

MEETING MINUTES

Rural Structural Fire Protection Review Taskforce (HB 2522)

Meeting: Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 9:30am
 Location: Salem OSFM HQ, Mt. Hood Conference Room

Introduction

CALL TO ORDER

Chief Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:38 AM

Attendance

MEMBERS & ALTERNATES

Member	In Attendance	Not in Attendance
Roger Johnson, Chair	X	
Christopher Griffin, OFDDA	X	
Ty Darby, OFMA	X	
Genoa Ingram, OFDDA/OFVA	X	
Mike Cook, OFVA	X	
Karl Koenig, OSFFC	X	
Ben Stange, SDAO		X
Mike Hussey, OFCA	X	
James Cleavenger, LOC	X	
Brian Stewart, OFCA		X
Irik Rinnert, OSFFC		X
Kevin Cameron, AOC		X
Mariah Rawlins, OSFM		X
Travis Medema, OSFM	X	

ALTERNATES

Member	In Attendance	Not in Attendance
Rick Huffman, OFCA	X	
Alvin Klausen, AOC	X	
Scott Hollett, LOC		

STAFF

Member	In Attendance	Not in Attendance
Mariana Ruiz-Temple, GFSPC Executive Director		X
Eric Gemmil, OSFM	X	
Adam Meyer, OSFM, Administrator	X	
Kassie Keller, OSFM	X	
Amanda Wright, OSFM, Scribe	X	
Christy Monson, DOJ	X	

OTHERS in ATTENDANCE

Member	In Attendance	Not in Attendance
Claire McGrew	X	

Meeting Notes

Notice of this meeting was published though Oregon Transparency Website:

<https://www.oregon.gov/transparency/Pages/Public-Meetings.aspx>

Meeting

On Wednesday March 27, 2024, at 9:38 am Chair Chief Roger Johnson called the HB2522 Task Force Committee Meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes Review

Task Force Chair, Chief Johnson

The meeting minutes from February 23, 2024, meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

The Meeting Minutes can be viewed at the following link: [Oregon State Fire Marshal : State of Oregon](#)

Follow-up on ORS Chapter 478.260 – 478.505

Task Force Chair, Chief Johnson

478.260: The recommendation from the subgroup is that the language needs to be clarified that any assistant hired will report to the Fire Chief, not to the board. The committee unanimously agrees with the recommendation.

- DOJ's feedback was that an assistant is a policy choice for the committee to decide if they want to allow the board to hire an assistant. The concern would be that it could cause some difficult power dynamics between the board and chief.
- **478.280** also references/mirrors the same.
- **478.260(4)** – No recommendation to change the statute in this section. The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

478.270: OSFM Staff is working on, Chief Ruiz-Temple is the point of contact.

- Some discussion around if it's the department or the board that reports monthly to the State Fire Marshall?
- What's the frequency?
- What format (electronic or paper) should the report be turned in?

478.310(1): - OSFM staff and committee to address at April Task Force Meeting.

478.340: DOJ will address at the April Task Force Meeting. Per DOJ an employee could opt out (51.20).

- Any changes to Pers?
- Does this affect Paid Leave Oregon?
- *(1) The district may agree to pay none, part or all of the premiums or charges on insurance or service contracts, and it may collect from the salary of any employee covered by the contract the percentage of the premiums or charges the employee is required to provide pursuant to the contract. **Contributions for premiums or charges by employees shall be only on a voluntary basis.***
- A specialist with labor and insurance would be good to talk to.

478.410: OSFM staff and committee to address at April Task Force Meeting.

- *(4) Unless expressly prohibited by the documents creating the district, a district board may adopt an ordinance as provided under ORS 198.510 to 198.600 to create a fee for any service provided*

by the district. A fee created under authority of this section may not exceed the cost to the district of providing the service. The fee authority granted to a board by this subsection is in addition to any authority granted to a board under local law or by the documents creating the district.
Notwithstanding ORS 198.600, the failure to pay a fee created under authority of this section is not a violation punishable under ORS 198.600. [Amended by 1959 c.520 §1; 1963 c.9 §30; 1967 c.235 §1; 1969 c.667 §26; 1975 c.467 §1; 1981 c.804 §108; 1983 c.192 §3; 1991 c.459 §418; 2005 c.620 §1; 2017 c.26 §9]

478.470: DOR is researching.

