



Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association

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www.colofirechiefs.org

CSFCA Wildland Fire Section General Member Meeting

**Friday, July 24, 2009
10:00 A.M.**

Rifle Fire Protection District
1850 Railroad Avenue
Rifle, CO 81650

Adopted Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. by Wildland Fire Section Vice-Chair Jeff Berino. Chief Mike Morgan of the Rifle Fire District welcomed the meeting participants, and self-introductions were done. There were 32 individuals in attendance (see attached meeting roster).

Presentations

a. Colorado Prescribed Fire Council

Chief Berino welcomed the following representatives of the Colorado Prescribed Fire Council to make a presentation about the Council and their proposed legislation "Colorado Prescribed Burning Act".

Todd Richardson	CO BLM Fuels Operations	todd_richardson@blm.gov
Justin Whitesell	Larimer County Sheriffs Office	whitesjl@co.larimer.co.us
Jane Lopez	Colorado State Forest Service	jane.lopez@colostate.edu

Note: Sam Parsons, Wildland Coordinator for Fairmount Fire Protection District and North Central Region Representative for the Wildland Fire Section is CSFCA's representative on the Colorado Prescribed Fire Council.

Justin Whitesell provided a brief overview of the Council and made the presentation on the proposed legislation.

Questions and issues raised by CSFCA representatives included:

1. Has the Council looked at the Florida Prescribed Burn School model? The Council has looked at the Florida model, which is 3 weeks in length. The concept here is to allow the CSFS to design the training and provide it through CSU.

"Serving the Chief Fire Officers of Colorado Since 1968"

2. How does the Council intend to address liability for prescribed fires on private property that escape containment and spread to federal property? Will certified burners post a bond for suppression costs? These issues are still being examined.
3. What is the assessment of actual fiscal impact to implement the legislation? This is not known at this time.
4. How was the proposed legislation received by the State Forester? The State Forester had expressed concern regarding CSFS liability for the actions of Certified Prescribed Burn Managers, adequate resources to administer the program, and the fact that the proposed legislation goes into more detail than he believes is necessary.
5. At least one jurisdiction expressed concern about expressly granting property owners "right" to burn as they are currently able to dissuade property owners from doing so. It was pointed out that the property right probably already exists and "Prescribed Fire Coalitions" are already forming in the state without the benefit of standards and adequate training.

It was the consensus of the members present that the proposed legislation had merit, but no endorsement was made pending a final draft of proposed legislation.

Sen. Gibbs, who was in attendance at the meeting, recommended the Council take their proposal to other stakeholders such as CML, County Sheriffs, CCI, and the CTLA (Trial Lawyers).

Note: A copy of the presentation made by the Colorado Prescribed Fire Council is posted at: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/Colorado_Prescribed_Fire%20Council.pdf

Note: The current draft of the legislation proposed by the Council is posted at: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/Colorado_Prescribed_Burning%20Act_063009.pdf

b. 2009 Wildfire Legislation

Sen. Dan Gibbs and CSFCA Executive Director Cooke made a presentation on Legislation affecting the fire service that had been introduced in the 2009 General Assembly, with emphasis on wildfire legislation. A copy of the presentation is posted on the CSFCA website at: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/docs/2009_Fire_Legislation.pdf.

Business Meeting

1. Approval of Approval of Minutes of May 22, 2009 – Action on approval of the minutes of May 22, 2009 was tabled, as the minutes were not available for review.
2. Organizational Issues
 - a. Regional Directors – Chief Berino 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.
 - b. Regular Meeting Format - Chief Berino reported that the WFS Board met on July 2, 2009 and discussed the issue of what the format and length of regular Section meetings should be. The Board recommended continuation of every other month Section meetings and that the meeting format should follow that of the Combo Chiefs Section, i.e. commence at 10:00; have an "educational" presentation followed by lunch and business meeting; wrapping up around 1:00 or 1:30 PM. The issue of having some sort of remote conferencing capability for the meetings was discussed and Chief Berino indicated that it would be looked into.

3. New Business

- a. RFA/VFA Funding. Todd Richardson of CO BLM reported on the status of RFA/VFA funding, indicating that many jurisdictions under 10,000 population rely on these funds. He reported that funding was dropped in 2007 and in 2008 BLM took over administration of VFA, with a focus on outfitting fire departments with new generation fire shelters. He also reported that, according to the national office, RFA is going away. Questions concerning RFA/VFA should be directed to Mike Frary of CO BLM.

