



# Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association

Post Office Box 3945  
Englewood, Colorado 80155  
Phone: (720) 874-8116  
Fax: (720) 862-2181

[www.colofirechiefs.org](http://www.colofirechiefs.org)

## CSFCA Wildland Fire Section Annual Member Meeting

**Thursday, December 3, 2009**

Keystone Resort & Conference Center  
Keystone, Colorado

### Draft Minutes

1. Welcoming, Introductions & Opening Remarks by Section Chair Jimmy Bumgarner

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by Wildland Section Chair Jimmy Bumgarner, who made some opening remarks concerning the accomplishments of the Section in its short history. He then introduced Section Vice-Chair Jeff Berino and CSFCA President Chris Riley, who welcomed the meeting participants, and self-introductions were done. There were 26 individuals in attendance (see attached meeting roster).

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. May 22, 2009 – Action on approval of the minutes of May 22, 2009 was tabled, as the minutes were not available for review.
- b. July 24, 2009 – Upon motion by Chief Bob Harvey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chief Rich Graeber, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the July 24, 2009 meeting were approved. The minutes are posted at: [http://www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/WFS\\_Minutes\\_072409.pdf](http://www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/WFS_Minutes_072409.pdf).
- c. September 10, 2009 – Upon motion by Chief Bob Harvey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chief Rich Graeber, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the September 10, 2009 meeting were approved. The minutes are posted at: [http://www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/WFS\\_Minutes\\_091009.pdf](http://www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/WFS_Minutes_091009.pdf).

3. Old Business

- a. Proposed cooperative agreement between the CSFCA and the CSFS concerning the issuance of NWCG training certificates. Claire Brown of the CSFS reported the template for the MOU should be available by March. Jeff Berino indicated that some member departments are already issuing NWCG training certificates for training that is compliant with PMS-310, by agreement with District Forester. It was also mentioned that some community colleges are already issuing NWCG training certificates.

- b. Volunteer and Supplemental Resource Pay Issue. Chief Jim Wingert of Chaffee County FPD had asked that the volunteer and supplemental resource pay issue be placed on the agenda for discussion. Chief Wingert stated that volunteer firefighters must meet the same qualifications as career personnel, but are only paid at the volunteer rate. He argued that volunteer firefighters must take time from their full-time job for assignment, but may get paid less by the fire assignment than they make at their full-time job. According to Chief Wingert, the District Forester says they are acting as contractors instead of cooperators.

Ron Baar of Aspen VFD distributed copies of a supplement to the NWCG Handbook for the Rocky Mountain and Great Basin Coordinating Groups concerning Interagency Cooperative Relations [see: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/wgbc/administrative/finance/rgbcchapter50.pdf>], noting that Colorado is the only state in this region that doesn't have a pay plan for personnel. He indicated that all he was looking for was consistency from the CSFS.

Clair Brown of the CSFS first explained the reason for the late summer memo concerning the supplemental resource pay policy is the fact that the NWCG Business Rules Committee doesn't set rules until April or May. Janelle Ray from CSFS represents Colorado on the NWCG Business Rules Committee and carries concerns from Cooperators forward to the Committee.

According to Clair, there is misunderstanding of the supplemental resource pay policy; that it only applies to single overhead resources on federal assignment and not to equipment and crews. He indicated that Cooperators should be sending their personnel rates to CSFS along with their CRFF forms. When an engine goes out on assignment, the Cooperator will be paid the CRFF rate for equipment along with their established personnel rates. When some of the members present indicated that their District Forester either does not ask for or will not accept personnel rates from the fire department, Clair indicated that District Foresters may be confused about this. The CSFS is trying their best to implement NWCG policies, but there is no uniform interpretation. He also indicated that this is the first year of implementation of District Forester approval of CRFF's, and he expects things will go smoother with time.

