

# Governor's Fire Service Policy Council

1:00 p.m. • Tuesday, April 26, 2011

Office of State Fire Marshal • Mt. Hood Conference Room

## Minutes

### Members

- Greg Keller, OFCA (Chair)
- Scott Mullen, OVFA (V Chr)
- Kelly Bach, SFFC
- Bob Borra, Insurance Providers
- Tammy Fitch, League of Oregon Cities
- Eric McMullen, OFMA
- Tad Pedersen, OSFM
- Bob Reeves, OFDDA
- John Stein, General Public

### Ex Officio

- Cameron Smith, Gov's Office
- Chris Brown, OSP
- Eriks Gabliks, DPSST

### Executive Director/Staff

- Jim Walker, Interim State Fire Marshal
- Sally Cravinho, Staff

### Visitors

- Jeff Miller, TVFR
- Capt. Sherrard, TVFR
- John Caul, OSFM
- Donna Disch
- Becky Oberfoell
- Dave Fields
- Bob Leopold
- Maureen Bedell
- Kyle Romey

### **Welcome/Introductions**

Chair Keller welcomed the council.

### **Changes to the agenda:**

No changes to the agenda.

### **Minutes:**

No changes to the minutes.

Interim State Fire Marshal Jim Walker motioned to accept the minutes, John Stein seconded the motion.

### **Communications:**

None

### **Guest/Visitor Input:**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Chair Keller introduced and welcomed Jeff Miller with TVFR. Jeff introduced Chief. Sherrard with TVFR. Special thanks given to Jeff Miller and Derik Weiss on doing the project on the study.

Jeff handed out the hard copy of the report as Chief Sherrard thanked all who were involved as much as the OFSM for supporting it and being a part of it.

Chair Keller talked about the document and what do we do with all this information that we have and how we can apply this to the fire service?

Chief Sherrard explained the reason behind doing the study with the understanding they all knew there were bad things at these fires, but the question being what chemicals were present. It's understood they need to increase the study and put it into practice.

Kelly Bach would like to see labor reps on the work group to protect the workers. Committee agreed and Chair Keller feels it would be appropriate. Dave Phillips is the safety committee president and would be a good connection to get people involved in this, as well as having the GFSPC give their input. Chair Keller thought the best practice would be those safety persons involved. He will give Dave's number to Kelly.

John Stein asked what are the best practices will be and the process and of having the being release plan.

Chair Keller went on to say we need to share this document, especially due to the fact it is a public document. Chief Sherrard agreed and there are other studies still need to be done. However, they understood from the beginning this study would only help the citizens of the state.

The question was asked if this was the final study and the concern of the people getting their hands on it before the best practices were decided. Chair Keller believes that as TVFR gets requests to receive a copy, they should be able to get it. Once it is completed, a notice should go out from the OSFM. It was agreed that it needs to go to the safety committee to have them interpret the document.

The document should be released as soon as possible.

Chief Sherrard explained that each department has different best practices and how they vary from one another.

It was suggested that this study have the word "Draft" put across the document before we get it back from the Oregon Fire Safety Committee. Jim agreed with Chief Sherrard that the document report is essentially complete and suggested having a statement in the introduction stating the report is being reviewed by the safety group and then the report can go out.

Chair Keller suggested OSFM put together a statement to go with the study ie: as of this date a recommendation is being done for further review before dissemination to the fire service. He assured TVFR this report would not be changed in any sort of the way.

Chief Sherrard informed the committee that they are already putting these best practices in process according to the results of this study. They have raised the awareness level of line fire fighters and the chief officers in charge on the scene.

Bob asked if the volunteers have anyone supporting them on the safety committee and how this is going to impact the small rural areas. Chair Keller asked Scott if they had anyone representing them and he didn't seem to think so. Scott said they get pretty stretched out. Chair Keller went on to inform Scott that Kelly Bach raised the question of having an official member from the Oregon Fire Fighters Council as a representative on the safety section which will be the ones to come up with recommendations of best practices. Chair Keller will call Dave Phillips who is the president of the volunteers and relay the concerns of Kelly and step up for OFVA and make sure they representation.

