

Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association – Monthly Meeting Minutes

Location: Fire District 3 – White City

Date: January 17th, 2023

Time: 0900

Call to Order: 0858

Guests- Chief Vetter Introduced- Dahna Black who is the field Representative for Senator Merkley's office, and Mike Zamore, who is Chief of Staff for Senator Merkley. They are here to help build a good connection to our local fire service. They are also looking at the wildland fire issues we have. In addition, they recognize the issues between federal, state, and private lands that creates complications when dealing with fires. They are trying to figure out ways to help make communities safer. They also recognize that smaller agencies have a tough time to get federal dollars. They are here to listen and see how we can make it easier to get access to these dollars and encouraging us to talk regularly with ODF and Salem. A lot of money is coming through the state. There are things at state level they can be helpful with, and other things that they cannot. Mike Zamore is based in DC and is happy to be a conduit to the DC level.

Chief Thompson gave a thank you to our guests.

Approval of Last Month's Minutes: Minutes for last month Chief Holmes, Chief Crume 2nd. Motion Passes.

Approval of Financial Report: Motion by Chief Sartain 2nd by Chief Crume Motion Passes

Additions to the Agenda: None

New Members / Special Guests:

- James Eddy (Wolf Creek Fire Chief) Not here.
- Brandon Kerns (ODF GP Unit Forester) Is here.

Section Reports:

Operations (Fire/EMS):

- Operations group has not met for a while but has a meeting planned for next month.

Training (RITA):

- NFPA FF 1 academy has started. DPSST winter schools is coming up soon.
- NFPA instructor 3 class out at Applegate March 11th-12th.
- S420 class in Hillsborough. Last class here was 6 to 7 years ago,
- RITA will be hosting an NFA introduction to unified command for all hazards incidents in Applegate.
- NFA is offering leadership and supervision series starting this week.
- RITA is pursuing grant funds for a 20000-gallon water tank out at Applegate.
- If you have any needs or questions, please see Chief Wolfard after.
- Chief Goodnough will be taking over.

- Training survey coming out from Sara soon.
- March 9th and 10th a Frank Viscuso class is coming soon from Medford.

Prevention (RVFPC, SOFCO):

- Nominations for officers will be January. If you value, the prevention coop then we need to have some folks step up and help take the leadership. COVID has set the group back.

Fire Defense Board (Holmes/Thompson):

- 14 responses have done so far, 6 people on the ballot. Small FDBC meeting right after today's meeting.
- Sara we will be working on the repositioning plan for the upcoming summer. OSFM has a plan to deploy resources locally. There is a request to have local stations host these task forces. This will be an alternate to a hotel. Please let Sara know.

Incident Management Team/Pool (Hussey):

- No report

Liaison Reports:

911 Centers (Harris/Guenther) – **No** report. Staffing is still a struggle.

OSFM (Stacy/Lashley/Rubrecht/Kusz) –

Sara- Risk reduction grant is due by January 31st. Engine program, follow up questions are due today.

MOB plan committee has been meeting this year. Chief Hussey is the local representative and will take back concerns back to the group for our region.

ASA Agencies (Clough/Sartain/Hammond/Mathews) –

Mercy Flights Clough is helping to tackle national shortage. State funding to create an EMS apprenticeship program. This is attended to be like law enforcement and trade apprenticeship programs. Number of partners regionally to help create this. This is not a Mercy Flights project but is being ran by Mercy flights on behalf of our region. Already experiencing challenges to get people on the team.

Whipple- Issue with transport of high flow nasal cannulas due to the amounts of O2 that are needed. A salesman had been at Rogue RT that utilized an Airvo that blends atmospheric air with O2. Before they had 30-60 minutes of O2 available and now they can have 5-7 hours using the new device. First in region to do a transport like this. Currently only on ground units, but soon air units will also get them.

Chief Sartain 32 applicants will go through process tomorrow. This will help with Ashland and regionally due to mutual aid effect.

Hammond- Currently fully staffed. Had been as low as 50%.

