



VCOS Board Telecon Minutes

Thursday, October 18, 2012

Participants:

Chief Timothy Wall, Chair
State Fire Marshal Shane Ray, International Director
Chief Ted Lowden
Chief Jim Wilson

Guests:

Mr. Toivo Sari, VCOS Vision Project
Mr. Scott Seifert, VCOS Vision Project

Not on Call:

Chief Dan Eggleston
Chief Fred Crosby
Chief Dave Fulmer
Chief Jim Seavey
Chief Mike Vaughn
Chief Fred Windisch

Update on Vision Project Website – Toivo Sari and Scott Seifert

Mr. Sari and Mr. Seifert updated the board on their September 27 teleconference to discuss plans for the Vision project website with IAFC staff members Corinne Baker, IAFC Web Manager, and Joelle Fishkin.

All participants agreed that, technically, it makes much more sense to house the website on the IAFC website. Mr. Sari and Mr. Seifert reviewed the tools which exist on the IAFC website and found that pretty much everything the lane leaders want can be handled by the existing website infrastructure. In addition, from a cost perspective, it's best to keep it on the IAFC website rather than trying to build an entirely new infrastructure.

We will have to negotiate the pricing but we will have a quote from Terry Monroe and Corinne Baker.

The main benefit of using the IAFC website is not to try to drive people to two different websites for information. If IAFC members are searching for content on either the IAFC website or the VCOS website, they would be directed to the proper site for the VCOS Vision Project.

The main focus of discussions with IAFC staff is "delivery time." Mr. Sari and Mr. Seifert felt that as long as the website is planned well and VCOS doesn't have extraordinary expectations, (with adequate lead-time), staff should be able to accommodate us. If we give them a skeleton of what we hope to have, we might have deliverables within a 60-90 day time-period. The only problem will be if there's another large project going on at the same time. Staff stated that they will handle the VCOS project in the order in which it's received.

Designing/creating the initial website could take up to 6 months but once the design of the site exists, updating it will be easier and faster. There will be an approval process related to uploading all content.

Tim Wall stated that he feels comfortable building the site on the IAFC's website.

Mr. Sari and Mr. Seifert will be holding meetings at Symposium to plan out timelines to move the project forward.

Update on Near Miss Program – Chief Timothy Wall

Chief Wall reported that a Task Force was appointed by President Clemmensen to brainstorm and develop a message to support the Near Miss program and keep it up and running both in the short-term and the long-term. The current understanding is that the funds will run out at the end of October.

The IAFC has come to an agreement with Oklahoma State University to host the servers and keep the information so it's not lost.

The Task Force and Chief Bill Metcalf are communicating with divisions, sections and exhibitors and some national organizations for funding and other assistance. There has been some support among those groups.

Update on Insurance Paper – Chief Timothy Wall

The Insurance Paper was sent to the printer on October 2 and should be in the mail by October 5. It will be sent 1st class mail to 2261 names, which includes all VCOS members except Life members.

2500 copies were printed so that there will be extra copies for Symposium and other conferences. The report will be announced just prior to Symposium.

Symposium 2012 Updates – Chief Timothy Wall

As of today's date, Symposium registration is ahead of where we were last year with 439 registrations. Registrations continue to come in; the Symposium will probably sell out.

The Sheraton Sand Key is not completely sold out. MJ has an informal waiting list and is working to fill the empty rooms. There should be no problem selling out the room block.

The VCOS & IAFC board dinner is Thursday night 6:30 and we still need an attendee count. The dinner will be at the Marriott Hotel.

We need all agenda items and board reports sent to the staff liaison by October 26. Our board meeting is Sunday from 1pm – 4:30pm and Monday from 8:00am to 11:30am. We will have dinner as a group on Sunday night.

VCOS Newsletter - Chief Timothy Wall

We're seeking authors for the Symposium issue. We hope to produce it in December to be mailed in January. Mike Macdonald will assist with the writing.

Chief Wilson and Chief Lowden will ask attendees if they're willing to be interviewed for the newsletter. Chief Lowden will be interviewed himself as he's a first time attendee. Chief Wilson will write an article on the Symposium itself.

We have a proposal to focus on insurance stories for Spring issue and schedule an insurance webinar for same time period and we'll need authors for that. Chief Wall will ask Chief Fulmer and one other board member to focus on that.

Roundtable

Wall: Encourages board members to ask Symposium attendees if they want to be interviewed.

Received an email from Mary Beth Michos regarding firefighter medical exams; this is a topic we need to pursue.

The IAFC sent a letter to NFPA saying it was watering down NFPA 1001: *Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications*. NFPA 1582 states that the local medical control will determine whether a person can be a firefighter. The SHS Section adopted a policy in July 2012 to institute fitness evaluations for all firefighters.

Wilson: Stated his concern for financial implications for volunteer fire departments. They cannot afford to do physicals every year. He states that we can't necessarily have the same standard for volunteers and career firefighters. Plus there are not the same physical demands on both groups of people and we should be more concerned about cardiac problems with volunteers.

Ray: Departments which are unable to comply with the requirements may be able to apply for a grant to assist them in developing a program. States that he doesn't think the changes to NFPA 1582 threaten the volunteers. We might consider asking the IAFC that at least one of the three people they send every year to the AFG grants should be a volunteer.

Action Item: Draft request to IAFC requesting that at least one AFG grant reviewer be a volunteer.