Chief Rich Graeber asked for a clear statement of the policy, indicating that his understanding, of what Clair was saying is:

- NWCG established rates are for individual overhead resources and are not for equipment and crews;
- The pay distinction between volunteer and career personnel is only for these individual resources; and
- When equipment and crews are on federal assignment, they will be paid according to the CRFF and local pay rates.

Clair expressed that this is correct.

The suggestion was made to ask Janell Ray and Rich Homann to the next Wildland Fire Section meeting to discuss this and other business practices.

As an aside, Chuck Wisecup of Oak Creek FPD shared with the members present that Routt County has a Wildland MAC Group which negotiates personnel and equipment rates with the county. When Routt County fire departments go out on a fire, these are the rates that will be paid. He indicated that they are not affected by the federal policies because they do not have the resources to send on federal assignments.

Wildfire Prevention Committee Update. Ron Biggers of Glenwood Springs FD provided an update on his efforts to establish a Prevention Committee of the Wildland Fire Section. He reported that he received about 40 responses to the survey that was distributed in addition to replies from state and federal agencies. He said that, so far about 20 people have expressed

interest in working on the committee. Ron expressed that the goal of the committee was to have a collaborative approach to Wildfire Prevention and Education, so that resources and ideas could be shared. Ron indicated that he was seeking input on the direction on where the group wants the committee to go.

Ron reported that he had talked to Katherine Timm of the CSFS and was informed that there used to be six kiosks placed around the state for public wildland fire information, but due to budget constraints most have been pulled in. If we want to put the kiosks back in service, there will be money needed (mostly programming costs). Ron inquired if the CSFCA had funding to do this, but Executive Director Cooke indicated that the CSFCA budget could not support this effort, but gifts, grants or donations could be sought. Chief Harvey suggested that we should look to the all hazards regions for funding for wildfire prevention and education.

Ron also discussed the Rocky Mountain Wildland Fire Information website. He indicated that it was established to be an information clearinghouse-type site, but that it hasn't been maintained. Einar Jensen, indicated that FLSEC would be willing to host information on their site.

Jeff Berino expressed that the committee should get together with FLSEC and other stakeholders to partner on projects. Ron expressed that most educators are from the Front Range, and that we could start there, but we need to take the resources to departments that don't have full-time educators.

It was expressed that we should first identify what the resource and information needs are, and then work to address these needs.

If anyone has input, questions or wishes to be involved in this effort, please contact: Ron Biggers, Fire Marshal, Glenwood Springs FD at 970-384-6433 or email: [ron.biggers@cogs.us](mailto:ron.biggers@cogs.us).

- c. CSFS Indirect Cost Assessment. Clair Brown of the CSFS Fire Division reported that the Indirect Rate is negotiated between CSU and the federal government and is attached to the master agreement with the federal agencies. He indicated that CSU is in negotiations with the feds right now for a new rate, during which CSU must open their books to audit. Clair indicated that CSFS has expressed concern with the indirect cost assessment, but it is outside of their hands. He suggested the concern be directed to policy makers – not the CSFS.

Chief Lauria indicated his concern on the lack of transparency on the part of CSU. How much money is being collected through indirect cost assessment on the work being performed by fire department resources? How much of this money is coming back to the fire service. He expressed that if the money was coming back to the fire service in the way of training and PPE, he would have less concern. But, instead, it goes into the black hole of the university.

Chief Bensen indicated that the issue is causing other states to refuse to use Colorado resources. He indicated that the Texas Division of Forest Service will not use Colorado resources because of the indirect cost assessment.

Clair Brown expressed that the issue with Texas relates to the fact that the Division of Fire Safety, who manages ROSS, puts local resources in as contractors and not cooperators. Kevin Klein, DFS Director reported that resources are put into ROSS according to instructions provided by the CSFS and USFS, but in any case, the issue has been fixed.

Chief Benson reported that this is not the issue raised by the Texas Division of Forest Service in a letter addressed to him. He indicated that he would provide a copy of the letter to Clair and the Wildland Fire Section Board.