478.485: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

478.490: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

478.505: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

- Crook County had separate tax zones for a while but that changed in 2003-2005. No longer using 2 tax zones.

ORS Chapter 478.702 – 478.990

Task Force Chair, Chief Johnson

478.702: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

- Before any changes are implemented, first we need to see if any challenges arise. This was a significant push over 2 legislative sessions.

478.840: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

478.845: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

478.850: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

478.855: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

478.860: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

478.865: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

478.870: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

478.875: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

478.880: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

478.885: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

478.910: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

478.920: Recommendation is to discuss further and close out at April meeting.

- Who is named is critical, officers designated by the board. modernize to current language and terminology.
- (7) Requiring the issuance of permits by the fire chief of the district before burning trash or waste materials.

- (8) “Or designee” that is consistent across the law.
- (8) “Officers designated by the board refer to the Fire Chief “rather than the board that’s a theme we’ve see through the statutes, right.

478.924: Clarie will work with Chrity as needed. Chief Johnson would like OSFM to reach out to other organizations and report back at the April meeting.

- Might be some opportunities to create some efficiencies for fire districts and their boundaries by potentially making some modifications to this.
- **Question:** If you claim exempt status under ORS 476 and you don't modify that code, would you then also still be required to go to each city and county jurisdiction to have it resolved? Also reach out to other organizations and see how they operate.

478.927: Could be opportunities for efficiencies. Based on the comments we want to understand more from the committee what are some of those opportunities to create efficiencies.

- Important to make sure that who is named in here remains critical.

478.930: The committee unanimously recommended modernizing the language.

- When a district has adopted a fire prevention code as provided in ORS 478.910:
- What if a district doesn’t adopt the fire prevention code?

478.940: Modernize of filing and posting

- *“Copies of the fire prevention code shall be filed with the Department of the State Fire Marshal and a copy shall be posted at each fire station within the district. [Amended by 2021 c.539 §138]”.*
- Modern term requested: *“**Now available online/at website**”.*

478.960: Standardization of verbiage recommended.

- **478.930(2)** (add the verbiage *“or designee”*)
- Look at Homestead Act vs Open Field Burning
- Mapping tools and a burning app in development with other agencies.
- There is a joint policy bulletin available on the website.
- Out of scope: (1) (6) (7) (8)

478.965: – Dr Gemmil to work on.

- Include in cost recovery discussion.
- Out of scope

478.970: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

478.972: The committee unanimously recommended Dr. Gemmil research.

- Entity name can be changed at any time, but the FDID number does not get changed.
- When agencies merge, they get a new FDID number assigned.

478.980: The committee unanimously recommended Dr. Gemmil research.

478.982: The committee unanimously recommended Dr. Gemmil research.

478.990: The committee unanimously recommended OSFM staff research. Chief Ty Darby is willing to offer his recent experience on this subject.

478.450: The committee unanimously recommended moving forward as written.

Data, Surveying, and Research
Eric Gemmel, A&I Unit Manager, OSFM

See Map

Close Out and Future Needs

Task Force Chair Chief Johnson

- DOJ will research the history 478.340
- DOR will research 478.470, and 478.505

Committee Homework

- **478.010(2)(e)**
- **478.050**
- **478.115**
- **478.155**
- **478.260**
- **478.270**
- **478.280 and 478.310:** All committee members reach out to other districts to see what is being done around the state. Report data at April meeting.
- **478.315**
- **478.410**
- **478.500**

