

BLACK HILLS FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

Serving the Fire Departments of: Fall River, Custer, Pennington, Meade, Lawrence, Butte, Harding Counties
South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Wildland Fire Suppression
United States Forest Service, Black Hills National Forest, National Parks Service

MINUTES OF THE BLACK HILLS FIRE ADVISORY BOARD WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2017 @ 7:00 PM, GREAT PLAINS DISPATCH CENTER, S. HIGHWAY 16, RAPID CITY

Call meeting to order – Jason White call meeting to order.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Introduction of attendees & update contact roster – (please add/delete those on mailing list)

Special announcements: Jay Esperance said taha today was Jim Strain's last official day with State Wildland Fire and there will be a picnic bash on June 13 at Old Story Book Island.

Additional items for tonight's agenda

Approve minutes of Feb 21, 2017 meeting at BLM Office, Belle Fourche, SD motion by Hertel to approve, seconded by Hofer. Approved.

Old Business:

1. Training –
 - a. SD WFS office – Tamara said if anyone has training to please let her know to get it posted and noticed to as many as possible
 - b. County – various county's
 - i. Lawrence County, Mark said their pump and saw class is a little bit on hold, trying to find an appropriate time. Mark also said they are working on setting up a CAFS class for structural firefighting. If anyone knows of an instructor and/or a structure they could burn, let him know.
 - ii. Harding County is doing a saw class now.
 - c. BLM – no one present
 - d. USFS – most training is ongoing and done for now
 - e. NPS – no one present
 - f. East River area – Bob Vosburg said there is nothing going on East right now.
 - g.
2. Ross updates/changes – Chari Fox – not much right now, the new contract, IROC, was let and then protested so all is on hold. Could be at least another 120 days or more.
3. IQS Changes – SD WFS office, Tamara asked that if you add the middle name for individuals in IQS, as sometimes there are two individuals with the same first and last name and this confuses IQS.
4. 2018 Black Hills FAB Contract Committee mtg; – Tobin, Chair, Bell, Hofer, Blair, Strain, said they have met 3 times since the last BHFAB meeting. They have looked at other contracts from other states. They have looked at BIA, Idaho, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, trying to find common ground. Hofer said that our agreement is ahead of many of these other states. White asked Strain if he was willing to continue to serve on the Committee, Strain said he would step away. The Committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday evening. Contact Todd Tobin if interested in participating.
 - a. Draft of proposed agreement
 - b. timetable
 - c. survey to fire chiefs/departments they have been developing with questions and will be on-line and anonymous. This survey should be ready in the next couple weeks.

5. Wildfire Awareness Month – May 2017 – State Wildland Fire, Warren recapped the event at Main Street Square, and events at Journey Museum. Banners and other items were made for many depts., supported many depts. with open house and the coloring contest. Warren said he felt that the event was a success.
 - a. Recap of 2017 event
6. Using Compact resources – Compact Resource Committee – Fox, White, Harvey. Harvey was not in attendance and on an incident. Harvey was going to get the Resource Status program to be hosted on a server. More info at the next meeting.
 - a. Method to status local resources for assignments
7. Local Area Response Resources – Committee report; Jason White, Sheri Fox, Jim Strain & Roy Kottwitz. It was reported that until the Resource Status program is up and running first. The key point is that any department that status's themselves must continue to keep it updated.
 - a. Report at meeting
8. Run for Ruhl – May 6, 2017
 - a. Recap of event raised about \$18,000 with approx. 250 runners. It was a successful event and it appears that it will become an annual event on the first Saturday of May.
9. Fire Reporting App – Strain/State Wildland
 - a. App for reporting wildland fires to replace the “post card” Strain said he thought they were still about two years out to develop this app for phones.
 - b. InciWeb – Tobin said they are working on a new program and should be rolled out in early 2018.
10. Other

New Business:

1. Past fires – nothing at this time.
2. Current fire season – Pechota said it is slow nationally. The Boise people still believe there will be over all fire season, maybe a late season and generally in the west. Esperance said he had nothing to add to this.
3. Rocky Mountain IMT's – updates, changes, nominations,
 - a. Type 1 team – Pechota – said their team is full and ready to go.
 - b. Type 2 team – Esperance – said their team is full and good depth. They went to Kansas as the first team to go to Kansas for any fire.
 - c. Changes for upcoming year in teams
 - d. Special teams, nationwide – nothing at this time.
4. Pennington County/Rapid City IMT – update – Warren and Tobin
 - a. Warren said they had a meeting tonight to get additional members. Had some good representation from law enforcement, fire and a few others.
5. **Harding County resource requests for fires discussion- Strain**
 - a. Strain said that Harding County is part of the Northern Rockies and Miles City dispatch center. The biggest issue is that Harding County has poor to no radio coverage on the State digital or other local radio networks. Strain said that departments who would like to be considered to go to assist would have to status themselves Nationally. The State Duty officer is the key link for fires in Harding County.
 - b. Question: How does a department know if there is a fire in Harding Co? Depts. could get on the Duty Officer List Serve. Not much other way.
 - c. Question: If depts. status nationally then aren't they committed to go? Yes, and if they decline to go to another national fire then that fire dept. goes to the bottom of the call list.
6. Exploration of Establishing a Wildland REM Team: - Seals explained Rapid Extraction Module, REM's. similar to structure RIT teams. The REM teams are generally rope rescue, high angle, etc. They have been working with several other departments in the State who already have some of these specific skills. Pechota said their Type 1 team has used them in the past. Pechota said to make sure that any department who is staffing a

REM module that be the best of the best due to the extremely rough, steep, tough and hard areas. IF the module members are not fully qualified and physically fit they may not be what is truly needed. Bukovich said they have discussed with other departments what is needed and qualifications.

7. Discuss RCFD EMS/Ambulance Services at BH Area Wildland Incidents: - State Wildland – Strain said this topic came up during recent training of the “incident within the incident”. Seals said there is no intent of the RCFD to be the only provider of ambulance services. Strain said that generally for Type 3 incidents and higher there should be EMS standby. Not all ambulance services have agreements with State Wildland.
8. Review By-laws for Black Hills Fire Advisory Board – White and Tobin, White said no one has approached him. Tobin suggested to establish a committee to review. White said he will get the email list and then send out notice to the generally active members who might like to participate.
 - a. Contact agencies and county fire departments for input on revisions/updates
 - b. Report at meeting
9. Elections –
 - a. Vote on Chair Elect for 2017
 - i. Chair White will send email to County Reps and ask them to vote for one candidate by return email before the next BHFAB meeting.
10. Strain said State Wildland has purchased some Prevent Wildfire signs.
11. Other –

Next meeting dates: Agreed to have it on Wednesday, September 27, 2017.
2017 Months with 5th days: June 29 & 30; Aug 30 & 31; Sept 27.
Location: Custer VFD Fire Hall @ 7:00 PM MDT.

Adjourn Tobin motion to adjourn, seconded by Hertel. Carried.

Great Plains Dispatch is located behind the Mystic Ranger District office on S. Highway 16, Rapid City.

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