Haz-Mat (Thompson) –

HazMat 8- Chief Howard is now the team administrator position. Kip Gray will be HazMat operations and assume oversight of team. Rich Martin will continue as training outreach. Contact numbers for Team 8 were updated at ECSO. Primary contact is to ECSO, backup BC, and then Chief Howard or Kip Gray. Last month OSFM hosted regional teams roundtable. They are looking at typing teams and regional support. A lot of money goes out from OSFM to support the teams and only some comes back. Medford's biennial HazMat training budget was exhausted by sending members to tech school. Klamath Team is still struggling, hopefully they will stabilize as it is a huge hole if it falls. Next TAG meeting is next month and will update after. Current outreach is to provide a hazmat field day for the FF1.

PIO (Weber) –

Weber- HB 4087 is now in effect. Training and certifications and rules are still being talked about. There is a meeting tomorrow and once we get final materials, we will send out to all, and hopefully present next month. Agency is still dealing with the details. This bill is specifically for natural disasters, so it is not an all access for media to all incidents.

Next PIO meeting Wednesday Feb 1 1400-1530, if interested let Natalie know.

Question was asked if there is any effort to get PIO group and media into the same room and have a conversation. Answer- no, Natalie will most likely will be having that meeting with the media group. She has already been doing some similar meetings each year.

Emergency Management (Powers/Ring/Ott) –

Ashland- First emergency manager will be Kelly Burns on February 1st. Todd Stubbs will be promoted from Captain to BC. Merging with SOU to provide an emergency center, which will be South County Emergency Center.

CWPP (Vonn) –

Talk about the strategic initiative and investment. About \$280,000 dollars' worth. Many chippers and trailers were awarded. This will help many agencies develop their green debris program. Jackson/Josephine County will get \$50,000 to help get programs up. Advertising, bin rentals, drop off sites, etc. are part of this plan. Ideally agency stations will be able to host these green debris events. Folks that are receiving the equipment need to host a green debris day. That is the only requirement, and it is only for this year.

The OSFM grant that is due the 31st is exciting. This is from SB762. She has heard about some cool projects coming into play. Jackson County is looking for greenway project and then have Talent and Phoenix to also apply to help with this project and get a long-term plan for the greenway. Williams/Applegate have a great project idea. Shady Cover, Butte Falls, and Prospect looking at a similar program. Josephine county is looking for a defensible space cost share. FD5 may be partnering up with Greensprings and Colestein to do a green debris project.

RV Integrated Fire Plan update- We need to get projects into the CWPP. Met with Ashland lions rogue as they have a project they are working on.

OFCA (Brown)–

Legislative session starts today with lots of stuff going on. Most of the work is watching what is going to happen. OFCA is watching the OSFM separation, and we will continue to monitor to ensure they have good staffing and financial support. Also make sure things like the upstaffing

grant can continue. The Oregon fire service capacity grant is also being worked on. Chief Brown is helping with the selection committee for this. Some dates were pushed out for review due to having so many applications.

OFCA Roundtable in Eugene is coming up soon. Working on scholarships to allow Fire Chiefs that cannot financially afford to be a member, to have financial support to do so.

Do not know how many dollars were asked for. Not sure what was the total amount allocated for the grants.

Any word on reevaluating 10-million-dollar cap Answer- No

SWOCG (McCarty/Quinones) –

ODF Update-

Have not met for a few months. Every year a conference called SONCAL happens, and it is meant to get us all together ahead of the fire season. This year it will be March 22-23.

Seasonal employment announcements are out. ODF is looking for people that have experience.

There were risk map discussions about having work groups in each county. Then everything was put on hold. Forest reclassification process letters coming out soon to homeowners.

Same compliment of resources for this summer as we had last summer. Last season of the Western Oregon operating plan between ODF and BLM. If it goes away, then it would double cost for local ODF to keep same resources. BLM did hire new manager Chris Globe from NIFC. ODF IMT training is March 4th -6th. Looking to have 3 fully staffed teams. Darrel Laws is new unit Chief for CalFire Siskiyou unit. Also 2 new unit foresters coming this year.

Forest Service Update- 2300 acres of treatment so far this year. Weather is not cooperating as it is too wet. Year round hiring model and 75 % of needed positions have been hired. 9 out of 13 supervisors were hired.

