

## FIRE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

*Growing jobs, careers, communities...*

**\*MEETING MINUTES APPROVED ON: 10/04/2023 - BY: ADVISORY COMMITTEE\***

**DATE:** April 6, 2023

**TIME:** 12:00 pm

**LOCATION:** John Mantle Student Center, Board Room and Zoom

**COMMITTEE CHAIR:** Darryl Laws, Asst. Chief – Operations & Deputy County Fire Warden

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Captain Chris Delcour

**COS STAFF PRESENT:** Mark Klever, Chris Delcour, Christina Van Alfen (Zoom), Jesse Roberts, Josh Collins, Monique Gonzalez (Zoom) and Anne Marie Acord

**PRESENT:** Darryl Laws, Henry Ochs, Brenda Collins, Charlie Miller (Zoom), David Langston (Zoom), Steven Pappas, Keith Cummings, Brian Carter, Bernie Paul, Shawn Raley, Steve Duncan, Kent Cunningham, Jasen Vela, Dan Padilla (Zoom), Erin Kangas

**ABSENT:** Rick Joyce, Matt Hill, Bob Price, Bright Nichols-Stock, Marie Caldwell, Carrian Foster, Molly Stimpel, Kim Peacemaker, Liz Jungermann, Emaly Brann, Kirk Thomsen

**Minutes recorded and reviewed by:** Monique Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant III

**Minutes taken by:** Anne Marie Acord, Administrative Assistant I, CTE

1. Welcome and Introductions: (Laws)
2. Review and approve minutes: (Laws) (see attachment) Chief Duncan, motioned to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> was Henry Ochs.
3. Academy 44 update: (Delcour)
  - a. The Academy is going well. The students completed their structure module since the last advisory meeting. We lost one student during IFSAC testing, but we are holding at 24 students and graduation is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year for our Fire Academies at COS, so we are trying to get as many folks to attend from our first Academy and that will be the theme. We will try and hold a

social hour after the Graduation and Keith Cummings is trying to outreach to get those folks there.

- c. Recruiting has started, but many cadets have already had job offers elsewhere. Two conditional offers down in Orange County and Los Angeles, so they are beginning that process. The Cadets are tired, excited, and ready to be done.
4. Facilities: (Delcour)
  - a. A lot of work has been done with the two towers. With the help of Cal Fire hand crew the Weed tower had the floors replaced throughout the whole tower. We are still scheduled to have the sandpipe repair once the weather breaks.
  - b. The Wilson sign is starting to be cut. It has been slower than we hoped, but thanks to Thad and the metal shop, it is moving forward. The handrail is schedule for next week. This was also delayed due to weather.
  - c. The Academy Classroom is scheduled for a Tech upgrade in May, so it's a zoom capable room for we have other options for meetings in the future.
5. Stand Alone Classes: (Delcour)
  - a. We've been pretty busy since our last Fire Warden meeting, holding the following classes, RIC, Fire Inspector 1B, RRAO x 2, CEET, RIO, Ethics, Engine Company Ops, Level 1 Avalanche, S-200, Elevator Rescue, Fire Inspector 1C and 1D and RRT with a total of 206 students.  
We've been trying to get more of our Instructors trained so they can teach these classes.  
We taught Engine Company Ops this for our volunteers. We brought up two Instructors from Redding. Hoping to expand on this.  
Chief Hill, taught Level 1 Avalanche Class.  
We completed S-200 and brought in a Forest Service Chief to bridge that gap with them. Chris completed an Elevator Rescue Class in Mt. Shasta.  
Monty Messenger taught the Inspector classes, with 1C and 1D which completed all four classes.  
We just finished Rope Rescue Tech.  
Total students in standalone classes without our Cal Fire Re-hire and Jesse Roberts's classes, enrollment was 206 students.
6. Equipment: (Delcour)
  - a. CTE has received a new Dodge utility pickup which has already been put in service. This was very much needed. Thank you, Christina.
  - b. We have two new forcible entry props on order from out of Monterey. This will free up the blue one that the county owns.
  - c. The Fire vent hydraulic roof prop is on order as well and will hopefully be here by the start of our next Fire Academy, we will see as it's about a year out for build out.
7. Employees/Instructor: (Delcour)
  - a. We continue to mentor and add more Instructors. One more RIC Instructor to our Cadre and also added one more RRAO Instructor. One more RRAO is in the process and should be completed soon.  
Chris Delcour and Ryan Benson completed the Rope Rescue Tech tasks book, so they will be Instructors shortly.
8. Fire Warden Update: (Laws and Ochs)

Darryl Laws will give us some information and then Henry Ochs will give us an update. Darryl stated they are approving classes all the time. The Siskiyou County Fire Warden agreement sunsets on June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year, so we will need to get together, unite, and move forward with the Siskiyou County Fire Warden and COS and what that looks like, make it better and the direction we are headed.

