

# MEETING MINUTES

## Rural Structural Fire Protection Review Taskforce (HB 2522)

Meeting: Wednesday, December 20, 2023, 9:30am  
 Location: Salem OSFM HQ, Mt. Hood Conference Room

### Introduction

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chief Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:41 AM

### Attendance

#### MEMBERS & ALTERNATES

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

#### ALTERNATES

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

#### SUPERVISORY SUPPORT

Member	In Attendance	Not in Attendance
Mariana Ruiz-Temple, GFSPC Executive Director	In Person	
Eric Gemmil, OSFM	In Person	
Erik Rau	Virtually	
Adam Meyer, OSFM, Administrator	In Person	
Kassie Keller, OSFM	Virtually	
Alison Green, OSFM	Virtually	
Amanda Wright, OSFM, Scribe	In Person	
Christy Munson; DOJ	Virtually	

**OTHERS in ATTENDANCE**

Member	In Attendance	Not in Attendance
Claire McGrew; OSFM		
Sara Z		
Chief Munson; CCF&R		

**Meeting Notes**

Notice of this meeting was published though Oregon Transparency Website:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/transparency/Pages/Public-Meetings.aspx>

**Meeting**

On Wednesday December 20, 2023, at 9:41 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 November 29, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

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

**ORS Chapter 478.010 – 478.160 Review**

Committee

**478.001:** Make sure definitions are consistent with Agriculture and [ORS Chapter 477](#). Should “Structure” have a definition?

**478.002:** This section should be discussed with DOJ, Adam Meyer, and Erik Rau for clarification.

- Must align with 478.004 per discussion with committee.
- The committee will revisit after DOJ discussion.
  - Rural is brought up 25 times, how intertwined is this word in other ORS? Does the public understand what *Rural* means to a Fire District? Tweaking names/terms changes grant ability and property tax.
  - The history of the language and where we started is important to remember, city vs fire structure as example.

**478.004:** This section should be discussed with DOJ, Adam Meyer, and Erik Rau for clarification. If keeping 478.002 this section should stay.

**478.010:** Adam Meyer will help arrange a Work Group to discuss this section prior to the next meeting. Districts need protection which is tied to taxing income. This section is also tied to SB2068 and a high priority on the Dot Exercise.

- Interested Committee Members are Genoa Ingram, Mike Cook, Travis Medema, Roger Johnson, Mariah Rawlins, and Ben Stange.
- Part of this section was determined to be out of scope via the instructions in HB 2522.

**478.050:** This section should be discussed with DOJ Adam Meyer, and Erik Rau for clarification.

- Ask who can or is allowed to serve as a director?

**478.090:** This section should be discussed with DOJ, Adam Meyer, and Erik Rau for clarification. Connected to 478.002 and 478.004.

**478.100:** Recommendation is to move forward as written.

**478.115:** This section should be discussed with DOJ, Adam Meyer, and Erik Rau for clarification.

- Original HB2522 language submitted was “Requires governing body of county that contains at-risk land, as defined, to develop, or solicit” proposals for development of, fire response plan or wildfire response plan. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.
- Clarity is needed on what a County is allowed to do.
- What prevents a county from amending an annexation/formation petition to exclude territory that doesn't want to be subject to Fire District taxation? Primary concern is exclusion of territory that the Fire District may want to include.
- Could a line be added that says County can change with approval of Fire Board?

**478.120:** Recommendation is to move forward as written, but should be discussed with DOJ, Adam Meyer, and Erik Rau for clarification.

- Two types of forest land within an RFPD, the first type is any forest land within the boundaries of an existing district and forest land on which structure are subject to damage by fire have been added after July 1973.
- Modify the term forest land? Discuss with ODF?
- Part of this section was determined to be out of scope via the instructions in HB 2522.

**478.130:** Recommendation is to move forward as written.

**478.140:** Recommendation is to move forward as written.

**478.150:** Full committee recommends adding notification terminology. Should confer with ODF. A landowner can request to be assessed to see if they are forestry, and if forestry then re draws from RFPD.