Pete Blume of the CSFS reported that this year's VFA money is not here from the feds yet; that they are expecting it in August. Pete reported that this year's grant cycle for wildland equipment would be:

October 1st – Notice would be distributed
November 31st – Application Period would close
December 31st – Awards would be announced
CY 2010 – Spend the money

- b. Colorado Front Range Wildfire Simulation/RMACC Dispatch Scenarios. Cooke reported that, on May 27, 2009, the USFS and CSFS jointly hosted a "Colorado Front Range Wildfire Simulation". CSFCA President Riley, Chief Jamey Bumgarner, Chair of the CSFCA Wildland Fire Section, and Exec. Dir. Cooke represented the CSFCA. The list of participants included top managers from the USFS, BLM, NPS, USF&WS, RMACC, FEMA, CSFS, CDFS, CDEM as well as CSOC and CSFCA. The participants were brought together to discuss roles, responsibilities and capabilities while working through a simulation of multiple simultaneous wildfire events. The simulation was built around the 2002 wildfire season where there were several major fires in the western states draining federal resources, and significant fire activity in Colorado.

Cooke expressed the opinion that the simulation helped to open some eyes to the fact that the Interagency Dispatch System alone cannot mobilize the quantity of resources that are needed to get ahead of a major WUI fire in the Colorado front range expeditiously enough to get ahead of the fire. This is particularly true if Colorado resources have been deployed to other western states and/or multiple large fires occur simultaneously, and significant numbers of structural protection engines are needed. To help address this, the Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center (RMACC) and Division of Fire Safety were "tasked" to get together and work through various mobilization scenarios to identify issues and propose solutions.

In follow-up to the Simulation, Jim Fletcher, RMACC Manager developed the draft Dispatch Scenarios that were distributed by email to members of the Wildland Fire Section. Cooke indicated that review and comment on would be appreciated. Note: The draft dispatch scenarios are posted at: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/RMACC_Draft_Scenarios.pdf.

4. Old Business/Updates

- a. Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center. Cooke reported that he had asked Allyn Herrington, PIDC Manager in advance of the meeting if he had anything he wanted reported on and was told they had no report. Clair Brown of CSFS expressed that he wished to correct a statement that was made at the May 22nd meeting that the Colorado fire service does not contribute to the operation of PIDC. Claire indicated that the CSFS does provide fiscal and personnel support to PIDC. Thus, the Colorado fire service does contribute to the operation of PIDC.
- b. Policy on Private Resource Utilization. Jeff Berino reported that he had been tasked to examine the two primary guidelines that had been published on private resource utilization: IAFC Guidelines for Managing Private Resources; and the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group Guidelines on Private Resources. Jeff indicated that, with the exception of some verbiage, there was no significant difference between them and indicated that adoption of either would

be appropriate. However, he expressed the belief that the federal wildland fire community would be more familiar with the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group Guidelines. Note: The respective guidelines are posted on the CSFCA website at:

IAFC Guidelines for Managing Private Resources on Wildland Fire Incidents:
<http://www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/PrivateResourceUtilizationGuides.pdf>

Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCC) Guidelines for Private Firefighting Resources:
www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/private_resource_guidelines.pdf

5. Other Current Issues

- a. CSFS Indirect Assessment Issue. Chief Rich Graeber of Upper Pine Fire Protection District raised the issue of the CSFS's 23 percent indirect cost assessment and recommended that the Colorado Cooperative Agreement be amended to read:

"When State or County resources are used and the fire management activity is within the State of Colorado, the State or County will bill the protecting host unit. Any time State or County resources respond to fire management activity outside of Colorado, the State or County will bill all applicable costs to the U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region."

Clair Brown of the CSFS expressed that in the average year CSFS processes about \$12 million in billing. He indicated that the CSFS does not discourage direct billing if that is what the locals want to do, but it may slow the process of reimbursement down because the feds will send payment requests back for more information. Claire also reported that most CSFS pass through grants do not have an indirect assessment. He also reported that 8% of the total 23% goes to the CSFS and the remainder goes to CSU for their costs.

It was recommended that a working group be established to examine the CSFS indirect assessment issue and make recommendations.

- b. CRFF's. Chief Rich Graeber of Upper Pine Fire Protection District raised the issue of the CRFF's being signed at the District level and coming back months later from CSFS headquarters with amendments. He indicated his understanding that the agreement with the CSFCA was that CRFF's would be approved at the District level.

Clair Brown of the CSFS expressed that this was the result of miscommunication and the use of the wrong forms. He indicated that the forms should not have been signed by the District.

It was recommended that the working group that addressed the issue of standardized rates be reconvened to examine other business practices.

