**Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 3, 2011**

**Call to Order**

President John McDonald called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. at Lakewood Fire Department, Station 2-1 located at 5000 Steilacoom Blvd. SW, Lakewood, WA. The following were present:

Ron Schaub, Steilacoom PS Jeff Jensen, Tacoma FD

Ken Sharp, Lakewood FD Paul Tinsley, Lakewood FD

Jim Sharp, Lakewood FD Karl Roth, Lakewood FD

Eric Norton, Lakewood FD Mitch Sagers, UPFD

Lloyd Christianson, UPFD Stephen Murphy, UPFD

Dan Rankin, UPFD Bob Black, Gig Harbor FD

Eric Watson, Gig Harbor FD John Burgess, Gig Harbor FD

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

Penny Hulse, Gig Harbor FD Doug Willis, CPFR

Keith Wright, CPFR Ruth Obadal, CPFR

Bryan Pearson, CPFR Baron Banks, CPFR

Judy Murphy, CPFR Radcliffe McKenzie, CPFR

Gary McVay, PCFD #13 Andy McAfee, PCFD #14

Tom Lique, PCFD #16 Guy Allen, PCFD #16

Chuck West, PCFD #16 Claudia Jones, PCFD #16

Bob Vellias,SPFR Reggie Romines, GFR

Ryan Baskett, GFR Todd Jensen, GFR

Tom Mason, GFR Steve Richards, GFR

Bob Skaggs, GFR Jerry Thorson, PCFD #22

John McDonald, PCFD #22 Ed Goodlet, PCFD #22

Garry Olson, PCFD #23 Michael Smith, PCFD #26

Steve Bailey, PCDEM Ken Parrish, PCDEM

Wayne Wienholz, PCFPB Dic Gribbon, PSCAA

Norma Pancake, PCEMS Joe Quinn, Attorney

Denise Menge, Recorder

**Flag Salute**

Ken Sharp led the flag salute and welcomed everyone to Lakewood Fire. They also hosted the County Commissioners meeting last week. They are hoping that by 8:30 p.m. Tuesday evening they will be moving full steam ahead as West Pierce Fire & Rescue.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the January 6, 2011 meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Reggie Romines reported that Kathy Hale was not feeling well today and unable to attend the meeting.

**Correspondence**

President McDonald reported he received a nice card from Dave Dupille thanking the Association for the certificate we presented him at his retirement. Also, Dave is interested in continuing to serve on the County Code Board of Appeals as our representative.

**Guest Speaker**

Keith Wright reported we have two (2) speakers today. The first speaker is John Tupper, the second is State Fire Marshal Chuck Duffy.

John Tupper stated his purpose for being here is quick. He would like to invite everyone to a Fire and Emergency Services Exploring Chief’s Luncheon meeting on March 22nd at the Liberty Inn in DuPont. This will be an informational lunch meeting regarding Scouts (see attached handout). A formal invitation will be mailed out to all departments. His contact information is: John Tupper, Sr. Exploring Executive, 253-468-8244, [john.tupper@scouting.org](mailto:john.tupper@scouting.org) .

State Fire Marshal, Chuck Duffy, thanked everyone for the opportunity to be here and speak today. He went over what his job duties entail. The NFRs program for emergency reporting will be taken over by the State Chiefs. His biggest goal is to maintain the integrity of their department. They have already lost 15% of their staff. They have a total of 47 employees throughout the state. There is a lot of transition going on right now. A couple of other goals they are working on are upgrading the Fire Training Academy facilities which were built in 1985 and never really completed, also ensuring small departments have access to training.

The question was asked how Specialized Teams like Haz Mat utilize the Mob Plan for reimbursement, etc.? That is a policy decision that has to be made. Jeff Jensen reported the State Chiefs are working on developing a process to determine what a Haz Mat team is and to type it and add it to the Mob plan book. It is an all risk plan and part of the problem is that when a Duty Officer looks in the book and there’s nothing there referencing a Haz Mat team, they don’t know what to send, etc.

Chuck Duffy thanked everyone for their time today. The Association thanked him for his presentation.

President McDonald reported the Executive Board changed / restructured the agenda.

**Unfinished Business**

**2011 Goals Finalized:** President McDonald reported the Executive Board finalized the goals for the Association and they were sent out with the Agenda. On the list of goals, you will notice that a name of an E-Board member follows each goals. This person will be the one following up on that particular goal and would also be the person to contact if you have any questions, etc.

**Hydrant Maintenance Agreements:** Radcliffe McKenzie reported that he is still in contact with and talking with the water purveyors on this subject. Everything is in flux right now as there is a pending lawsuit with the City of Tacoma. If anyone has any comments, questions, concerns, etc. on the draft agreement, please forward them to Radcliffe McKenzie at [rmckenzie@centralpiercefire.org](mailto:rmckenzie@centralpiercefire.org) .