Eriks feels there will be more studies will be done from this one. It's going to have an impact on the nation once this study is shared.

Chair Keller made the recommendation for staff to get a paragraph to TVFR and they can include it on report and send an electronic copy back to Jim Walker for review and Chair Keller will then he will forward it onto the Chiefs and they distribute it to the safety section and get on to the next phase of this.

Committee will put "DRAFT" on their copies they have in their hands to make sure this copy doesn't get out before the safety committee gives their input.

Scott asked the question on the peripherals costs. Have you seen any of these? Chief Sherrard said there are things that will go along with that. As far as the recommendation, he doesn't see it being substantial costs involved. It all depends on what the individual department implements. It could be a big impact for the smaller departments. TVFR is trying to stay away from saying, "this is what you need to do" because, we can't know system works for everybody. He went on to say how TVFR is ramping up their rehab policy and how they monitor and track their personnel, what level of attention they disperse the needs and the things they are actually catching, like the physical ailments of the people who aren't necessarily related to that specific fire.

Eriks suggested maybe the next step could be considerations on the local level. Chair Keller recommended going over these questions as the other document evolves and after it's sent back for review, some of the specific language that is applicable and useful to everybody.

Chair Keller re-welcomed Cameron Smith from the Governor's office back to the committee. He apologized for not acknowledging him earlier due to the fact he's so used to seeing him at previous meetings. Cameron was with the previous Governor's office and has returned with the new Governor Kitzhaber.

**Action:**

OSFM will write a paragraph to add to the study referring to it being a draft. We will not promote the study, but if someone requests the report. It would be sent out with this attachment. Chair explained to Kelly over the phone the importance of the document and we're not changing what came out of the study.

**Annexation in to Fire Districts**

Chair Keller went over this and he spoke with Jim Walker about the staff getting more committee members on this.

**Action:**

Continues.

**Budget Update:**

Jim gave an update on the budget referring to the January meeting. OSFM was given 75 FTE and \$23 million on budget. He went on to say on reviewing the budget, the CR2K program and how their service level needs to match their fee based revenues. They receive their fees through the hazardous substance program and this is roughly running 1.9 million per biennium in arrears, which equates to four positions. This did not make it through the Governor's budget, so we're

showing a reduction of four FTE, plus the 1.9 million. Jim met with the Sub-Ways and Means Committee in which he had conversations about the fee increases and the difficulty it would have on impacting about 62 businesses. OSFM looked at how we could lessen the impact and presented a couple different options. What it would take to actually meet the basic federal guidelines of the program, which is to have two of the positions returned to us and a small increase being spaced out over two biennium's.

Jim explained how we could go about how the businesses being impacted. These businesses wrote letters to the Ways and Means Committee supporting the program. In the beginning, we would get only 30% chance of keeping the current positions. Now were looking at 75%.

The other programs that are fee based are currently self supportive. Jim went over the legislative process and the fee based programs. Weekly correspondence is occurring between the legislature and OSFM. The biggest concern is the CR2K program and dealing with keeping the FTE.

The other challenge is the LEPC program which operates on grants. This program is not a fee based program. However, it has the potential of going away and a half million dollars of annual grants that we're getting would go with it. Jim explained he didn't feel EPA would pick this program up. They won't let us supplement it anymore with FIPT because it has positions attached to it that are part of CR2K.

Kelly asked, "Where did we end up with the report?" Chair Keller explained that if anyone wants a copy the report, OSFM is going to come up with an introduction to add on to TVFR's report stating this is still a work in progress and it will go to the safety section to come up with "best practices". Once this is completed, it will come back to the GFSPC for final approval.

