

# Northern Nevada Fire Chiefs Association

## DRAFT Minutes

July 7, 2010 – 1000 Hours

Carson City Fire Department  
Station #1

1. **Roundtable Introductions** – Among those present were Tim Alameda (Reno Fire), Kurt Althof (Care Flight), Kelli Baratti (DEM), Mike Brown (North Lake Tahoe Fire), Tod Carlini (East Fork Fire), Robert Charles (Carson Fire), Mike Dondero (NDF), Scott Draper (Mason Valley), Joe DuRousseau (Reno Fire), Temple Fletcher (Care Flight), Dave Fogerson (East Fork Fire), Frank Frievalt (Sparks Fire), John Gillenwater (Central Lyon Fire), Stacey Giomi (Carson Fire), Gary Hames (Storey County), JoAnne Hill (Fire Shows Reno), Mike Klug (NDF), Kurt Latipow (Washoe County), Guy LeFever (Tahoe Douglas), Van Ogami (Tahoe Douglas), Kirsten Sherve (DEM), Ken Smihula (BLM), Mike Wilde (USFS), and Jim Wright (State Fire Marshal).
2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** – It was moved, seconded, and carried that the April 7 meeting minutes be approved as submitted.
3. **Board Member Reports**
  - a. **President's Report (Giomi)**
    - i. **Update on 4-County Regional Dispatch Feasibility Study** – Stacey said that the 4-county regional dispatch feasibility study was progressing, with all the interviews having been completed and the consultants now working on cost, software, and radio compatibility issues. The report is scheduled to be completed in September, and the Galena Group plans to hold a meeting later this month or early the next with the principal agencies in the four counties to discuss what has been done so far and to ask for any final direction as to what additional areas they should look at.
    - ii. **Update on 4-County Microwave Ethernet Project** – Stacey said that this project was also progressing well and they were at the point of selecting vendors. The vendors selected to participate in the RFP process will be submitting skeletal designs of their systems, and once submitted, the evaluation team will look at those designs and select a vendor to actually build the system.
  - b. **Vice-President's Report (Brown)** – Mike said that in regard to ICHIEFS, the NFCA has been trying for the last three years to be recognized as having a completed state plan in regard to mobilization of mutual aid resources, etc. He then said that he would like to set up a planning committee in order to work toward a tabletop exercise

to be presented at Fire Shows Reno in October. He stated that this exercise would get them closer to where they wanted to be and would also allow more funds to be released to them from ICHIEFS in the future. They currently have a \$10,000 fund set aside which can be utilized to strengthen Nevada's intrastate mutual aid program.

Mike then mentioned that Mike Warren, the ICHIEFS representative for Nevada, will come out with a team in October to evaluate the mutual aid program within the state. He said that once the planning team was established, it would decide on what scenario to use for this exercise and what part of the state to place it in—but that it would probably work out best in either Carson or the Reno area.

Stacey suggested that they keep the committee that had worked on this previously, and Mike said they could use these members but should add others as well, particularly from the south, because they will need to exercise statewide and have both parts of the state engaged. Stacey said that this committee should then probably be one of the Nevada Fire Chiefs as that was essentially where this process began.

Mike then talked about the new response groups called “Go Teams” but felt these worked better east of the Mississippi and believed that in the western states, they could do a better job locally than what these groups provided.

Mike said that there will be a lot of discussion over the coming year regarding FEMA trying to set up bank accounts where each state would have a pool of funds to draw upon for payment on any type of interstate or intrastate incident.

- c. **Treasurer's Report (Fogerson)** – Dave said that the Association has \$1,787.85 in checking and \$10,336.76 in savings and that everyone was paid up for the year.

#### 4. **Cooperator & Association Reports**

- a. **BLM** – Ken Smihula said that they have eight engines this year and that TAC AIR was on up at Stead. He mentioned that although everything was business as usual this year, they may be looking at cuts next year.
- b. **NDF** – Mike Dondero said that they recently had two incidents in Southern Nevada—one at Mount Charleston of about 20 acres and one at Moapa of about 600 acres. In the Moapa fire (which was a BLM/Clark County incident), four houses along with a number of outbuildings were lost. He mentioned that although FMAGs were put in for both incidents, only Mount Charleston was approved because of the number of residences threatened even though the Moapa fire was much more intense.

Mike Klug stated that they were all staffed and ready to go. He mentioned that they've trained a lot of people as helicopter crew members and can staff back a second helicopter.