- c. Prevention, Mitigation and Education Committee. Ron Biggers, Fire Marshal, Glenwood Springs FD, expressed that his interest in the Wildland Fire Section was in the area of Prevention, Mitigation and Education. He indicated that there is a lot of good stuff going on out there that we are not aware of because we are not sharing information. He recommended that a committee the Wildland Fire Section be created with this focus and indicated his willingness to lead it. As a first objective, he would like to develop and distribute a questionnaire to CSFCA members to see what they were doing with respect to Wildfire Prevention, Mitigation and Education.

It was the consensus of the members to proceed with the establishment of a Prevention, Mitigation and Education Committee and to develop and distribute a questionnaire. Chief John Benson of Boulder Mountain FPD indicated his willingness to assist Ron in this venture.

6. Announcements

- a. CSFCA Wildland Fire Section Website: www.colofirechiefs.org/sectionsdivisions-wlf.htm.
- b. Front Range Wildfire Symposium – Bruce Dikken, West Metro Fire Rescue announced the Front Range Wildfire Symposium to be held in West Metro’s new training center on November 2-8, 2009. For more information and to register go to: <http://training.westmetrofire.org>.

7. Adjournment – With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at _____ pm. Appreciation was expressed to the Rifle Fire Protection District for providing the meeting location and lunch.

Upcoming Meetings

September 17, 2009 – Regular Meeting – Upper Pine River FPD, Bayfield. This will be an evening meeting to be held in conjunction with CSFCA meeting on September 18, 2009. Note: This meeting date was subsequently changed to September 10th, to correspond with the CSFCA meeting date of September 11th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Cooke & Gary Green

Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association

Wildland Fire Section Membership Meeting

Rifle Fire Protection District
1850 Railroad Avenue
Rifle CO

Friday, July 24, 2009

Name	Department, Agency or Company	Email Address
1 Benson, John	Boulder Mountain FPD	chief@bouldermountainfire.org
2 Berino, Jeff	Lake Dillon Fire Rescue	jberino@ldfr.org
3 Biggers, Ron	Glenwood Springs F.D.	rbiggers@ci.glenwood-springs.co.us
4 Blume, Pete	CSFS	pblume@colostate.edu
5 Brown, Clair	Colorado State Forest Service	Clair.Brown@ColoState.EDU
6 Christopoulos, Ted	South Metro Fire Rescue Authority	Ted.Christopoulos@southmetro.org
7 Cooke, Paul	Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Assoc.	paul@colofirechiefs.org
8 Dikken, Bruce	West Metro Fire Rescue	bdikken@westmetrofire.org
9 Ferguson, Rob	Grand Valley Fire Protection District	
10 Fiedler, Rob	Delta County Emer Mgmt	fiedler@deltacounty.com
11 Foley, Tim	CSFS	
12 Fritz, Doug	Hotchkiss Fire District	hfd1@tds.net
13 Gibbs, Dan	Colorado State Senate	
14 Graeber, Richard	Upper Pine Fire Protection District	rgraeber@upperpinefpd.org
15 Green, Gary	Red, White and Blue Fire District	ggreen@rwbfire.org
16 Grob, Darryl	Aspen Fire Protection District	
17 Harris, Chad	Rifle Fire Protection District	chharris@riflefiredept.org
18 Harvey, Mike	Plateau Valley Fire Prot. Dist.	
19 Hutton, Cliff	CO BLM Fire Operations	
20 Lauria, Nick	Northeast Teller County Fire Dist.	nlauria@netellerfire.org
21 Livingston, Donovan	Garfield County Sheriff's Office	dlivingston@garcosheriff.com
22 Lopez, Jane	CSFS/CO Prescribed Fire Council	jane.lopez@colostate.edu
23 Morgan, Mike	Rifle Fire Protection District	mimorgan@riflefiredept.org
24 Parsons, Sam	Fairmount Fire Protection District	sparsons@fairmountfire.org
25 Patterson, John	Plateau Valley Fire Prot. Dist.	
26 Richardson, Todd	CO BLM Fuels Operations	todd_richardson@blm.gov
27 Schroder, Steve	Hotchkiss Fire District	
28 Smith, Barry	Eagle County Emergency Management	Barry.Smith@eaglecounty.us
29 Stahlnecker, Jay	Larimer County Sheriffs Department	
30 Thompson, Scott	Basalt & Rural Fire Prot. Dist.	sthompson@basaltfire.org
31 Vale, Chuck	Division of Emergency Management	chuck.vale@state.co.us
32 Whitesell, Justin	Larimer County Sheriffs Department	whitesl@co.larimer.co.us
33		