

**LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Cuchara Fire Station**  
**400 Panadero Ave.**  
**Cuchara, Colorado**

**MINUTES**

August 10, 2017

6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Shroust and Walker were in attendance and Director Nielsen attended via teleconference.  
Staff: EMS Director Schmidt, District Secretary Pezze and WMS Manager Michael Warren.  
Guests: Jim and Paula Berg, and Mike Fleener.

**Call to Order – Pledge - Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order, the Pledge of Allegiance was given, roll call was taken and Director Shroust, presiding as Board Chairman, welcomed all those in attendance.

**Approval of Agenda**

The August 10, 2017 Agenda was approved.

**Minutes**

**MSA:** \* Minutes of the July 13, 2017 regular meeting were approved as presented.

**Public Comments**

Paula Berg, President of the La Veta Fire Protection District (LVFPD) Auxiliary provided an update on the Auxiliary activities and upcoming events. The Auxiliary ran an aid station during the Stonewall Century Bike Ride and will participate in the Native American Heritage Festival on Aug. 12 and 13 in the La Veta Park. Have been in contact with Dave Blain who has graciously agreed to donate his ATV to the District. He is currently having it serviced before delivering it. The Auxiliary will discuss acquiring a trailer to haul 2 ATV units, or a combination of 1 ATV and 1 UTV. The Auxiliary continues to work on the Mountain Luau fundraiser planned for August 27<sup>th</sup> in Cuchara. The LVFPD Board of Directors and staff thanked Paula and Auxiliary for all their hard work and support.

Jim Berg asked EMS Director Schmidt if any of the EMS Shift workers would be able to spend their shift time in the Cuchara area. EMS Director Schmidt assured Jim that that was permissible under the current system.

**Correspondence, Guests and Presenters**

Brett Wallace, San Luis and Rio Grande RR General Manager from Alamosa did not attend the meeting as had been planned. No word was received from Mr. Wallace.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report and payments for the August 10, 2017 meeting were presented.

**MSA:** The Board approved the Treasurer's Report as presented.

**Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) Report**

Michael Warren, Wildfire Mitigation Service Manager, presented the WMS report. A copy of that report is attached to these minutes along with a report from Paul Branson, Huerfano County Wildfire Mitigation Manager. Director Nielsen asked WMS Manager Warren to research the issue with Huerfano County not paying the LVFPD due to homeowners not paying the County for their mitigation work.

**EMS Director Report**

- 1) 18 EMS runs with 11 patients transported in July, 2017.
- 2) La Veta EMS has been awarded the CDPHE EMS grant for the 5 - 800 radios and 5 pagers. The District will receive grant funds of \$8,405 to reimburse 50% of the total cost of \$16,810 for the communication equipment. Waiting for the Notice to Proceed documentation before ordering the radios and pagers.

**\*MSA = Moved, Seconded and Approved (unanimously unless otherwise indicated).**

- 3) 3 EMT class students still need to take and pass their National Registry tests. Deadline for CREATE reimbursement request has been extended to Sept. 30, 2017. Reimbursement has been requested from the CREATE grant for Norma Mower and Mark Worgan who have passed their tests and acquired certification.
- 4) The new laptop computers purchased with USDA funds now have the State of Colorado's Image Trend Elite patient care reporting system installed and implemented. All seems to be going well with the new system.
- 5) Attended the RETAC meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup> in Pueblo. There will be a change in the way RETAC funds are allocated. Instead of being distributed through Huerfano County Government, mini-grants will awarded by the RETAC Board directly to agencies.
- 6) Station 1 received minor damage to the west exterior wall when Rescue 3 (1992 Chev. Amb.) was parked after the Cuchara Valley Music Fest.
- 7) Station 1's overhead door # 1, where Rescue 1 (2009 Dodge Amb.) is parked, received damage to the bottom door panel when R-1 was backing into the station before the door was completely raised. Repair parts are on order.
- 8) Attended SPRCH ER & Trauma meeting. Held good and beneficial visits with new ambulance managers at SPRHC. Advised Huerfano County Commissioner, Max Vezzani of the good communications and resolving the issue of providing mutual aid for backup ambulance coverage.
- 9) The High Plains patient care reporting system will expire on August 1 but LVFPD will have access to information already on the server in case it is needed.
- 8) John Hudson, John Mayfield and Wendy Waldrop assisted with an ambulance at the July 15<sup>th</sup> Cuchara Valley Music Fest. The ambulance on standby at the Century Bike Ride was staffed by John Hudson and John Mayfield.

