

**Location: Fire District 3 (White City)**

**Date: January 18, 2022**

**Time: 0900**

## **Call to Order:**

**Approval of Last Month's Minutes:** Motion by McLaughlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rubrecht

**Approval of Financial Report:** Motion by McLaughlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hammond - \$4,716.58 in business checking account.

## **Additions to the Agenda:**

## **Special Guests:**

Wilson Wade – DEQ- Taking over the complaint system for the open burn program. Send all complaints directly to him. Wade receives emails from the complaint phone line. His email is Wilson.wade@deq.oregon.gov

## **Section Reports:**

### **Operations:**

- **Fire** - Updates being done to the frequency list. Please review and send updates or changes to Operations Chief Hussey. Deadline for changes/updates is the end of February.
- **EMS** – No report.

### **Training [RITA] -**

- Website has registration link to NFA Leadership and Supervision Frameworks for Success on February 11-12, 2022, at District 3 in White City. Cost is \$100.
- Regional FF1 academy just finished 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend with 25 students.
- RITA just voted and awarded life membership to Dave Blakely and Nicco Holt. Similar requirements for life membership to RVFCA.

### **Prevention [RVFPC, SOFCO]:**

- No report.

## **Liaison Reports:**

- **911 Centers** – No report.

**OSFM** – Rubrecht: Chief Michael Heffner has left OSFM. Mariah Rollins is in his position in the interim. His position will be posted soon, and three other positions are posted currently. A Communications Specialist position is open until the 19<sup>th</sup> and Logistics Chief and Chief Deputy position are both open until the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Apparatus Committee is meeting to talk about specifications for the new apparatus and working on a 75-piece distribution list.

Mobilization is also meeting (Chief Hussey) and working on mobilization plan updates to include appendixes about immediate response and positioning resources. Sara has

been working on SOFSMA analyst program and is working on producing a training video.

Community Risk Reduction position- Interviews were conducted last week. Month or two out before that is filled.

Lake and Klamath Mobilization Coordinator position is being worked on this week.

**OFMA** – Need to identify a representative.

**EMS** – Mercy flights has been busy, volumes increased by 15% over the last 2 months. Omicron is hitting Mercy hard since the holidays. Even new Vice President of Operations, Pat Songer, is working the ambulance to help meet community needs.

Signed contract in December for the CAD2CAD interface. Working with ECSO to begin the implementation of that interface.

Mercy has a brand-new helicopter they just picked up in Tennessee. Mercy will now have 2 units for this region. Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> there is an open house to see the helicopter. The unit is identical to the current M105, so training should be the same.

**Haz-Mat** – No report.

**PIO** – Quarterly meetings starting on February 2, 2022, from 1400-1530 hrs. DFPA is in middle of hiring process for PIO. Interviews will be held next week.

**New Officers:** Brian Hendrix, Secretary, Tallie Jackson Treasurer, Vice President John Holmes, President is Natalie Weber.

### **Emergency Management – Jackson County-**

Rob Dalke is the new assistant Emergency Manager. Rob is a retired military aviation medivac.

Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Plan Coordinator position- Teresa Vaughn will start January 31, 2022. This is a shared position between Jackson and Josephine Counties. Working on and managing the joint plan.

Working through EOP update, pretty active for next couple months.

Zone Haven will be kicking off now. Reaching out to groups to start reviewing the zones. Two cities still need to review their zones. Goal will be to have zones to be published pre-fire season. Then work that into the public education, and a Know Your Zone element for all of Jackson County.

Homeland Security Terrorist State Grant is now open. It is due April 3, 2022. State has done it differently. Straight allocation to every county and then there is a competitive grant above and beyond that.

Aaron Ott- We were successful in DEQ grant. Jackson County wide air quality and smoke impact study and response plan. Also put in through Jackson County for a confined space rescue group, and ARFF training. Then ESPA Park and FEMA grant for the Greenway.

### **Josephine County-**

Ring - Quarterly EMD meeting tomorrow. Will be going over grant and evacuation projects. Also, some MHMP updates.

Talked to Zone Haven and have received money for a 1-year project. If it occurs and contract is awarded, then those on the edge of the counties we will need to make sure those zones are mapped correctly.

### **OFCA –**

Chief Horton is on OFCA Board of Directors and representative to Western Fire Chief's Association. Senate Bill 762 helped us to serve our local communities and there is good cleanup language going on.

House Bill 2927 legislation that pulls office of EM out of military and into their own department and then also the OSFM out of OSP and into their own department.

Couple bills we are tracking:

Media Access bill is a collaborative between public safety and journalists. Going through the legislative process now.

