

## **Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association – Monthly Meeting**

**Location:** Oregon Department of Forestry – Central Point

**Date:** November 15, 2022

**Time:** 0900

**Call to Order:** Call Meeting to order 0900

**Approval of Last Month's Minutes:** Motion Chris 2<sup>nd</sup> Holmes

**Approval of Financial Report:** motion Chris 2<sup>nd</sup> Hammond

**Additions to the Agenda:**

**Special Guests: Tim Doney new director for ECSO. George Shepard is replacement for ODF dispatch Grants Pass. Cody Goodnough Interim Operations Chief for Applegate Fire**

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**Section Reports:**

**Operations** (Fire/EMS):

- No update

**Training** (RITA):

- FF1 academy starts Jan 7<sup>th</sup> through Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. Filling up fast. Driver class Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> being run through DPSST. Have done FO1, FF2 and we still have the upcoming Fire instructor 2. We will also be looking to put on a 2<sup>nd</sup> Live Fire Instructor training class in early next year.
- Command and General staff class- Tom, Charlie and Sara met last week. Working to align all of the requirements for FEMA and NWCG. Working through OSFM they have not been able to get NWCG trainers locally. Now going through requirements to align FEMA courses with NWCG. Trying to find alternates that will work for NWCG classes and then provide a 5-year training plan. Early in the Spring Coos, Douglas, Southwest ODF will host 300 level classes. If there are opportunities to get them done ODF will let RITA know. Also working with Feds to get help. Funding is good, just need to find instructor that can teach the class. May do a needs assessment to see what the needs really are. Plan will fit nicely with the restructure of the incident management team pool. We are thin in many of the needed positions. EM side is also asking for classes and have asked for 300 and 400 classes.

**Prevention** (RVFPC, SOFCO):

- No update
- IMT- Group. Need to look at installing new leadership in the IMT group. Could do a post January meeting. Will table to later in the meeting

FIRE Defense Board Chief- Chief Thompson will be lead for Jackson County side. Sara and Holmes will work with him through the 2023 round. Also looking for 2 alternates for Jackson and Josephine County. That vote will come out middle of December.

### **Liaison Reports:**

#### **911 Centers** (Harris/Guenther) –

Kevin- Continue to work on staffing. Open position and training people up/ Radio infrastructure is currently site development. Finally, CAD to CAD interface is still being worked on.

#### **OSFM** (Stacy/Lashley/Rubrecht) –

Stacy- Plan of cooperation back in 2016 will refresh and adjust that to see how OSFM can help. Will be scheduling times with Chiefs on this plan, so they know what this.

Sara- Grants that are open. Capacity is due November 30th. Mitigation grants will become available soon. Information gathering webinar happened on a new grant that is coming out. That grant will be open to Counties, cities, districts, NGOs, nonprofits.

Engine grant closed and process of rewards should be starting shortly. Jim Kewz community risk reduction position resigned, and that position will be open soon. If anyone is really good at community risk reduction, then please have them apply. While Jim is gone the manager Chris Sutton is replacing him. Reminder in off season Sara can help with projects.

Question about the allocation of the engines from Chief Larkin- Did a survey of what was out in the universe. Did get a large return on that and has a current map of that equipment. Other item taken into factor will be those agencies that made the request. Staffing, housing needs to be met. Many factors will come into play such as risk in those communities. How will that piece of apparatus benefit that community and help keep fires small in those communities. In Oregon the shift is to keep the capabilities in the communities more substantial so they can respond and keep the fire small. Do not know the exact matrix but believe all of those will be considered. Decisions will have to be made prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>. They were signing contracts with vendors. All orders will be placed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Most likely will not see anything for next fire season. Engine coordinator position will be filled at OSFM to track and train agencies on these new engines as they come in. Also, to help facilitate the delivery.

Justin asked if it is focused on at risk communities or spreading across the state evenly. Sara believes both will be true. Protecting communities at risk is a goal and spreading items around the state is a goal.

