

West Region Wildfire Council Meeting Minutes

6/11/15

Meeting Attendance

	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
1	Angell	Don	Montrose County
2	Austin	Tom	Log Hill Fire
3	Barth	Chris	BLM
4	Bennett	Tom	Telluride Fire
5	Block	Sheridan	Ouray County Plaindealer
6	Cinnamon	Sophia	WRWC
7	Conway	Bill	Arrowhead Fire
8	Dinsmore	Jennifer	San Miguel County
9	Ellis	Steve	DFPC
10	Falk	Lilia	WRWC
11	Gottlieb	Paul	MCSP
12	Mattivi	Junior	Ouray County
13	Morrill	Scott	Gunnison County
14	Stahle	Alan	Ouray Fire Protection District
15	Tisdell	Ben	Ouray County
16	Wright	Jeff	Delta County
17	Mueller	Terry	Norwood Fire
18	Frazier	Steve	QCPOA
19	Commander	Terry	RMFPD
20	Whitworth	Shanna	RMFPD
21	Stahlin	Eric	GMUG

Objective/Purpose

The Council gathered to discuss the following:

Introductions

Lilia Falk facilitated the meeting and initiated a round of introductions

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from May's meeting were approved as written.

Presentation from Scott Morrill- Gunnison OEM, John Bennett- Telluride FPD, Don Angell- Montrose OEM on Receiving IMT Training

Scott Morrill commenced the meeting with a synopsis of a recent training on when and how local governments should order and Incident Management Team. Scott went on to speak to how the training underlined the importance of understanding all aspects of IMT and what to expect during their duration of management. Scott then passed out a standard incident complexity analysis sheet that he explained to the council. John Bennett added, that understanding the facets of incident complexity on the front side allows you to plan more effectively.

The importance of understanding of the expectations and delegations of authority within an IMT was repeatedly talked about within the group. The ICS who orders the team must have a solid resource management framework in place before ordering the team, in addition to having a plan in place for when they leave the incident. Along with preparing for the IMT, Bennett underscored the importance of establishing an MOU for recognizing limitations and resources and how that fits into the larger organization of public works, public health and safety.

The complexities of IMT related policy issues were discussed at length. Bennett recommended identifying community specific values, including: tourism, special events, historic and cultural sites, and other pertinent details to the IMT. This allows the IMT to be sensitive to local culture while successfully managing an incident.

The group collectively discussed the next steps for disseminating the information they gathered from the training, including working with policy members to work within the delegation and structure of IMT. It was unanimous, that organizing non-emergency live exercises to stage planning function, would further solidify incident response systems. Don Angell, spoke to IMT spending, and cautioned against overspending. He also suggested having a system in place for overspending, such as encumbering taxes on citizens, etc.

In closing, Don spoke to the transfer of command process. He pressed IC's to educate elected officials of how delegation of authority works before an event or emergency, and to lay the framework for return delegation.

Presentation from Chris Barth-BLM Southwest District on Fire Adapted Colorado (FACO)

Chris Barth began his presentation of Fire Adapted Colorado (FACO), with an update of the September 24-25, 2015 conference in Snowmass. The conference will consist of speakers, a poster session, and a panel discussion. There is scholarships available, contact Chris for more information.

Chris spoke to the mission of FACO, which is to build and support wildfire councils statewide and develop strong partnerships and exchange networks between councils. FACO is currently working on a directory of councils, missions, and respective contact information. FACO is currently working to create a platform for grants, education, and assistance for start-up groups. Barth wants to use FACO to foster education about Fire Adaptive Communities and broaden the discussion about wildfire and build a diverse model for responsive communities.

Training Resources

Training Resources West Region Wildfire Council has put up three links, on the Resources page of its website, where people can go to view training opportunities. Go to www.Cowildfire.org/resources to view those links. Delta County is holding a class on Incident Management financials on August 13th. There will be state financials officers present and the class will be pertinent for financial managers of fire districts, schools districts, and municipalities.

Round Robin Updates

Eric Stahlin, from the GMUG, has added two new hand crews in Grand Junction and Colbrin.

There are college scholarships available to students who actively volunteer for a fire department. Visit volunteerfirefighter.org for more information.

Steve Frazier, from Quartz Creek Properties, provided on the road widening effort in Pitkin

Ragged Mountain Fire District is interested in increasing district coverage

Ouray County is holding a SBEADMAR meeting on June 29th, 2015.

The next meeting will be held on July 9th, 2015 at 1PM at the Public Lands Center in Montrose.