- a. Henry stated they have streamlined the process for the volunteers with the registration forms. They are e-mailing the forms to their office tech, Susan, then she scans that to Darryl for a signature, then onto Mark and Monique. Susan should be providing a signed copy back to the students that are putting in that request, so tracking should be better now.
- b. We are caught up with the Fire Warden contract as of this semester. Thank you, Monique, as that was a lot of work.
- c. The Cal Fire re-hire, they just ran 30 students through a 40-hour training and then ran their permanent personnel through a 4-day training with 26 students all through COS. Cal Fire used some of the County Fire Warden to purchase plywood to run those classes through COS about \$2,800.  
Chris stated we need to think about the restrooms in temp 30 as this was an issue as there is only one male stall and many students with all these classes and students.

9. Core Classes Update: (Robert's)

- a. Jesse stated they are running the Fire Core classes 1, 2, and 3 this summer online. If anyone is interested in receiving their degree.
- b. For work experience if any Chiefs have volunteers or even Cal Fire folks want units, it's 60 hours a unit for Volunteers, 75 hours for Career, it's 8 units that is transferable to any UC and can go through a degree as well. There are currently 15 students enrolled. It's been pretty stagnate the last few years, but now starting to grow.
- c. The students burned in Fire Control 3 at the Wilson Tower and that was their 2<sup>nd</sup> burn. It's a tedious process. It's not as easy as the Weed Tower, so they had to be very careful with the burns and sensors with the heat levels. If anyone is interested in using, it takes a while to get a class set up, but we would like to do that. The students are getting good experience.

10. Other Fire Program Related Items: (Vela)

Trying to do more training, with the north and south drills for upcoming Fire season, more local government, not having Cal Fire involved as much, considering we have done so many big fires in the past few years in Siskiyou County. We are working more together and involving the college more.

That's what's going on with the Chief's Association. Jason's not on the training committee, so Charlie can speak more on that.

(Charlie) Fire Control 4 class is coming the evening of April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> in McCloud. They would love to take this on the road, so they can get more Instructors. Not many have taken the class, and you need to take the class, before you can task book the class if you're a State Instructor already. Trying to make that process easier, by bringing the trailer around each department. COS has the trailer.

(Charlie) River and Flood Rescue Tech, is scheduled for the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup> through May 26<sup>th</sup> which hasn't been discussed with Chris yet. This will be a small class with Charlie as the lead Instructor and Casey Cohen, doing most of the work. Chris stated we will get that scheduled.

(Darryl) Darryl asked if Chief Padilla had any updates. Chief Padilla said nothing to report.

(Darryl) Weed City anything to report? Nothing to report.

(Steve Duncan) Reported they hired a full-time employee through a safer grant. The first time in four years.

(Darryl) Darryl stated he would give us an update on Cal Fire. Usually this is our meeting and training season, but it has been mission tasking and team deployments. They have several folks that have been out with their incident management teams, to different locations in Inyo, Mono and the 2<sup>nd</sup> team to help with flooding in Tulare County. Quite a few people from the unit are on teams to help out.

They helped with snow removal from public buildings in different towns in Siskiyou County. The Fire season outlook for them is, there is water and the grass crop that is going to be very tall. As far as the flooding issues, they will be dealing with those issues all summer.

Cal Fire is hiring for Firefighter 1 crew, (almost all of them) and hiring 3 more hiring's the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup>, so Cal Fire could possibly have 130 seasonal firefighters working in the Siskiyou unit, plus their 100 permanent employees that work in the unit, so Henry will be busy.

We are thankful for the snow in the high county, because it could make our fire season window narrow, but in Siskiyou County we could have fires at any time because of the winds.

11. Perkins Data Review: (Van Alfen) See handout.

Christina stated we are doing a great job retaining students, completing the courses and earning credentials according to the State.

Amazing numbers for employment as well. Some of the best numbers we have seen for the program.

There are a few areas that we need to focus on. This would be recruiting woman, former foster youth, or single parents or individuals with disabilities.

12. Marketing: (Van Alfen) See handout.

How can we market and increase the special populations for our programs? How are students hearing about our programs? How should we target our advertising?

Open for discussion and if anyone has any ideas, please speak about this.

(Delcour): We began constant contact and started advertising for COS/Fire. We are now up to around 900 people on the constant contact list and this continues to grow.

Chris is working with Mark and Christina and will have some money set aside for next semester and try to advertise on Fire Nuggets which is a popular site to set up classes and easy to navigate.

The platform is pretty powerful tool to outreach once our data is built.

Advertise: (Delcour) stated what's trending right now with woman in the fire service, is girl camps. The female firefighters are running them through mini Fire Academies and expose them and do the training. Very popular throughout the state.

(Ochs): Henry asked for a request. If COS could put their regional training officers' emails in Constant Contact and that would capture many more people.

Henry stated that Cal Fire is now Nationally Certified for IFSAC Pro-Board and doesn't know if they can recruit in Southern Oregon. If may be a market we are not hitting. Mark stated we can piggy back on that.