Cooke and others expressed the understanding that the indirect rate is assessed by CSU as the parent organization for the CSFS and recognizes that the CSFS is powerless to address it. Cooke reported that it has risen as a significant issue within the Sheriffs Association and a joint meeting between the fire chiefs and sheriffs has been scheduled for next week.

- d. Prescribed Fire Council Right to Burn Legislation. Jeff Berino reported that Sen. Gibbs has been working with the Prescribed Fire Council on their proposed legislation and has provided the Council with recommendations on how to proceed. Jeff indicated that there are some issues to be resolved, but there will likely be a bill introduced in the 2010 legislative session by Sen. Gibbs.

#### 4. Current Issues/New Business

- a. Draft CWPP Standards. The draft CWPP standards developed by the CSFS were distributed to the Wildland Fire Section list on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the request of Ralph Campbell of the CSFS. These draft standards are posted on the CSFCA website at: [http://www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/CWPP\\_Minimum\\_Standards\\_110209.pdf](http://www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/CWPP_Minimum_Standards_110209.pdf). Cooke reported that he had requested copies of comments submitted to the CSFS, but he had received only one or two.

Jeff Berino indicated his concern that SB09-001 does not grant authority to CSFS to approve CWPP's, only to promulgate standards. He expressed that no CSFS approval should be necessary unless the jurisdiction was applying for grant funds.

Bruce Dikken, West Metro Fire Rescue concurred. He reported that he had expressed this concern to Ralph Campbell in writing. He indicated that by his reading of SB09-001, it tasks the CSFS with establishing guidelines and criteria for counties to consider when preparing their own CWPPs. He doesn't believe that it grants CSFS the regulatory authority to actually approve or reject a CWPP. Bruce also indicated that the draft standard also states "If a community has an existing plan that already meets the majority of the CWPP criteria listed above, the community must re-engage to adapt the plan so that it meets the remainder of the criteria." However, SB09-001 states "Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a county that has already prepared a CWPP or an equivalent plan . . . shall not be required to prepare a new CWPP." He expressed his understanding that re-engaging and adapting the plan is not necessarily the same as preparing an entirely new CWPP, but depending on the lack of thoroughness of the existing plan it may be just as time and money intensive for some smaller agencies to revise their plan.

Jeff Berino reported that he would follow up with Ralph Campbell and communicate the concerns of the Wildland Fire Section with respect to the draft CWPP standards.

- b. Colorado Smoke Management Program. Jeff Berino reported that he, Jamey Bumgarner and Rich Graeber attended the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Colorado Smoke Management Program Stakeholder Meeting hosted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The purpose of these meetings is to increase communication about smoke management and Colorado's Smoke Management Plan. They are an opportunity for stakeholders to obtain updates concerning the program, learn more about various aspects of Colorado's program, and provide feedback to program staff. Jeff indicated that discussion centered on the Smoke Management Plan Interagency Review that was conducted this year (see: <http://www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/SmokeWorkgroupReport.pdf>) and CDPHE's 2 days in any 7-day period burn restrictions.
- c. State Trust Lands. Chief Mike Roll of North-West FPD reported that Lake George Fire District recently had a wildfire that was entirely on State Trust Land in its district. The question was how other fire districts deal with State Trust Lands. They were told the state takes no responsibility for

firefighting on these lands. Are there any ways to be reimbursed for local districts taking on the cost of wildfires on these lands? Clair Brown recommended that it be made an EFF fire and that this was a perfect topic for AOP negotiations.

- d. Uses of Biomass. Chief Jim Wingert of Chaffee County FPD asked the general question “what are we doing about biomass?” It was reported that some Regional COG’s are weighing in on the issue. Chief Ury reported that El Paso County has sponsored presentations on the biomass uses and they have a cement plant in his region using biomass for fuel. Chief Roll indicated that they are using biomass to heat their station. It was suggested that there be a presentation on biomass uses at a future meeting. Clair Brown indicated that he would send information for distribution to the group.

