

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, SIERRA FOREST FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

TUESDAY

4:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 8, 2005

PRESENT:

Bonnie Weber, Chairman
Bob Larkin, Vice Chairman
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
David Humke, Commissioner

Amy Harvey County Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel
Tim Rochelle, Regional Forester

ABSENT:

Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner

The Board met in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and conducted the following business:

05-01SF AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Humke, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Sferrazza absent, Chairman Weber ordered that the agenda for the February 8, 2005 meeting be approved.

05-02SF MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Chairman Weber, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Sferrazza absent, it was ordered that the minutes of the December 14, 2004 meeting be approved.

05-03SF REPORT OF DISTRICT ACTIVITY

Tim Rochelle, Regional Forester, highlighted the Report of District Activity and the history of dispatch incidences. He reported one minor injury to a firefighter assigned to an incident along with the usual call volumes. Chief Rochelle said issues arose during the month of January with REMSA Dispatch coordinating with the Sierra Forest Fire Dispatch to prioritize calls within the District. He said a number of calls had not been reported timely to the Sierra Interagency Dispatch Center; however, he believed the issue had been resolved. He also commented that the District was in the

final stages of contracting for the 800 MHz Radio System through the Reno Emergency Communications Center and hoped to move all 800 MHz and Risk Dispatch to the City of Reno.

Commissioner Galloway inquired on the progress concerning the agreement for cost sharing between the City of Reno and the District, which would enable the operations to merge. Chief Rochelle had nothing to report at this time; however, he said he was actively seeking a preferred alternative. Commissioner Galloway stated it was important to acquire the agreement in order to obtain equitable cost.

Katy Singlaub, County Manager, reported she met with Mary Walker, Walker and Associates, and Pete Anderson, State Forester Firewarden, and updated the Board that staff had written a letter to the City of Reno initiating the discussions with Local 731, which were required pursuant to any consolidation going forward. She said the City of Reno wished to wait until their agreement was consummated with Local 731 before discussions would begin on the consolidation. Ms. Singlaub said there may be a complication due to a possible property tax cap and asked Ms. Walker to re-evaluate the financial feasibility of the District under various scenarios. She said staff had targeted January 1, 2006 for the potential merge.

Chairman Weber requested written presentations of the District Activity Report be included in the Board's packet. Mr. Rochelle said he would have that arranged.

Gary Schmidt, Washoe resident, pointed out potential problems with consolidation. He said volunteer fire departments were crucial for rural areas since the volunteers were generally residents of the area and had knowledge of the homes and residents who could be affected.

05-04SF COMMISSIONERS'/STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioner Galloway said the consolidation was between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the Nevada Division of Forestry. He said it may impact local firefighting but should not impact volunteers.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned.

BONNIE WEBER, Chairman
Sierra Forest Fire Protection District

ATTEST:

AMY HARVEY, Washoe County Clerk
and Ex Officio Clerk, Sierra Forest
Fire Protection District

*Minutes Prepared by
Stacy Gonzales, Deputy County Clerk*