(Collins) Josh stated this is coming, but allegedly, we are getting that fired up for Fall 2023, which would allow an out of state student to pay 150% of what a CA resident pays, so it's \$69.00 a unit, which could be cheaper than students being a resident in their own state. It's 15 or 16 states, but is not sure how we would advertise that.

(Klever) Mark stated our challenge will be where would the students live?

(Van Alfen) Christina thanked everyone for their suggestions and to reach out for any other ideas to her, Mark, Chris, Jesse or Monique for a marketing plan and standalone classes.

#### 13. CTE Update: (Klever)

Mark suggested Brenda and Erin could give updates first. Brenda stated she and Erin participated and attended the 8th grade inspiration day. Basically, they told the students what the Career Center is at the college level and career exploration.

(Kangas) Erin stated they meet with Kirk regarding the job fair he is thinking about and they are still trying to get together and meet with EMS/FIRE, ADJ program and Police Academy for graduating students to connect with employers.

(Delcour) Chris stated he would like to get away from the way they have been doing this. Chris would like for Brenda and Erin to give them dates and they will make that work.

(Klever): Mark wanted to acknowledge a few people. Mark thanked Monique for her hard work and getting us caught up as she has inherited a lot. We've had some challenges and you're doing a fantastic job! Mark thanked Christina for her phenomenal job taking care of all the budgets, all the grants. She is extremely organized and very understanding as she got to play in the role of the Dean. We will be a powerful force going through the budget process. As an institution we are struggling, but in CTE, we are expanding and growing. We have the team and support. Mark stated we have an accreditation visit coming up in May and Fire was chosen to meet with them. Our Advisory Board is strong and it's a great working relationship. We need to set some dates for the Fire Warden Contract if we can set that up after this meeting.

Mark wanted to acknowledge Anne Marie Acord, stepping in, taking minutes and for the onboarding piece as we all know it's a challenge. She is passionate about our CTE students and follows up with them.

Mark stated we will be finalizing the Wilson Tower and getting funding for that. Mark appreciates the relationship with Weed Tower and there is a purpose for the Wilson Tower and Chris and Jesse are doing a phenomenal job and the on-line piece is going to be critical who want to finish a few classes.

Mark asked if Josh had anything to add on the advising side as he reaches out to him on a weekly basis. Josh stated that the online classes will be a benefit. This was our first Fire Academy with two semesters with no negative feedback and everything is great.

Chris stated in the future, other colleges are going to modules and we might be heading to that direction, so we have flexibility. Right now, if a student gets hurt, they have to take our whole Academy over. Also, if out of state students IFSAC Pro-Board firefighter wants to come in they have to take the 1C wildland module. Next year we will run the same model but down the road, we are heading that direction. Josh asked about how many months. Chris stated it would be 4 months.

FF1-would have 3 modules, FF2 is 1 module. So, if a local student needed Firefighter 2, they could jump into that module and we would have to re-work some things. Same materials. Chris would need to discuss with Josh and work some things out.

(Cunningham): Kent stated we used to have that with the structure portion but it was unsuccessful, because you have 25 students that have been together for months and you've introduced new students and how things flow and so that's why they got rid of that. Chris said the goal is to simplify the process and it will give us the flexibility to do what we want.

#### 14. Round Table: (Laws)

Darryl asked if anyone wants to discuss any items.

(Roberts) Jesse mentioned the 30-year t-shirt and they are working on that with Steve Richardson. Check your e-mails.

(Collins) Brenda mentioned the online classes and was that advertised. Chris mentioned we have advertised but we will keep blasting it out and get on the Training Chief Logs.

(Acord) Anne Marie mentioned we have an Agility Test coming up on May 13th with 40 students interested at this point. We will hold another Agility Test later.

Questioned was asked about the EMT class being held before the Fire Academy and did that work out having our Fire Cadets take this before the Academy. Per Chris, yes it did and that is the plan for next year.

(Delcour): Chris thanked Jesse for the paperwork and getting the mini grant to purchase some jacket for our Instructors. That was a win.

(Cunningham): Kent stated it is the hiring season for them. Getting everyone trained. Their numbers will be a little lower. They appreciate the collaboration and hard work that COS is doing.

(Miller): Charlie said put your thinking caps on for Fire Control 4 and put that information out at the next Chief's Association Meeting.

(Gonzalez): Monique thanked everyone for being there.

(Laws): Darryl said thank you for the relationship with COS and they can see the difference and improvements.

Darryl asked Monique for the next meeting date. Monique stated it's about every 2 months. It will be around July. Mark stated we can skip the summer. Darryl stated later in the summer is harder. July 20<sup>th</sup> was picked. Any objections to July 20<sup>th</sup>. If things change we can bump it.

15. Motion to adjourn: (Laws)

Chris Delcour motioned 1st, 2nd was Steve Duncan.