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

Mercy- Medford first response pilot program. Idea to respond appropriate level of resource with the right call. This is for Sierra level calls. More determinates may be added. That single unit is handling 36% of the calls. This has reduced Medford Fire responding to calls that are not needed. Staffing is still a challenge, but Mercy Flights has added 6 paramedic s in the last 6 months.

Ashland EM position closed. Per their ASA they are expecting to be 300-400 calls above last year. Green light to present a new business plan that will add 4 single role medics sometime first quarter next year. Application process will come out soon.

#### **Haz-Mat** (Baumgartner) – None

**PIO** (Weber) – February meeting will be covering media new access bill and what it looks like.

**Emergency Management** (Laney/Ring) –

Josephine County EM- Assistant left. Trying to get the 2 Firewise positions filled. Also floating the position for assistant soon.

Jackson County EM- Holly had Henry David. May have received an email from Delaney for natural hazard mitigation plan. Email either her or Holly if you want more information on that.

**CWPP** (Vonn) –

Handing out the Jackson and Josephine County proposal. Request came out from OSFM to get an idea for projects to submit to see what would be funded. Since there is a staffing grant, staffing was less of a request for this proposal. The handout will give you a list of those items that were requested. Green debris program, fuels reduction and then staffing were the three areas. If you have a need then send her the proposal so she can add them on the list.

Update for RVFIP- Kicked it off on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. 2<sup>nd</sup> annual fuels and prescribed fire meeting. Everyone shared about what they were doing and projects that were going on. This is a separate request to find out what the needs are for the region.

Sara- This is a special funding opportunity with 762 funds with the focus on risk reduction. Some of the presented projects will be funded outside of the other grant projects that Sara talked about.

762 created an operating budget for CRR. This budget is being used to fund some of these. Mitigation fund coming early this year is \$20 million dollar project. These projects will also be used as future needs to take to the next legislation session. Vonn will also work on the OSFM grant.

Chief Thompson- Question about what other efforts are ongoing to help quantify why these investments are working for communities. One example was the upstaffing grant request to share how those dollars helped to keep fires small and out of communities. How it is happening with other dollars, Sara is not aware of. She does agree that there has to be proof and show it is working. Also, we know that one budget cycle will not be enough to fix this. Upstaffing grant was an easy one to show how it works.

Tim- Those successful stories is what will really help show this money is being used well and it is working.

Sara- Thoughtful process to get continual funding for these projects. We need to give good thought to the projects we are submitting. Good thought on them and the outcome from the projects and telling the success stories of how they worked. Also share with your legislature on the success. This is part of the bigger picture to show how this is working.

**OFCA** (Brown)– No updates.

**SWOCG** (McCarty/Edwards) – Wildland season is winding down and there have been no official meetings lately. On the Forest Service side, have burned approximately 2,000 acres in the last few weeks. They are in the middle of hiring and anticipate hiring approximately 40-60 permanent people and are hiring their temporary people. We are up to 80 fires and approximately 20 acres. He is retiring in January and hope to announce his replacement in the new few weeks.

This is the time of year that apparatus is not staffed daily. It will take time to muster resources if they are needed.

Tyler is working on hiring on a Grants Pass Forester behind Carl.

Carl –George Shepherd is the new dispatch supervisor. Shelly Hoffer's last day is this Friday.

Forest Lane classifications – letters will be sent out to the new additions in January.

The WUI Risk Map has been pushed back with the new governor, more to come later.

All state agencies PAWS Program packages have been pushed back to the agencies due to the change of governor. Expect that process to begin soon.

**Chaplains** (Saada) – No update.

**IMT** (Turnbull) –

**SOFRC** (Chambers) – A lot of money is floating around the federal level, there is a unique opportunity to request a big chunk of money. They will work with federal and state partners to facilitate this. They have put together a funding request due to our at-risk populations and history. \$15 million is potentially available.

SOFRC has a board meeting tomorrow. They are adding an employee to be a program manager and have executive director contracting out a lot of finance stuff. A few people working on on-going monitoring projects.