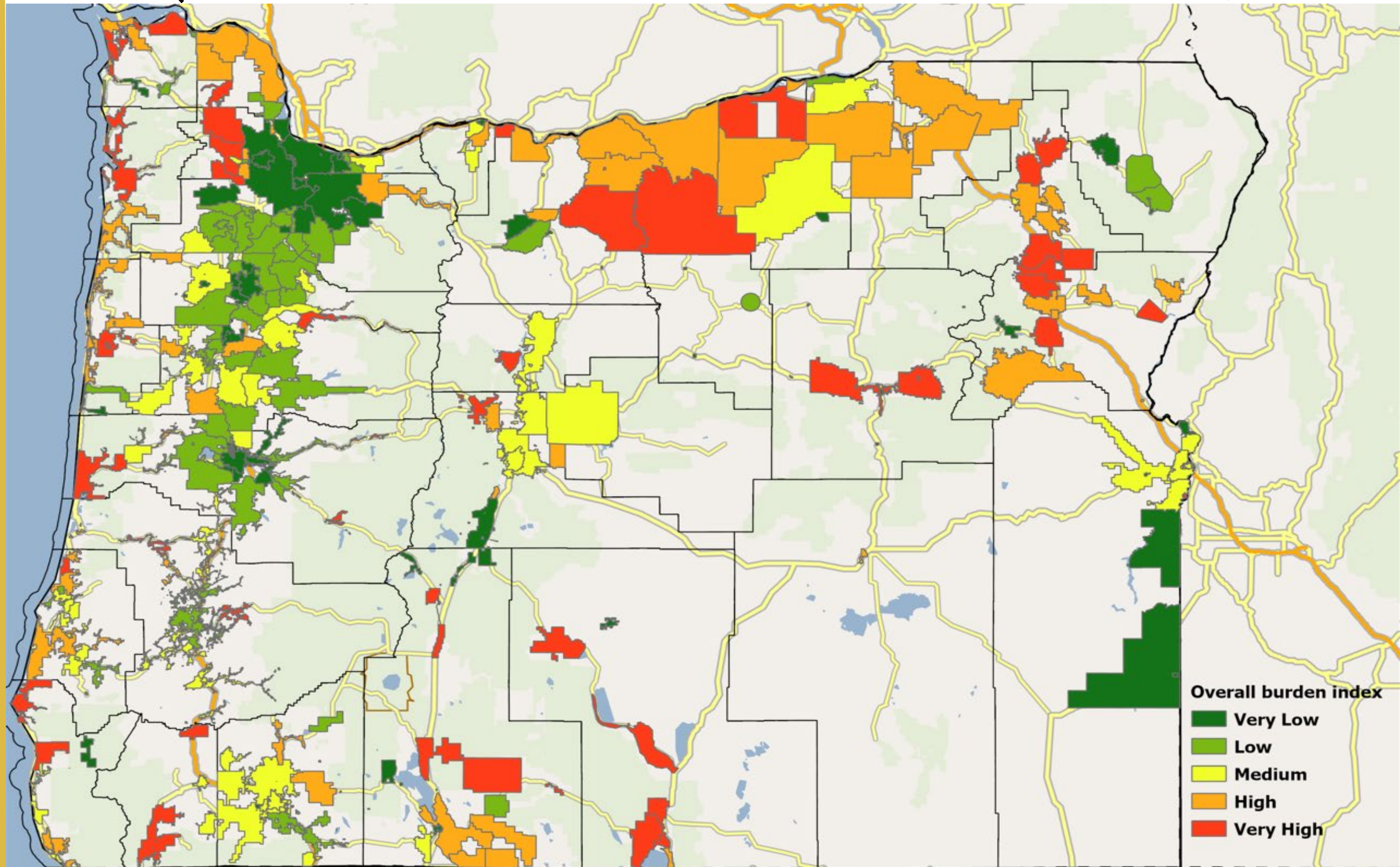
ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 1321 pm.
- Next meeting: April 17th at OSFM



Visitor Influx Index

$$(\text{VisitorInfluxIndex} = 0.2 * F_{\text{visitPop}} + 0.6 * F_{\text{Traffic}} + 0.2 * F_{\text{staffperArea}})$$



Sources:

- ODOT Traffic Monitoring System
- Travel Oregon Visitor Counts
- OSFM Annual Fire Agency Profile Survey