Attorney Joe Quinn reported on the Lane case regarding Seattle Public Utilities trying to get the city to pay for water and the cost of maintenance. At trial court level they won the case. Burien was dragged into the lawsuit and they let Burien Fire out of the case in appeals. The owner should be responsible to maintain and that would be the water company’s responsibility. We just use the hydrants to get the water on the fire. We don’t own them and don’t want to start taking on the responsibility of maintaining what we don’t own, etc. Discussion followed.

**Pre-Incident Surveys:** Radcliffe McKenzie stated he is still collecting data and is waiting for more responses from the survey that was sent out. He will be meeting with Ken Parrish at DEM next week to look at the storage and sharing of the information. President McDonald asked for those that have not completed and sent in the survey for their organization, to please do so.

**Other:** President McDonald reported last week was the Data Analysis class that was held at East Pierce. Those who attended came away with a clear understanding of how they can better utilize the data we have. Also, it is very important for us to be calculating our data in the same way, etc. He would like to form a committee to look at developing a common methodology of collecting and analyzing the data, etc. He will send out an email seeking interest for participation in this. It does not have to be an IT person.

**New Business**

Chuck West reported he has heard rumors that the Paramedic Program at TCC is going to be cut. Norma Pancake stated that it is not only the program at TCC, but at Colleges all over due to funding issues. They are looking at high cost things to cut and this is one of them. She would like to recommend the Association write a letter of endorsement to the State, not just the college, to encourage them to keep the Paramedic and EMT Programs intact. Losing these programs would be detrimental to Pierce County and surrounding counties as well. Lloyd Christianson moved and John Burgess seconded to have the Association write a letter of endorsement to keep the Paramedic and EMT Programs intact. MOTION CARRIED. Norma will get the contact names to President McDonald of who the letter should be addressed to.

Doug Willis reported that Jerry Thorson, John Burgess and himself met with Steve Bailey and Wayne Wienholz regarding code enforcement. He feels there is some value in ramping up what we do in the unincorporated areas. It would be good to put together a committee to brainstorm the pros and cons to best serve our communities in this way.

President McDonald stated at the last meeting, Jeff Jensen had mentioned that his position on the State Chiefs Association would be open. He encouraged everyone to be thinking about whether or not they would be interested in putting in for that position. Jeff Jensen stated his position is not a geographical one, once you’re elected you get assigned Counties. He currently has Pierce, Thurston and Mason Counties, but that does not mean those would be the counties you would receive. As far as time commitment goes, he attends the Chiefs meetings in each of the counties. The State Chiefs meets every other month and the locations vary. They do not pay for your travel or conference, etc. If anyone is interested in the position, now is the time to be thinking about and talking to your Chief or Commissioners, etc. Jeff stated he is also a representative on four (4) state committees. As far as the time commitment goes, it just depends on how involved you want to be and/or how involved your agency will let you be, etc. He has been doing this for the last twelve (12) years and Steve Marstrom held the position before him. The election is in May.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Program/Speaker Committee**

Keith Wright stated he is working on getting someone from the Survey and Rating Bureau. Also, Rick Cheney regarding the Fire Service Apprentice Program. In June the speaker will be Dr. Mann who is an Economist at UPS. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, please contact him.

**Audit Committee**

Andy McAfee stated the audit committee has not met yet.

**Banquet/Awards Committee**

Todd Jensen reported they are planning on moving ahead with holding the Banquet at the Fircrest Country Club again. The goals is to keep it at the $45.00 cost per person. President McDonald stated that one of the goals the Executive Board adopted was to increase the participation from the Association members at the banquet. As well as to increase the number of nominations received for the Chief Dan Packer Memorial Award.

**Nominations Committee- DORMANT**

**UASI Committee**

Jeff Jensen reported they meet again on the 8th to finalize everything.

**Regional Communications Committee**

No report.

**Code Committee**

No report.

**DIVISION REPORTS:**

**EMS**

Judy Murphy reported last month a copy of the updated MCI plan was distributed. Steve Murphy distributed handouts of the updated/corrected MCI plan. They would like to bring this back for final approval so they can take it to the County EMS Council in April. Andy McAfee thanked Steve Murphy for doing all of the work on this. Andy moved and Jerry Thorson seconded to approve the updated MCI plan as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

Judy reported CPFR will be holding Response to Violence Active Shooter Training on February 7th, 8th and 11th at Station 66 at three different times during each day. If you are interested in attending / observing any of these training sessions, please contact her. You are more than welcome to come and see what this training is all about. Also, $14,000.00 from the MMRS grant was received for equipment for the class.

Good Samaritan is having an EMS open house on February 10th from 11:30 to 1:00.

This Association was instrumental in bringing forward the issue of Divert. She distributed a handout with divert statistics on it (see attached). Thanks to everyone that has pushed for improvement on this issue. You were right, and she was wrong.