Bill being introduced that will look to expand cancer coverage for firefighters. Includes female reproductive cancer and bladder cancer. Too early to know where they will go.

Scott Stanton is president. Roundtables will be a go and conference is a go. Roundtable may be a last-minute cancel but at this time is still a go. Conference will have more notification due to logistics.

ECSO executive director Margie Moulin is set to retire at the end of September 2022. At the next ECSO meeting they will be building a process for executive director recruitment. Margie's celebration will be at a later date. She has 31 years of experience.

**SWOCG –** Agency is heavily into hiring and recruiting. 762 has increased staff but it is challenging to find people to fill these roles. Application for prevention received 18,000 hits. Two additional permanent Forest Officers and an additional Protection Supervisor.

Currently interviewing next week for the ADF in GP. Also dispatch coordinator for Medford.

5 months until fire season. Current dry up is a little discouraging.

Orange net- Additional channel available this season.

Camera at King Mountain.

Number of fire team members is down. Tyler McCarty is IC of Team 3.

Question from Karl to DEQ- Now have a solid waste specialist in house. Hazardous waste person is in Eugene.

Question from Sara on when to bring on seasonal firefighters. End of May is when they tend to bring on forest officers. Karl is trying but most of the force is seasonal and often people coming to work while they are out of school. Do have ability to bring contractors on if needed.

**Chaplains** – No report.

**IMT –**

Going to Jackson and Josephine County to see what kind of personnel are available to enhance the program. Several other areas are currently building teams. Our local policy is the only one that exists and is being used as a model policy throughout the state. Sara gave some kudos about the website.

**SOFRC-**

Chris Chambers- Doing great work growing the organization. Advocating for fuels reduction project. Great work from a grant under the Oregon Watershed Incident Board. To find out more go to [www.rogueforestpartners.org](http://www.rogueforestpartners.org).

Education at local high schools under a grant from ODF. Medford, Central and Phoenix High Schools are involved.

Rogue Forest Land grant for Forest Service- Likely to get funded. 10-year project \$40 million matched by another \$40 million locally. Total of \$80 million investment over the next 10 years.

Growing as an organization. Added a 20-hour a week assistant and a Monitoring Coordinator.

Prescription for Safety- This is a thinning project to create better ingress and egress, located out behind Phoenix.

Senate Bill 762- Grant opportunities came and went for that Landscape Restoration program. Several applications from our area. The largest ask was the West Bear Landscape at \$3 million. Another smaller one from Applegate and Ashland. In and graded by committee. There was more money asked for than is available.

West Bear Question- Grants from the ODF 762 fund will be awarded in approximately a month, then another month and getting to work in March/April. Work must be completed by June of 2023.

## Old Business:

- **Open Burn Task Group** – Chief Hanley

Will be getting this group together by end of the month and first of next month. Looking at studies on how to approach this regionally. Will be bringing graphs and charts to help us.

- **Evac Planning Group** – Chief Prince

Recap- EM, LE and RVFCA needs to find ways to better enhance fire getting in sync with EM. We have found that during the last few fire seasons we are late getting people in the loop. We have broken down the mission into 2 items. IA and early notification process, and then EA sheltering, upgrades/downgrades etc. Initial mission has a target date of March 1. Maintain focus on IA period. Also recognize that there are different regions within these two counties. So far started out by looking at the different methods to get notifications out. Active 911, PulsePoint, texting pages that are second and third alarms, ECSO pages, etc. We need to bring some effort to this group on enhancing our FDBC role during those early stages. One problem is EM does not have a good point of contact. FDBC as they are getting ramped up might be a point that can help notifications with EM and become a go between for IC to EM. Also, an effort on IM pool to ramp up what the intent of that group is for. There are times when a neighboring agency might have a need and you can head over to assist quickly. Part of this should be someone looking at evacuations as part of our life safety mission.

Public education is needed so that we can use wording like “threatened structures” and people don’t panic.

Level 1, 2 and 3. Considering a “Courtesy Alert” to make people aware there is a fire in their neighborhood. Trying to stay ahead and give out more information so people do not feel like they are not getting enough information.

**Question-** Sara: Will the current policy that calls for an evacuation coordinator be reviewed?  
Prince: Yes, we will be reviewing this to see what needs changed. If it’s not working change it, or if it should be working, figure out how to make it so.

From Sara- IMTs are starting to implement the placard system statewide. Worth a discussion and get a presentation on what they are doing. Sara will get a contact person to have someone come and explain the system to see if it is something we want to implement.

