

Fire Technology Advisory Committee – Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2010

Present:

John McFarland / *Arcata Fire Dept.*

Debbie Topping / *College of the Redwoods*

Ed Trigiero / *College of the Redwoods*

Eric Smith / *Eureka Fire Dept.*

Chris Jelinek / *Eureka Fire Dept.*

Michael Thomas / *Ferndale VFDs*

Ken Woods / *Humboldt Fire District*

General Fire Technology Status

- The new division Dean, Pat Girczyc has the title of Dean of Health Occupations and Public Services. As Pat is the head of the nursing program, this division will potentially involve EMT/paramedic programs and plans are to include students from all programs in some forms of testing scenarios.
- Wildland Hired Equipment Contractor safety classes were run through CR's Community Ed. More than thirty *extra* people showed up so another available room was filled and all were accommodated.
- Ten firefighters were sponsored through a Professional Development Grant to attend Fire Instructor 1A and 1B classes. Also, one to attend training in Fresno.

Fall 2010 Plans

- All core Fire Technology classes have been approved by Curriculum Review committee at CR. It is required that the Associate of Science degree program be in place prior to beginning Fire Academy. The Firefighter 1 Academy will be presented to the Curriculum committee on February 26.
- The intent is to make the first core Fire Technology class, **FT-1: Fire Protection Organization** available in Fall 2010. The plan is to offer it as a three-hour class/one evening per week in order to attract and encourage the local volunteer firefighters to attend. An instructor must be hired soon to allow time to prepare the course.

Equipment Issues

- A trailer has been purchased to store and transport fire equipment during training. Trigiero will be attending the Fire Expo and hoped to meet with equipment manufacturers about providing training equipment in exchange for display of their logo(s) on the trailer. Any provided equipment would be made available to local fire agencies.
- RE: Personal Protection Equipment - A full inexpensive set can be purchased for around \$1600. Should the program purchase equipment or require students to lease or borrow. Still under discussion.
- RE: Self Contained Breathing Apparatus – Purchase or lease? We are still awaiting the donated face-mount regulators that will go with the Scott SCBA frame and harnesses. How and where will tanks be filled as a large quantity of tanks would be cumbersome to expect a department to fill as a favor. Tanks will cost approximately \$800 each and we should expect to have two tanks

per student to allow one set to be filled with one set on standby. Intend to purchase with CTEA grant funding.

- The permanent half-time Fire Technology Coordinator position will be defined and advertised soon as well as the Fire Academy Coordinator whose duties will mirror many of the duties of the Police Academy Coordinator.
- Pre-entry requirements were discussed for the Fire Academy and it was agreed that an English skills test, similar to the POST test given to Police Academy applicants be given to prospective fire trainees. The student's range of manipulative skills should be tested as well. Standards will be established to expect a strong disciplinary environment from the students.
- Trigeiro asked the group to decide, before schedules were set, if this is the right time? ...the right direction? It was confirmed that the Fire program, in general is needed in the area. Night and weekend schedules will be taken into consideration when classes are planned as well as venues throughout the County.

The meeting concluded with a tour of the new enclosed trailer which was purchased with grant money to store and transport Fire Academy equipment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Topping
(Recording Secretary)