meeting agendas and minutes.

Wayne Wienholz shared his thanks and appreciation for all those that attended his retirement, it was way more than he expected.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Recording Secretary Mitch Sagers

*There is no meeting in July. The next Regular Meeting will be August 4, 2011 at Browns Point.*