The Rogue Basin Collaborative Land Forest Restoration program was awarded. It is an \$80 million 10-year ask. It can only be spent on US Forest Service lands.

The West Bear project has approximately \$30 million in funding.

Met with BLM regarding fire risk in districts across the area. They only have a few fuels reduction people.

There will be workshops coming up to create priorities for fuels and create a tool during suppression, basically have built in contingency lines. Local districts workshops for preplanning the wildlands will be upcoming also.

A feasibility study has been undertaken to figure out the biomass removal. Where can it be taken, or will it be treated on site? Will try to have done by February 2023.

### **Old Business:**

- Weather Data Analysis for open burn regulations (Winslow) – Burn day criteria was given out to attendees. One side is current and other side is proposed criteria. Move the criteria for precipitation from 48 hours prior to 72 hours prior while outside of fire season.

- Reminder Annual Christmas meeting location – Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 at Taprock in GP. Please send in RSVPs to DC DeLonge by Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Nerd Herd Coffee Time (Bates) – Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 0900 (White City) – Technology talk to share needs and issues between organizations. A flyer will be sent out to everyone.

### **New Business / Issues for Consideration:**

- Draft meeting schedule for 2023 – It is identical to this year’s schedule, submit any changes to the schedule soon.
- E-Board nominations for 2023 – BC DeLonge has requested to stay in the Secretary/Treasurer spot. Chief Thompson and Chief Crume were nominated for the Vice-President position. A survey will be sent out to vote on the nominations.
- Annual financial audit –Sara Rubrecht volunteered to assist with the audit.

### **Good of the order:**

- Chief Thompson is now part of the Fire Defense Board Chiefs.
- Need to revisit the Strategic Plan Process in early 2023. An email will be sent out with potential dates.
- Open House Dedication for Jacksonville’s new station on Saturday, 10-2.
- Kevin – Failure of pump in generator system – This created a large spill and thus required cleanup. We encourage everyone to have on site generators checked for spill issues and evaluate the need for catch basins.
- Chief Larkin discussed the GPFR Badge Pinning Ceremony.
- Chief Baumgartner is resting at home. He has made the decision to retire around the end of the year. Looking at options to fill his position around the beginning of the year.
- Chief Thompson- Completed the Strategic Planning Process for the state and city. Looking at adding an additional 17 positions. DON’T KNOW WHO WAS TALKING AND WHICH CITY.
- Sara said an email was sent by OSFM to recruit for the IMT. Get your application in if interested.
- Chief McLaughlin was offered a termination agreement. Chris Wolfard was installed as the interim until approximately March – June 2023. A draft agreement for Cody Goodnough is in place to cover Chris’s position in the meantime.
- Williams and Jacksonville have been supporting Applegate on responses more than ever and wanted to publicly thank them. Applegate has 7 registered for Academy and waiting for a couple to finish background.
- Applegate – Engine Incident where brakes were not set. Damages will be covered by their insurance.
- Austin - Rural Metro had a similar incident. Bracket system chocks are required while in the bay.
- Phil – Talked about a few pieces of legislation. Minor change to the State’s Presumptive Cancer Laws to include Rural Metro and the airport firefighters. Volunteers have not been added at this point. The next piece is the from Steve Nelson who serves on the Governor’s Wildfire Committee. The tie in is the concern for the impact of underserved or unserved communities in terms of structural fire protection and the impact they have on the state’s wildfire division. House Bill 1668 would be for each county with these underserved

communities would be required at the local level to develop some type of plan to submit to OSFM, where Pam and OSFM could seek future funding for some of those plans. He is not aware of any clusters in Jackson and Josephine counties that don't have protection.

- Austin – Wolf Creek – James Eddie has now taken on the Chief role. Also, as of yesterday we have an official signed agreement with OSFM as a participant in the Mobilization Plan.

**Next Meeting:** 11:00 Monday, December 19, 2022 at Taprock in Grants Pass

**Adjournment:** Meeting Adjourned 1105 hours.