## 5. Organizational Issues

- a. Election of Officers. Section Interim Chair Bumgarner called for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Election of Officers for the Wildland Fire Section. Cooke reminded all that to serve on the Board of Directors of the Wildland Fire Section, the individual must be a regular or individual member of the CSFCA. All Section members present for the annual meeting are eligible to nominate candidates for office and to vote.

The question was asked as to whether the “interim terms” counted against the limitation on successive terms and Cooke indicated that it was his understanding of the intent that the interim terms were to get the Section up and running and should not count against the limitation on successive terms.

For the position of Section Chair, Chief Jamey Bumgarner of Larkspur FPD was nominated by Chief Wingert, Seconded by Chief Harvey, and nominations were subsequently closed.

For the position of Section Vice-Chair, Deputy Chief Jeff Berino of Lake Dillon FPD was nominated by Chief Roll, Seconded by Chief Harvey, and nominations were subsequently closed.

For the position of Secretary/Treasurer, Chief Bumgarner reported that Chief Gary Green of Red, White and Blue FPD (who was absent from the meeting due to illness) was not interested in continuing in the position. Chief Bob Harvey was nominated to serve as Secretary/Treasurer by Chief Wingert, Seconded by Dep. Chief Berino, and nominations were subsequently closed.

The 2010 slate of officers was elected by unanimous consent of the members present.

Section Chair Bumgarner asked that the record reflect a “thank you” to Chief Green for serving as the interim Secretary/Treasurer.

- b. Regional Directors. Section Chair Bumgarner reported that there is still need for a Regional Director for the San Luis Valley and Northeastern Regions. If anyone is interested, they should contact one of the officers or the Executive Director. Chief Bumgarner also reported that he would contact each of the current Regional Directors and determine their interest in continuing to serve. Bruce Dikken of West Metro Fire Rescue expressed his interest in serving as the Regional Director for the North Central Region if the current Regional Director was no longer interested.
- c. 2010 Meeting Dates & Locations. There was discussion concerning continuing the regular meetings on an every other month schedule versus changing to a quarterly meeting schedule. Discussion centered on the number of issues that are being dealt with by the Section versus having quality meetings and the numbers of other meetings folks attend. The consensus decision was to have quarterly meetings.

Chief Graeber expressed the expectation that he and the other Board members would work diligently in the "off months" to ensure the Section continues to make progress on the resolution of issues.

It was decided that the first regular meeting of 2010 would be scheduled in February around the availability of Janell Ray of the CSFS and that this meeting would be hosted by West Metro Fire Rescue. Subsequent meetings would be held in May, August and December on dates and locations to be determined.

6. Agency Updates

- a. Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center. Cooke reported that PIDC has a "standing spot" on the agenda to provide an update. However, he has not received an update for this meeting (and no representative of PIDC is present to provide an update).
- b. Other Agency Updates. Cooke reported that he had received notice from Mark Boche that the USFS representatives could not attend this meeting as they had conflicting meetings with their regional fire and aviation management staff. Cooke also received notice from Todd Richardson that the BLM also had a conflict with their regional and agency FMO meetings as well as the BLM Colorado Fuels meeting.

7. Announcements

- a. CSFCA Wildland Fire Section Website: [www.colofirechiefs.org/sectionsdivisions-wlf.htm](http://www.colofirechiefs.org/sectionsdivisions-wlf.htm)
- b. Colorado Wildland Fire & Incident Management Academy, Jan 4 - 10, 2010, Aims Community College, Greeley, CO. For more information and to register go to: <http://www.cwfima.com>.