Couple of local agreements between Forest Service and local fire agency. Applegate has one and IV is also looking for one. Looking to do a blanket agreement so if you have interest in an agreement let Dan know.

Interagency side update IC teams will be dropping from 9 to 8. Something to be aware of and taking care of internally. So far there is no traction on being able to get agreements for local agencies to be on teams.

Chaplains (Saada) –

No report

SOFRC (Chambers) –

No report

LEPC (Bates/Powers) –

No report

Old Business:

- RVFCA Strategic Planning Group- Will be looking at putting together meetings beginning of February. This process will give us a blueprint of where we want to go. Chief Thompson stated we have great programs and committees, but we need a vision on where to go.

New Business / Issues for Consideration:

- Letter of support for GP Water Treatment Plant (DeLonge)- Completed.

Good of the order:

Chief Holmes- Legislative day. Has been doing a lot of work with Merkley's office. House bill being discussed. A great learning day.

Jenny Vetter with IV- Request to hold an annual chili cook off. Something that can draw public in and a way to kick off fire season. If every district were to participate in-house first, with a possible open house for local community involvement. Could do this local event in conjunction with something like green day debris disposal. Having our local ODF partners to show how we work side by side with them. It will also help show how we impact our communities and can be a recruitment and retention opportunity. It could help build teamwork and comradery with each agency ahead of us working on a large emergency together. Concept was left and will be emailed to membership.

Chief Vetter is committee chair for Chili cookoff event and will take point.

Chief Painter- Moved into the new station. Cleared about 800 acres on border of Jacksonville and private properties for wildland fire protection.

Chief Hammond- No update.

Chief Hanley- FD 5 broke ground on public safety center in Phoenix. Remodel going on for station 4 and training tower permits are at county. Promotional exams for all position at the department.

Chief Rasor- March 2nd,3rd, and 4th will be the State of Jefferson EMS conference.

Chief Hussey- State Mobilization plan is being reviewed. They are seeing where we need to update the plan. If you have anything, please let Chief Hussey know. There is a small window.

Chief Winfrey FD 4- Job opening for the position of Fire Chief.

Chief Karns Airport- Airport response will not respond automatically on incidents outside the airport unless requested.

Chief Vetter- Chief Holmes went up to SEAO legislative day. We need to get ahold of our representatives for needs. State does not get out as much so this way we get to know our state representatives. Thank you to our guests.

Chief Thompson Medford- Chief Brown is now operations and Chief Howard is professional standards. Rural board has purchased a new engine for our agency 2.5 years ago. Reserve unit will be going out of service, and this may be an opportunity for this for a local agency unit. Will be putting together facts about which engine will be going OOS and share with the whole group once done. Hiring process coming up in January. Training captain this month and then EMS captain next month. Labor negotiations also started, and they are in the middle of a biennial budget process.

Chief Sartain- Will be working on budget. Will be getting a training officer and fire marshal this year in the budget.

Brandon Kerns New Unit forester for GP. Is new to ODF and GP but was in Douglas County and not new to fire.

Chief Larkin- Strategic planning starts this week. We are also working on budgets for next fiscal year. Will be applying for risk reduction grants. Will be interviewing for new Firewise coordinator tomorrow.

Lake Creek- Spaghetti feed cookoff at the Grange.

Chief Wolfard- AFG open through February 10th. Regional grant for radios. DPSST sent out an email to be peer reviewers for AFG grant applications. Hopefully somebody local can go. Look for the email but deadline is today.

SAFER grant- is opening around Feb 9th or 10th.

Thank you to everyone that came to Applegate work session.

Tyler McCarty- Budget for property protection could go up 25%.

Teresa Vaughn- GP has some good projects that they are looking to do, and Jacksonville will have a grant for cemetery. Evans valley also has a great grant idea. Chili cookoff with individual one in May with green debris event and then large one with workshop would be a great idea.

Sara- Will be hosting interviews on the 20th for district fuels mitigation person. Has anyone received DPSST, OSFM micro training grant. Those dollars are still available.

Next Meeting: 0900 February 21st, 2023, at Grants Pass Fire - Parkway Station

Adjournment