- c. **USFS** – Mike Wilde said that the Forest Service, along with BLM and NDF, will probably go into fire restrictions within the next week. He mentioned that the cost of the 20-acre fire mentioned above was approximately half a million dollars.

Mike brought up a problem occurring on a stretch of Highway 80 (California side) in the Forest Services' DPA (Direct Protection Area) as there was nowhere to pull off the road to attack any fire that might occur in the canyon. This was because Granite Construction had its equipment clogging the whole highway corridor and that all the shoulders they've used for manning posts in the past were full of that equipment. He also mentioned that Granite has 500-gallon propane tanks stashed throughout the canyon area.

- d. **Care Flight** – Temple Fletcher said that their fourth helicopter should be back the end of this month. They are setting up helicopter safety, so any department needing that training should contact her. They are also working on some education (CEU) with East Fork and hope to do more with other departments in the future.

Temple said that they were currently looking at doing joint memberships with the various departments' ambulance subscription services so they can offer a discount to those members (and were currently working with Carson on this offering).

Kurt Althof elaborated on this program, stating that the concept was to offer a discounted add-on to a department's ambulance subscription service to include the Care Flight membership. He said that they were also looking at doing some reciprocals with ground sometime in the future. He asked anyone who was interested in this flight plan to contact him and they would work with them to put out a mailing or whatever was necessary to reach their membership. Stacey said that Carson has supplied Care Flight with its mailing list, with Care Flight then doing the mailing and offering Carson's membership the flight package for \$40 per household. It was mentioned that this service included not only Care Flight, but a series of eight cooperators (including CalStar).

- e. **Nevada State Fire Marshal** – Jim Wright said there had been one fireworks fatality in the state down in Las Vegas. He mentioned that one item he's been dealing with was in regard to providing consultation on what citations to use in regard to the possession, use, storage, etc., of fireworks as there appeared to be some confusion in this area by law enforcement. He therefore felt they should put something out next year which would be more consistent and which everyone could use.

In regard to codes, Jim said that although he had earlier said they were moving forward with the '09 adoption, after their workshop and consultations with various people, they have decided to stay with the '06 code for consistency (especially since they found some of the rural counties were still using the '97 code). They hoped to use this upcoming period of time to bring everyone up to the '06 code and then start working with the groups to bring everyone together for the 2012.

- i. Nevada State Board of Fire Services** – Jim mentioned that in regard to the budget, there was talk of reinventing state government, including looking at state departments, divisions, boards, and commissions—and that he has been asked to look at the feasibility of merging the Board of Fire Services with the Fire Service Standards and Training Committee. Jim distributed copies of the NRS sections establishing the Board and the Committee along with their responsibilities, and he said they will be establishing some work groups to help him come up with ideas on what would work best for them. Jim mentioned that since the Board of Fire Services was currently unfunded, his fear was that one or the other, if not both, would go away—so the concept was to unite them for a better chance of survival. He therefore asked the group for their comments and suggestions on how to merge these two together in order to get the best representation for the fire service.

Jim said that the Board of Fire Services held a meeting last week, with Assistant Chief Washington from Las Vegas Fire and Rescue stepping up to become Chair.

- ii. Fire Service Standards and Training** – Dave Fogerson said that since the Board started out as one group and then formed this committee, the committee had no problem in combining the two groups. One issue, however, was that NRS required them to meet four times a year, but since they've cleaned up a lot of the certification requirements for firefighters, they did not actually need to meet that often and were looking at cutting this number back.

He mentioned that the Fire Science Academy at UNR gave the committee the same presentation it gave to the NNFCFA, and the committee's biggest concern was that the Academy had addressed the federal legislators looking for money, including some of the money currently going to Nevada Fire Service Training. The committee therefore asked the Academy to work with them instead of competing with them, to which they agreed.

**f. Nevada Fire Chiefs Association**

- i. Fire Shows Reno** – JoAnne Hill stated that they have been sending out updates on the conference, including new classes being offered. On Sunday, they will be working with Kurt Latipow on a volunteer chiefs segment; on Monday, all the hands-on classes will be held (including haz-mat); and on Tuesday, the Expo and all the topical classes will be held. In regard to special events, there will be a chili cook-off on Monday night and a networking reception on Tuesday night. She said that anyone needing Expo passes for their departments or associations should let her know and she will send them out. She mentioned that they will continue to market the show until held and that the exhibit space was currently about 70 percent sold out.