- Suggestion: if revenue is impacted then the agency needs to be told. Add notification requirement.
- Part of this section was determined to be out of scope via the instructions in HB 2522.

**478.155:** Recommendations are:

- **1a, b:** Would like flexibility in establishing separate taxing zones and having the ability to modify. Take enterprise zone language and move around in statute.
- **2:** Recommendation is to move forward as written.
- **3:** Recommendation is to move forward as written.
- **4:** Recommendation is to move forward as written.
- **5:** Recommendation is to move forward as written.
- **6:** Recommendation is to make sure it aligns with 1.

**478.160:** Recommendation is to move forward as written.

### **Data, Surveying, and Research**

Eric Gemmel, A&I Unit Manager, OSFM

Agency Profiles are sent out annually. The response from the returned profiles is where the following data comes from.

Active Fire Agencies with Transport Services

- 33% of agencies provide transport services.
- Christy Munson with DOJ will discuss the difference between transport and ambulance.

#### Enterprise Zones with Active Fire Jurisdictions

- 51% have an enterprise zone that crosses within their boundaries.
- 28 districts/14% have multiple or more than one enterprise zone that crosses within their district.
- Clackamas County, Lane Fire, Multnomah County, Portland Fire, Tualatin Valley, and Umatilla County have three or more enterprise zones. Most of these are urban agencies.
- Coos Bay, Curry County, Grant County, Jackson County, Lincoln County, Linn County, Malheur County, South Douglas County, Springfield Community, and Wasco County all have 6 or more enterprise zones that cross jurisdiction boundaries that are more rural.

#### **Close Out and Future Needs**

##### Task Force Chair Chief Johnson

- Homework is 478.210 – 478.390. The same tool will be released to collect committee feedback.
- Speakers for January, possible county assessor.
- Please fill out the doodle poll for future meetings.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting adjourned at 1323
- Next meeting: January 18<sup>th</sup> at OSFM, in person with virtual option

#### Outcomes for December's meeting:

- The task force began a review of ORS 478. They reviewed 478.001 through 478.160. All decisions were made through consensus.
- The task force agreed that they would revisit 478.001 definitions once their full review was complete to ensure consistency.
- The following provision reviews were referred for further review or more research:
  - 478.002
  - 478.004
  - 478.115
- One provision will need a workgroup to make recommendations on the language.
  - 478.010
- There was a robust discussion on the partnership with Counties on the formation and sustaining of the size of fire districts.
- Chief Hussey provided an old version of HB 2522 with language that will provide some additional context for the committee to review.
- The work group will report their findings on recommendations for 478.010 to the entire task force in January.
- The task force members are reviewing 478.210 through 478.390 to discuss at the next meeting.

#### Rural Structural Fire Protection Review Taskforce Talking Points:

- Established by House Bill 2522 to conduct a comprehensive review of the provisions within ORS Chapter 478 that relate to structural fire protection.
- After the task force members complete the review, the body will provide recommendations to the Oregon Legislature to modernize and improve the operations of rural fire protection districts.
- The task force may also identify future work or other additional recommendations for statutes associated with or connected to ORS 478.
- This group's work will apply today's realities for the fire service to a statute that is over 50 years old.
- The committee has members from Oregon's Fire Service, OFDDA, OFVA, OSFFC, OFCA, SDAO, OFMA, AOC, LOC, GFSPC, and OSFM.
- OSFM is also providing staff support that are non-voting members in attendance.
- The meetings are public, and those not on the committee can listen to the group's proceedings.
- Recommendations and future work must be identified by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- The task force has held two meetings and will be meeting monthly until their work is complete.

- Starting in December 2023, the group will review the statute provision by provision to ensure nothing gets missed in review.
- The report detailing the recommendations will be approved by the GFSPC and delivered to the Oregon Legislature.
- The members have pre-identified some topics in group discussion that will be considered in the review of the statute and could potentially drive specific recommendations. The overarching themes of the prioritized topics include:
  - Tax and District Boundaries
  - Cost Recovery
  - Education and Workforce
  - OSR Language Clean-up, Reporting, and Technology