Director Shroul asked that EMS Director Schmidt instruct EMTs in proper backing procedures and using an observer whenever possible.

#### **Fire Chief Report**

- 1) 7 Fire calls in July: Overheated propane tank, a downed power line caused 3 small burnt spots, gas/propane odor in home, grass fire along Hwy. 160, fire alarm activation, mutual aid to HCFPD for wildland fire, smoke report.
- 2) Fire Trainings in July: July 5 on wildland fire and progressive hose lays with 11 FFs and 1 Jr. FF in attendance. July 15 on communication and wildland sandbox scenarios with 6 in attendance.

Director Shroul stated that Chief DeTray had advised that due to so few Board Directors at the August meeting and his paramedic class testing, he was deferring supplying a Fire Chief Report until the September meeting.

#### **Old Business**

Work is continuing with the locker rooms and storage area construction. Dist. Sec. Pezze will coordinate with Chelsea Stromberg at DOLA and submit the documents for the final \$44,500 reimbursement.

All other Old Business items were briefly reviewed with no Board action taken.

#### **New Business**

Director Shroul asked for the LVFPD to pay one-half of his \$800 registration fee and room and board expense to attend the Special District Association conference in Keystone on Sept. 13 and 14, 2017. Cucharas Sanitation and Water District is paying the other one-half.

**MSA:** The Board authorized paying \$400.00 toward Director Shroul's Special District Assoc. conference registration and room and board expense.

Director Shroul asked to use the Operations Room for a Shroul family trust meeting on October 14, 2017. The Board concurred that as long as there is a District member in attendance, and there are no other Fire District activities needing the room, there is no problem with using the facility.

**MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

  
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 James E. Littlefield, President

# **LVFPD WMS MONTHLY REPORT**

**July, 2017**

**Michael Warren**

**WMS/FAL Supervisor**

## **CREW**

**Crew has taken some serious hits this week. 1 Employee pull a no show no call all week. I am working to get in touch with him to get Fire and WMS property back. I had to work on crew for 2 days to satisfy a Homeowner who had time restraints to get mitigation done for Insurance. Proposal for crew is attached under new business.**

## **Equipment**

**The chipper has been returned due to having no crew at this time. This way we don't pay for it while not being used. Crew boss spent a day returning the chipper and going through all WMS equipment to ensure good running condition. Also ran all saws and weed cutters out of fuel for the purpose of not being used for a while.**

## **Current objectives for Supervisor**

**I am currently working on planning for the future of WMS/FAL crew. Keeping up to date on current paperwork with county personnel. I am also assigned to oversee H&H on their project sites, to ensure they are staying compliant with FEMA rules.**

**Per new county rules, Batches submitted to the county for La Veta reimbursement will not be paid until the Home Owner sends in their half of the invoice to the county. For more specifics on this rule, you may contact Paul Branson.**

## **New Business**

**David Steffan was not cleared for work on the 24<sup>th</sup>. He has a follow-up appointment with the doctor on Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>. We will know on that date if he is to return to work. He is currently not working.**

**Robert Ryland is now my only active crew member. Due to this, I propose to shut down the crew for 1 Month. This is for multiple reasons:**

**First, this allows time for me to push hard to get a new crew hired. This way we don't have to rush and can select good candidates. I can also train any candidates to start work.**

**Second, it will allow a timeframe for Robert Ryland to try to get out on a fire crew. This is very important to him for the purpose of increasing his capacity, as well as good income.**

Third, it gives time to find out where we stand with David S. on if he can return to the crew or not.