## 5. Standing Committee Reports

- a. **Mutual Aid Committee (Baratti)** – Kelli said that they have completed the duty officer training for all the departments but would be happy to come out to any department with individuals who might have missed that training.

Kirsten Sherve said that people have contacted her about updates and additions to ROSS, the crews were all set, and she was keeping track of the rotations for the incident management team members. She asked anyone who had any questions or changes to e-mail her with them.

Kelli will be making two presentations at Fire Shows Reno regarding the Nevada Mutual Aid Program, expanding it to include EMAC and NEMAC, as well as some of the other ways they move resources, in order to give the Chiefs the whole perspective. She also suggested that next year, the conference include an anti-terrorism component.

Kelli stated that they had conducted a tabletop exercise on June 28 with Cal EMA and a number of their players, including fire, law enforcement, and Cal Trans, and that they had a lot of discussions regarding state-to-state movement of resources—how it worked and how they could make it better.

- b. **Legislative Committee (Brown)** – Mike stated that the legislative session will begin in February and that the Nevada Fire Chiefs were now researching whether they could hire a professional lobbyist to work for all the fire chiefs statewide.
- c. **Fire Prevention and Code Committee (Vacant)**
- d. **Safety and Training Committee (Fogerson)** – Dave said that the training officer association (with Bob Charles as President, himself as Vice President, and Lori DeGristina from the Fire Marshal’s Office as Secretary) will start meeting at 1300 on the same meeting days as the NNFCA.

Dave said that FF Rod Temple from Carson has built a mobile training prop which did just about everything the fire service needed, and he suggested that the Quad-County agencies (who used the Carson Training Facility) could perhaps purchase this training prop in order to have it available for loan whenever they needed it. The cost of the prop would be \$20,000, and it was available to view following the meeting.

## 6. Old Business – None

## 7. New Business

- a. **Leadership Excellence Challenge (Frievalt)** – Frank Frievalt said that after last year’s Fire Shows Reno conference, the Chiefs realized they were missing some leadership issues within their departments and have since been working on putting a

program together regarding succession planning, etc., to resolve them. Frank then put on a PowerPoint presentation and distributed various handouts regarding this matter.

Frank said they needed to start mentoring their future leaders today, and the idea of the Leadership Excellence Challenge (LEC) was to develop excellent fire officer leadership. He said there were four key corner pieces to the mentoring process—(1) candidates have to understand how they're perceived by their peers; (2) mentors have to understand the environment of the candidates; (3) candidates must have a better understanding of their knowledge in relationship to their communities; and (4) after the first three points were accomplished, the candidates would have a better knowledge of how they related to their organizations. He emphasized that these four key pieces must be incorporated into the program in order for it to be successful.

Frank then handed out a conceptual process for the LEC and went over in detail the various phases involved, stating that they have tentatively set it up to coincide annually to anchor Fire Shows Reno. Another handout distributed was in regard to a candidate's 360° evaluation and a development prescription sequence. One point Frank mentioned in regard to writing questions for promotional boards was that the questions could be customized to the individual candidate because it was not a civil service process.

From an organizational standpoint regarding this proposal, there would need to be an advisory board, with a possible composition of someone from the NNFCA, a UNR academic advisor, one or more civic group representatives, an elected official, and an at-large member. There would be an executive board (currently consisting of Chiefs Brown and Fogerson, himself, and JoAnne Hill). He said that the mentoring group should consist of both a senior person in the rank the candidate was seeking and a person with the specific skills being sought. And although there will also be a curriculum group to provide guidance, they did not want the mentors to be bogged down with numerous administrative tasks.

Frank then went over what needed to be accomplished between now and October, including, among other things, budget questions, staff assignments, pre-qualification packets, assessment center design, advisory board finalization, and an interactive web site. He said that the process basically came down to time, money, and legitimacy. The time involved will be both the candidates' and the mentors' (which will need the support of the Fire Chiefs). The money will mostly involve the associated wages, and there might be some grant opportunities that could link up with this program. In regard to legitimacy, Frank said that he was here today to determine whether the NNFCA would be willing to sanction the further development of the program.

