

Meeting Notes
FIRESCOPE Board of Directors
OES Headquarters, Sacramento
October 19, 1981

I. Those Present:

Dick Barrows	Paul Guilkey
Frank Borden (for Gerard)	Bob Irwin
Clyde Bragdon	Jerry Letson
John Chaffin	Stan Masson
Bob Connelly	Dave Pesonen
Alex Cunningham	Zane Smith
	Bill Tonguet

- II. Chairman Smith opened the meeting with a statement on the status of Federal funding for FIRESCOPE. The Congressional budget process is not yet complete, and the Program is operating under authority of a "Continuing Resolution" which will expire November 20, 1981. Thus far in the appropriations process, the House of Representatives has approved a \$1.0 million allocation for FIRESCOPE with the proviso that the Federal share of development costs be phased out by September 30, 1982. The Senate Appropriations Committee has recommended that the House budget and language be approved, but the full Senate has not yet voted on the matter.

All indications point to the probability that Congress will not sponsor further Program development, and that the Program Office will be disbanded by the end of 1982. This will leave the Program only about 50% completed.

- III. Director Cunningham followed with the status of State budget conditions. The State, also, is under strict economy measures, and various cutbacks are imminent.

The OES wants to see FIRESCOPE's development continue, and wants to redeem its responsibilities to the FIRESCOPE partner agencies. Cunningham stated that he had requested this meeting specifically to review the situation with the Board and obtain their advice, counsel, and recommendations for the future.

- IV. Program Manager Irwin briefed the Board on the expected Program accomplishments by September 30, 1982, and the probable operation and maintenance (O&M) costs for the completed elements. Discussion followed which clarified that the "hard cash" outlays for O&M would still be divided as 75% State responsibility, and 25% Forest Service. The "in-kind" contributions (personnel, training, vehicles, etc.) from all involved agencies are not calculated in the O&M cost figures.

- V. Chief Barrows reviewed the Operations Team recommendations and the OES proposals for continued development, operations, and maintenance. Both of these documents propose a continuing effort to complete the FIRESCOPE system and extend it statewide in a comprehensive, all-risk, configuration.

Barrows raised these particular questions:

- Should fire services "go it alone" in pursuit of the completed system, or should other emergency services practitioners be enlisted in a common effort?
- Who should sponsor the future program when Congressional sponsorship is withdrawn?
- How will funding be obtained?

Answers to the questions were held in abeyance until the last portion of the meeting.

- VI. Irwin reviewed six alternative courses of action which ranged from (#1) do nothing, and let the existing products deteriorate, to (#6) completion of the full system development and statewide extension in concert with other emergency management efforts.

Irwin also briefed the Board on the Program Office recommendation. This provides a step-by-step process to reach alternative #6 in a manner that will allow phased completion of the system, inclusion of other development and implementation efforts, and future decision points as time and progress continue.

A key step in this process is the early assignment of personnel to a "development team" by the OES. This team is to provide the technical expertise in systems management that will be lost as the Forest Service Program Office is phased out.

- VII. The Board deliberated on all of the material presented, and made the following decisions:

- A. The State should become the sponsor of the program.
- B. The OES should be "lead agency" in its management, operations and maintenance, and future development.
- C. Alternative #6 -- "Complete development and statewide extension in concert with other agencies and emergency management efforts. Join forces for a broader base of support and a single, comprehensive statewide system" -- was unanimously selected as the long-term goal. The statewide extension of those program elements existing in 1982 was selected as the short-term goal and interim objective. (This is a modification of the original Alternative #3.)

D. The OES should:

1. Prepare plans and budget proposals that will provide approximately \$450,000 to operate existing program components in State F.Y. 1982-83.
2. Prepare a companion (or combination) plan for \$2-3 million over the same period to continue development in the short term and begin statewide extension of program products.
3. Develop an additional long-term proposal of \$6-10 million to complete development of the full Research design.
4. Establish a "Development Team" to take over current Program Office planning and implementation responsibilities.
5. Assume responsibilities for the existing FIRESCOPE Decision Process by July 1, 1982, as recommended by the Operations Team.

E. The Forest Service will continue to provide 25% of the annual O&M costs for the southern California operations. As the system expands, the Forest Service will negotiate appropriate support levels. The Program Office will assist statewide extension during Federal F.Y. 1982.

F. The Operations Team is to begin discussions with the various other emergency services practitioners in southern California. The Operations Team is to develop proposals for a new Decision Process that will eventually guide a statewide, all-risk, comprehensive emergency management system.

Preliminary recommendations on the topic should be presented to the Board in January, 1982.

VII. All documents reviewed at the meeting are enclosed for your reference and records.

ROBERT L. IRWIN
Program Manager