8. Adjournment. Section Chair Bumgarner declared the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Wildland Fire Section Interim Board of Directors – 2010**

Chairman	Jimmy Bumgarner, Chief, Larkspur FPD
Vice-Chairman	Jeff Berino, Dep. Chief, Lake Dillon FPD
Secretary-Treasurer	Bob Harvey, Chief, Leadville Lake County Fire Rescue

**Regional Directors**

Northwestern Region	David Blair, Chief, Grand Valley FPD
Northcentral Region	Sam Parsons, Wildland Coordinator, Fairmount FPD
Southwestern Region	Rich Graeber, Chief, Upper Pine FPD
Southcentral Region	Jim Reid, Commander, El Paso County Sheriff's Office *
South Region	Rich Stromberg, La Veta Fire Protection District
Southeastern Region	Kyle Neill, Chief, Holly Volunteer Fire & Ambulance District
West Region	Doug Fritz, Chief, Hotchkiss Fire Protection District

San Luis Region	Anyone who is interested in serving on the interim BOD of the CSFCA Wildland Fire Section as a Regional Director from either of these regions, please advise Paul L. Cooke, CSFCA Executive Director, of your interest. To serve on the BOD of the CSFCA Wildland Fire Section, the individual must be a regular or individual member of the CSFCA.
Northeastern Region	

\* Subsequent to the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, Jim Reid, Commander, El Paso County Sheriff's Office indicated that his job responsibilities have precluded him from participating in the Section in a beneficial manner. For this reason he asked Chief Nick Lauria of Northeast Teller County FPD to take his place as the Regional Director for the South Central Region. While he has graciously accepted, the Board will not formally act on this appointment until their next meeting.

# Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association

## Wildland Fire Section Annual Meeting

Keystone Resort & Conference Center  
Keystone, Colorado

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Name	Department, Agency or Company	Email Address
1 Jim Wingert	Chaffee County Fire Protection District	jwingert@chaffeecountyfire.org
2 Richard Austin	Castle Rock Fire Rescue	rauston@crgov.com
3 Ron Ruckdeschel	Broadmoor Fire Protection District	roncruck@yahoo.com
4 Dave Beebe	Mountain View Fire Protection Dist.	dbeebe@mvfpd.org
5 Brian Gardner	Wescott Fire Department	hockeybg@yahoo.com
6 Michael Badger	Wescott FD & Colo Springs FD	ffmikey@comcast.net
7 Mike Roll	North-West Fire Protection District	nwfireroll@yahoo.com
8 Dylan Jacketta	Pueblo County Sheriff	jacketta@co.pueblo.co.us
9 Nick Lauria	Northeast Teller County Fire Prot. Dist.	nlauria@netellerfire.org
10 John Benson	Boulder Mountain Fire Prot. Dist.	chief@bouldermountainfire.org
11 Richard Graeber	Upper Pine Fire Protection District	rgraeber@upperpinefpd.org
12 Ron Biggers	Glenwood Springs F.D.	ron.biggers@cogs.us
13 Ron Baar	Aspen Volunteer Fire Department	rbaar@comcast.net
14 Bob Harvey	Leadville/Lake County Fire Dept.	rharvey@leadvillefire.org
15 Clair Brown	Colorado State Forest Service	clair.brown@colostate.edu
16 Bob Reilley	North Routt Fire Prot. Dist.	northrouttfirechief@yahoo.com
17 Chuck Wisecup	Oak Creek Fire Protection Dist.	chief@oakcreekfire.org
18 Einar Jensen	Fire & Life Safety Educators of CO	einar.jensen@southmetro.org
19 Kevin Klein	Colorado Division of Fire Safety	kevin.klein@cdps.state.co.us
20 Garry DeJong	Evergreen Fire Rescue	gdejong@evergreenfirerescue.com
21 Dave Ury	Black Forest Fire Rescue	chief@bffire.org
22 Jamey Bumgarner	Larkspur Fire Protection District	jbumgarner@larkspurfire.org
23 Jeff Berino	Lake Dillon Fire Rescue	jberino@ldfr.org
24 Chris Riley	Pueblo Fire Department	criley@pueblo.us
25 Paul Cooke	Colorado State Fire Chiefs Assn.	paul@colofirechiefs.org
26 Bruce Dikken	West Metro Fire Rescue	bdikken@westmetrofire.org
27		
28		
29		
30		
31		
32		
33		