Frank stated that their specific needs were the sanctioned approval of the program along with staff assistance (including four to eight people to assist in curriculum development between now and Fire Shows Reno in mid-October—from 40 to 60 hours—and then probably another 60 hours per year after that). Frank said that mentor candidate selection was key to the program, as they could not pick any

mentors who had character or ethical flaws within their own organizations. Initially, this mentor selection, along with the candidate selection, should be done by three of the chiefs from this group, and then afterwards, nominations should be done at the department level. The program will initially involve five candidates and five mentors. Some of the support needed from the Fire Chiefs would be in regard to conducting 360s within their departments, assistance with the task books, conference attendance, and site visits in the assessment center.

Another handout was then distributed giving a complete overview of the LEC, and Frank stated that this program should not be attempted unless there was very strong support for it. Stacey said that because everyone was stretched so thin, it would be critical for the advisory committee to prod the others into doing what they committed to do in order for the program to succeed.

It was then moved by John Gillenwater that the NNFCA select a member to be on the advisory board to begin the process for the Leadership Excellence Challenge. After discussion in regard to whether all chiefs individually supported this program, it was further moved that the Advisory Committee seek a letter of commitment from each organization wishing to participate. The motion was seconded by Mike Brown. There was then further discussion regarding the letters of commitment from the organizations, with Stacey saying that each department should sit down with its administrative staff to determine whether it had their full support. Stacey then recapped the motion—that the NNFCA as an organization support the LEC, appoint an advisory committee member, and then strongly encourage the support organizationally. The motion carried with no opposition.

John Gillenwater then nominated Tod Carlini as the advisory board member. Tod mentioned that he held a neutral view regarding this program and felt the process had to have more of an academic connection in order for its credibility to transcend the NNFCA and for it to have any value. Stacey responded that he didn't feel this issue should stop them from moving forward, but as an advisory board member, this would be something that could be brought up in order to steer the process in the right direction. He also mentioned that it wouldn't be insurmountable to work with Western Nevada College (or UNR or TMCC) to develop a program as they were interested in partnering with the needs of the community. Tod then accepted the nomination, which was seconded by Mike Brown and approved.

## **8. Items for Future Meetings, Discussion**

- Update regarding the Leadership Excellence Challenge

## **9. Good of the Order**

- Tod Carlini asked whether anyone was aware of the change made to 288 in the 2009 legislature in regard to the recording of the fiscal impact of contract negotiations. The language reads that the CEO of the local government shall report to the local

government the fiscal impact of the agreement (NRS 288.153). He said that although there was no real clear guidance in the law, a group from the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce has written a lengthy document in regard to their guidelines for reporting contract costs (which would now involve public disclosure). He said he will be making a presentation in East Fork regarding contract costs and that they have asked for everything to be itemized. Although contract costs were presented in a public process when budgets were approved, this will now focus attention on a contract's fiscal impact as a separate agenda item. Tod then suggested that perhaps the group could agree on a standardized approach to making this further public disclosure.

- Tod said that they will be receiving a new engine next week and that everything else was status quo.
- Guy LeFever stated that they have put the hand crews on. He also stated that they were down nine positions but hoped to hire two to four positions within the next few months.
- John Gillenwater said that there will be groundbreaking on Thursday for their new station in Stagecoach. He also mentioned that they were currently doing fuels management with a five-person fuels crew. Also, they have three people coming out of paramedic school, with two more going in.
- Scott Draper said that they have received their two trailers, one of which will be used for a haz-mat mass casualty, and they were trying to build a technical rescue team like they had years ago. They also plan on building their own training center at their Main Street site.
- Ken Smihula said that 2010 grant money was released this morning in the amount of \$100,000, and although this program will probably be discontinued, the community assistance program will stay alive as such but with its dollars competing with fuels money.
- Van Ogami said they had a new box four chassis refurb, which was their first Ford. He also mentioned they had attended an excellent terrorism workshop, which was an elementary ground-level program put on by the FBI.
- Gary Hames mentioned that a company by the name of Hamilton has been advertising wildland urban interface protection, engine standbys for wildland fires, among other things. The company doesn't have a business license, and they're trying to track them down as they're not returning their phone calls.
- Mike Wilde mentioned that they're continuing their fuels work.
- Frank Frievalt said that they will know on the 13<sup>th</sup> whether they were approved for a SAFER grant and that they were into their second year of a three-year grant to upgrade their hydraulics to a high-pressure system.

**10. Adjournment** – It was moved, seconded, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 11:57 p.m.

Recorder: Judy Dietrich