### **Legislative Update:**

Donna explained her handouts and how to look them up on our website. She also explained the low priority of one of the bills HB3255 and HJ17, which has to do with seals and the seal bombs. We want to make sure they don't name us as an authority over watching them as they are being used to discourage the seals from being in the fish ladders and to keep them from eating the fish. This would fall under the fireworks program.

HB2078 is one we're really watching. Donna explained the redundancies of this bill and how it was mostly house keeping issues and to keep in code. It doesn't need to be in statute and code. It was passed the house side.

HB2079 is the smoke alarm bill. The perceptions were a big issue on this bill. After the last meeting, your comments helped to kill the bill which was a good thing. We don't want to make laws that people can't comply to. This bill has been put to bed.

SB69 is a bill that came from fireworks law review. It was worked on by a large assembly of people including, citizens, fire service, law enforcement and the fireworks industry. This was a housekeeping piece and the definitions better matched the law. One of the issues was the geese on golf courses and citizens homes and property.

Donna explained the calls OSFM receives after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July from the public complaining on the illegal fireworks going off in their neighborhood, saying it's a war zone. In the end, this bill (see handout) was housekeeping and will help law enforcement enforce the illegal fireworks.

The next step on SB69 will be going on the senate floor. Donna expects it to be voted on this week. At first it was blockaded by the Republicans, and it was turning into a D's against the R's but an amendment was added exempting the military. She has been getting positive responses on the bill.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Eriks reported the latest on Federal Fire Issues: National Fire Academy funding has been moved forward. FY11 will stay the same for National Fire Programs. There is now an addition of EMS component to every National Fire Academy class, which he thinks many people were expecting to happen because most of the calls are EMS based. There are questions on the next federal fiscal year will look like regarding the budget reductions.

Fire Act Grants programs under FEMA were reauthorized. The Oregon Fire Services received millions of either AFG or fire apparatus, SAFER to hire fire fighters both career and volunteer and fire prevention and safety, have been reauthorized under the same dollars as in the previous year and then the question will happen for the next biennium. The grant program has become very important all the states. Oregon has received dozens of fire trucks across the state, turnout gear, self contained breathing apparatus for SAFER. Volunteer fire fighters have been given funding for career employees that works Monday through Friday 8a-5p and responds to calls.

Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services, which is called FICEMS. It is made up of Dept. of Homeland Security, Health & Human Services, Transportation and FEMA. They are looking at should there be a single source for EMS for the country because each of these agencies is involved. They are scheduled to get a white paper out by the end of May.

### **Action:**

The white paper due out in May will be sent to Sally by Eriks and she will get it passed around.

Scott Mullen brought up new articles in the last couple of weeks on the fire safer cigarettes. He spoke of the news in the papers stating the causes of fires by these cigarettes. Donna explained the self extinguishing verses the wind keeping the flame going.

Scott asked how often we are monitoring that. Jim talked about the statistical information we're gathering on those.

Chair Keller had spoke to Jeff Johnson on this same subject because it has just happened in his neighborhood. He agreed with Scott on the fact this is a very valid question.

Jim spoke on how Lena in the Data unit is gathering, displaying and interpreting the information.

Jim reminded the committee about the Fire Service Appreciation day. There's work being done back at the Capitol to have it in May. Eriks explained the origination of Fire Service Day, Tim Birr came up with the origin of the first date. It's agreed that this day in February is a gloomy day.

Bob mentioned SB106 was pulled and will be back in February and Dave Jones, OFDD President has been chosen to represent us to restructure the bill and hopefully have all the

stakeholders support. It's been a big issue this time around. If you have any interest or input, please give Dave a call.

**Action:**

Sally will get Scott Mullen the correct forms to be filled out for his replacement on the council.

**REPORTS**

**Council Member Reports**

**Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

**Next meeting dates:**

July 26, 2011

October 25, 2011

January 24, 2012

**Meeting location:**

Office of State Fire Marshal

Mt. Hood Conference Room

**Meeting time:**

1:00 pm