

Fire Technology Advisory Committee – Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2010

Present:

Justin McDonald / *Arcata Fire District*

John McFarland / *Arcata Fire Dept.*

Mike Howe / *CalFire*

Pat Girczyc / *College of the Redwoods*

Debbie Topping / *College of the Redwoods*

Ed Trigiero / *College of the Redwoods*

Chris Jelinek / *Eureka Fire Dept.*

Michael Thomas / *Ferndale VFDs*

Alan Davis / *HROP*

Ken Woods / *Humboldt Fire District*

Lori Breyer / *ROP*

Bob Rivelle / *USFS*

Program Update

- The Associates of Science degree program in Fire Technology has been officially approved by the Chancellor's office. There are six 3-unit core classes. FT-1 (Fire Protection Organization) is a current Fall Semester course. The roster is currently at 19 students down from the original 40 – seems to be students who were expecting an “easy A”. FT-2 (Fire Behavior and Combustion) is scheduled for Spring Semester with Kim Price teaching. An instructor is still being sought for FT-3 (Building Construction) in the Fall of 2011. Ken Vollenweider is considering teaching FT-4 (Fire Prevention).

Completion of the FT degree in two years requires two of the semesters would have two classes. After discussion of a recommended schedule, it was determined that regular volunteers train on Mondays and Wednesday s so the best schedule would be one class on Tuesday and one meet on Thursday.

- Fire Management 2A is scheduled for February with Jim Hill instructing. Hill suggested that the class be taught one day per week for five weeks due to the high homework/reading requirement of the class.
- Fire Prevention 1A and Fire Command 1C are planned for the early Spring though no date nor location have been determined. CalFire will supply the instructors.
- USFS has completed one class and will schedule three more in 2011.
- Last year, 800 contractors and their employees attended Fireline Safety for Hired Equipment Contractors . The State is now requiring FSTEP certification. FSTEP certification is proposed but not approved to run through CR Community Ed. A class has been scheduled for Jan 7 but won't be approved until STEAC meets on January 21. There is a request with Mike Thompsen and Wes Chesbro to get the class approved in time to certify the CR class prior to the current class. Mike Howe notes a lack of qualified instructors.
- **Equipment:** More equipment has been purchased with \$24,400 from a CTEA grant. Twenty SCBA units were donated by Reno FD but only 11 regulators were included. Ten more were received from Contra Costa Co. Ken Woods was thanked for donation of helmets. The fire truck has been in for repair. The mechanic did a considerable amount of work and has now put it back in service. A storage container has been purchased and shelving will be installed.

Fire Technology Certificates of Achievement/Recognition

The question was raised regarding a potential Certificate of Achievement in Fire Technology. Is there a need to use this for promotions? After some discussion, it was determined that, it has no value as a stand-alone certificate. Only a student with a degree in a subject *other* than Fire Technology and wishing to expand his education for fire service would find this valuable. Similar impressions of a Certificate of Recognition were discussed. Mike Howe noted that CalFire places less value on certificates and degrees than with the individual courses completed that they represent.

Funding

What can we do to sustain the FT program until the CA budget improves? How will equipment be purchased? Dean, Pat Girczyc noted the need for \$250K to get to the point of the first Firefighter 1 academy.

- Grants
- Corporate sponsorship by insurance companies
- Students to rent turnouts rather than purchase by CR

Fire Academy

A coordinator for the Firefighter 1 Academy will be hired in January 2011. MOUs need to be written. Equipment still needs to be collected/purchased. The Coordinator will be working with CR Marketing director, Paul Demark for the development of a brochure and considerable promotion needed to get the word out. Commitment will be needed from and relationships developed with State and local fire agencies for help and equipment (old ladders for practice, etc). Cooperation with local agencies to schedule hose tests to keep the costs down.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50. John McFadden made a closing statement: "Make something happen or the believers will fall out. It was 2007 [when this started] – let's do it!"

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Topping
(Recording Secretary)