**Season to Date: -- 7 FAL Jobs completed**

**Batch #5**

<b>Cobb:</b>	<b>\$4783.03</b>
<b>Frazier:</b>	<b>\$679.28</b>
<b>McGee:</b>	<b>\$1073.28</b>
<b>Morgan:</b>	<b>\$715.00</b>
<b>Carlton:</b>	<b>\$1705.00</b>
<b>Pelaez:</b>	<b>\$2104.36</b>
<b>Swan:</b>	<b>\$203.72</b>
<b>Farber:</b>	<b>\$80.76</b>
<b>Enochs:</b>	<b>\$1855.44</b>
<b>Bogenschultz:</b>	<b>\$4872.24</b>

**Batch #6**

<b>Christian Fellowship:</b>	<b>\$307.40</b>
<b>M. Christian:</b>	<b>Waiting for C.C.</b>
<b>Hard:</b>	<b>Waiting for C.C.</b>
<b>Messer:</b>	<b>Waiting for C.C.</b>
<b>Paolucci:</b>	<b>Waiting for C.C.</b>
<b>Jencopale:</b>	<b>Waiting for C.C.</b>

**Included in Batch #6 but not completed this season**

<b>Aspen Leaf:</b>	<b>\$1948.88</b>
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**Total to date: \$18,379.51**

## Huerfano County-Wildfire Mitigation Program

8/10/17

### Manager Update:

- No word on the Reimbursement from the State to Huerfano County except that it is still in process.
- The work load continues at an exceptional level due to the seasonal influx of homeowners. The HMGP staff have concluded public enrollment and final preparations for the last batch of contracted homeowners. Ground operations will continue through late fall 2017. Due to implementation capability struggles (FAL crew losses and ongoing low vendor response), the County Wildfire Manager has enlisted the help of TEAM RUBICON to help us complete remaining contracts. Details on this arrangement are forthcoming as planning meetings are in process. HMGP Grant staff has also begun preparations for two upcoming Funder site visits as well as program closeout reporting.
- Systems to utilize the HMGP project Biomass (Firewood and Chips) have finally been created in spite of multiple challenges or support issues. Firewood is going into the County LEAP program and most of the chips are going to the Boy Scout ranch for erosion control and/or re-vegetation projects. Grant staff and Tom Coseno would love any help with those primarily volunteer run aspects.
- TEAM RUBICON will also be participating in the DART (Data Acquisition and Reconnaissance Team program. The DART Core Team is finalizing it's field assessment templates and related materials/procedures. Field testing will resume shortly as Peak Season tasks decline.
- The County continues active participation in the Multi-Hazard Plan of the HC OEM. The final draft from the HMP vendor is due at any time. All wildfire planning is being merged with this important County level all-hazard assessment and guide. County OEM and the wildfire manager collaborating on research into area wildfire alert/evacuation sirens. A Master's level research student has been retained to help.
- The County continues active core team leadership in the CPAW (Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire). The CPAW team has completed a comprehensive audit of all county planning, regulations, codes, etc. and provided an initial audit of their findings. The local CPAW Core Team has completed their responses to this audit. Essentially, the absence of wildfire planning (except for 2 CWPPs), or even the recognition of wildfire as a natural hazard for local concern, needs to be addressed promptly. The CPAW Team is also moving ahead on county wide wildfire hazard risk assessments which will inform everything from land use, code adoption, to emergency response readiness.
- Firewise, Ready Set Go!, and Cohesive Wildland fire Strategy programs all continue across the county. 3 new Firewise communities are expect by the end of 2016.
- Several annual Firewise work parties have been completed this year.