President McDonald acknowledged and thanked Judy Murphy for all of the work she did to get the MMRS grant for the Active Shooter equipment. Thank you for doing that.

**MetroTraining**

Bryan Pearson reported the Metro Training drill will be next Wednesday at Gig Harbor. The topic is extrication and Tracy Lyon is the point of contact. The Metro Training Coordinators group had a good turn-out at the last meeting and trying to get more agencies involved. The focus of the group has changed some to look at the WAC 296-305 changes and the significant impacts it will have to training. The group is looking at how to work through these impacts. Discussion followed.

**Training – TEW Training/Exercise**

Gary McVay reported applications are on the rise for training and exercise funds. There is a lot of competition for funds. Consider having a multi-agency and/or multi-discipline training if you are submitting for funds as these take priority over single jurisdiction.

Exercise has started planning meetings for the Water Rescue Exercise that will be held on June 9th at Brown’s Point. There is also work being done on developing a regional resource plan.

**OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS:**

**American Red Cross**

No representative present.

**Department of Emergency Management**

Ken Parrish reminded everyone of the monthly testing of the Lahar sirens. These tests are done the first Monday of every month at noon. Press releases are going out. There are 17 AHAB sirens and 10 additional sirens that are maintained by the cities. They will preface the test with a Pierce County Alert notice in the inundation zones at 0800 the morning of the tests.

There is no news regarding the 2011 grant guidance, it is still on hold.

**EMS**

Norma Pancake thanked everyone that has participated in the state survey regarding pediatrics. They are currently at less than 50% compliance for this survey. Please check to see if your agency has completed and submitted this survey. February 11th is the deadline.

Norma reported that WAC 246-976 has been approved by the Governor which changes the equipment levels on EMS vehicles.

The end of February is the West Region EMS Conference. Pierce County will be granting OTEP credit for those attending. PXT is a presenter on Thursday and the EMS Officer Development is on Friday.

**Fire Marshal**

Wayne Wienholz reported that he sent out an email this morning with the statistic reports. He went over a case they had involving a leaking sprinkler system at a 3 story home on the water in Gig Harbor.

Wayne reported that he has submitted his letter of retirement. March 31st will be his last day. He thanked everyone for all of the support over the years.

**State Chiefs/Western Chiefs**

Jeff Jensen thanked everyone that attended the Legislative Day. There was a PSA announcement for volunteers – please send him an email if you’d like him to send you a list of names for potential volunteers.

The State Chiefs will be taking the NFRS reporting back over from the State Fire Marhsals. They will be contracting with Emergency Reporting. There will be no charge for the annual report. You may see a cost if you request detailed reports out of your data that you send in.

The conference will be in May. The announcement should be coming out next week.

Legislatively, things are moving long. If you can participate in testifying when needed, please notify the office if you have a different position than the State Chiefs, just so that they are aware and prepared.

**PS Clean Air Agency**

No report.

**PC Fire Commissioners**

Bill Jarmon reported their next meeting is at Edgewood on the 24th at 7:00 pm. Good luck to Lakewood and University Place with the upcoming election.

**Dept. of Natural Resources**

No representative present.

**Good of the Order**

Ruth Obadal reported she is retiring the end of this month. Her last day will be February 28th. March 7th will be an informal event. She will get the announcement sent out to everyone. She does plan on staying somewhat involved at a lower level and she’ll remain involved nationally as well. Doug Willis gave a brief overview of her career – she was hired in Kansas City in 1977 when they first allowed women to apply. She was there for 18 years and was their first female Battalion Chief and EMS Officer. She then went to Eugene,OR for ten (10) years and then Puyallup for five (5) years.

Joe Quinn commented on impact fees and having a unified approach. Washington State Chiefs is working on an implementation guide. South King Fire and Rescue has developed the King County approach. He will be speaking for Rice Fergus Miller in March at Suncadia. He’ll be presenting a model approach on this.

John Burgess reported Bob Black’s retirement party will be held on April 1st. Flyers were distributed. He’ll also send it out via email again.

Gary McVay reported several of our members are assisting the IMT in Snohomish County with the memorial services for the department of corrections officer. The memorial service will be held on Tuesday at 1:00 at the Comcast Center in Everett. He’s not sure if they’ll need help the day of the event or not.

Gary McVay introduced Ron Schaub from Steilacoom Public Safety.

John McDonald announced that the PC Pipes and Drums will be playing at the memorial service as well as at the West Region EMS Conference.

Steve Bailey reported they are working on a program to help wounded veterans transition back to the work force. They will be setting up mentorships for 45-60 days. There is no cost as it is being covered by grant money. This is to give them confidence to transition back to a civilian workforce. It is the first program of its kind in the US. They are very excited about this great opportunity. He will get information to Keith Wright for the speaker program.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

*The next Regular Meeting will be March 10, 2011 at DuPont Fire Department located at 1780 Civic Drive.*