- **Lifetime Membership Proposals** – Chief Prince. Lang Johnson had been submitted for a lifetime membership. Conversation about getting past people recognized was brought up. What are we going to do with those folks? Name recognition on the website was one idea. Sending out a survey/voting to membership listing people who were nominated and have a write in option and allow people to vote yes or no.

## New Business / Issues for Consideration:

- **Association Strategic Plan Proposal** - See RFP for Strategic Planning Services proposal. Discussion needed about forming a task force of 5-6 to work with a consultant to craft and implement the strategic planning process. A budget needs to be discussed.

McLaughlin- Great idea. Will bring us closer to the table and more united as a group. Applegate had one done last year and it was over \$25,000. Some of the people that have

worked for that company have branched off and are working for another company. Pricing is going to be all over the map. We have another person in the district who was a Fire Chief and now has his own company. Talk of reaching out to him. Encouraged to move forward and build back the cohesiveness of the group and understand where we will be in the next five years.

Could be someone in house vs hired consultant. McLaughlin stated they could bring folks in the room to do conduct this process. Better served to reach with what we have on the table and get an RFP. Rubrecht offered her assistance.

Will continue to step forward slowly and reach out to a few contractor's names for pricing and scope. Will come back next month and present what we find. Will reach out to a few members of this group to also help.

- **Update RVFCA Logo-**

Current logo is not good enough to blow up and use. Needs to be cleaned up and enhanced. Also discussing possible changes.

McLaughlin- Will look at updating and get pricing. GPFR hired Badge Frame to create their new logo.

- Education/Collaboration session for future meetings Will carve out time to go over new technology items and/or innovative projects/items we can share.
  - 911Eye
  - FirstDue – CAD2CAD Interface
  - Local Emergency Planning Committee *Add this as a standing report on next agenda.*
  - AlertWildfire Camera System
  - Grant Opportunities/Collaboration
  - Tango-Tango Radio Integration
- **Annual preseason meeting-** Typically in May. May hold the meeting a month earlier. Discuss it again next month and set a date for the meeting. Agenda item.

## **Good of the order:**

### **Applegate update-**

Thanks to those that participated and helped with the Captains exam. Hoping to move forward and fill their vacancies before the end of the fiscal year.

Chief Wolfard is writing an AFG regional grant with Jacksonville and Williams for new radios.

Interviews conducted for Community Communications Liaison. Volunteer position that will work on Facebook and social media. Will write local newspaper articles. Also looking at a volunteer mechanic position to help fleet.

Vehicle numbering system should be completed by the end of June. 51-59 series.

Station One Housing Project should be completed by end of March. Looking at hiring some seasonal firefighters. New Type 6 should be done by end of March also.

**ODF update-**

Building three Type 6's. OR-OSHA heat rules. They had people out on fires from OSHA looking for issues and ODF had project fires where they were given warnings.

Rubrecht- Here to help anyone. Just let her know.

Prince- Chief Turnbull is feeling good and prognosis is good. Still in recovery mode.

Red Cross- Cayce Hoover is the new Disaster Program manager. From Georgia and recently moved to Ashland. Worked in preparedness and response and recovery programs. Was in the Peace Corps. Worked in Netherlands to respond to missing persons in Iran and Syria. Also, resettlement of refugees in Atlanta.

Jerry Colivas who has been helping her with onboarding.

Starting back up the Home Fire Campaign. Planning for some canvassing events for February. She would like fire departments to identify areas/neighborhoods we would like to see them out at.

**District 3 update-**

Chief Horton- Growth year for strategic investment and succession development. We now have three Deputy Fire Marshals. Brian Murdock has retired and is working back training the new Deputy Fire Marshals.

Adding a Special Operations BC- Administrative BC that will oversee our Wildland Urban Interface Program, Community Care and Risk Reduction programs.

Candidates in background for April recruit academy. Six new firefighters will be hired, and part of the process will be to staff a Wildland Urban Interface Resiliency Response Task Force. Details on how this will be used is still being worked on.

Strategies to staff 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Care Response Unit.

Fuels reduction- They have a chipper from a WUI grant and if needed please ask to borrow it.

**Jacksonville update-**

Painter- Station to be completed this summer. Successful on getting some wildland grants. Will be doing burning and chipping. Twenty Firewise Communities within the city limits. They are hoping to add more.

**Grants Pass update-**

DeLonge- Applications are being accepted for a Fire Chief.

DeLonge was appointed to Deputy Chief on January 2, 2022. BC Lawless is working 40 hrs/week to assist with the budget process. We will be hiring in house for a BC position.

**Next Meeting:** February 15, 2022 @ PW/Zoom

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned.