

MEETING MINUTES

Rural Structural Fire Protection Review Taskforce (HB 2522)

Meeting: Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 9:30am
 Location: Salem OSFM HQ, Mt. Hood Conference Room

Introduction

CALL TO ORDER

Chief Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:32 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 Stuart, 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		X

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	
Alison Green, OSFM	X	
Sabrina Bies, OSFM, Scribe		X
Amanda Wright, OSFM, Scribe	X	

OTHERS in ATTENDANCE

Member	In Attendance	Not in Attendance
Claire McGrew	X	
Seiji Shirarori, DOR Guest Speaker	X	
Melanie Cutler, DOR Guest Speaker	X	
Danette Benjamin, DOR Guest Speaker	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 November 29, 2023, at 9:32 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 October 30, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

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

The draft Charter was reviewed, one minor change was requested within the Committee Members section to add "Polk" to line of Ben Strange, so it reads "Polk County 1 Fire Chief, Special Districts of Oregon Association Board, GFSPC member". The charter was approved unanimously.

Tax Presentation from Department of Revenue SME's

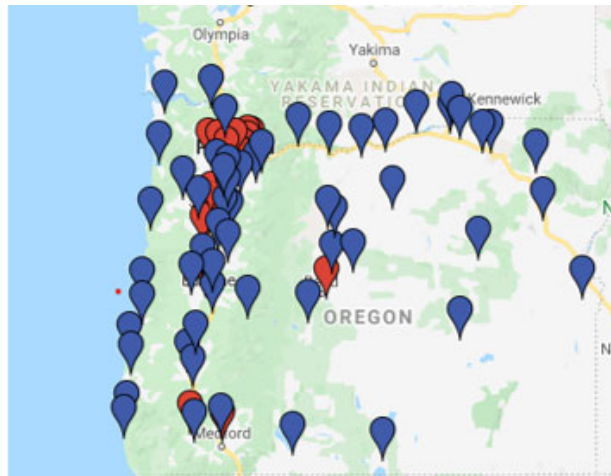
Seiji Shiratori, Melanie Cutler, Danette Benjamin

Presentation topics included:

- Assessment of Properties of Designated Utilities and Companies by Department of Revenue [150-308-0540](#).
- What is Timber tax and Privilege Tax, and how does it work?
- Tax Districts and Local Governments who tax.
- There are hundreds of special districts in Oregon and about 3 dozen different types.
- How are Taxpayers paying for Fire Protection?
- Local option levies & voter approval.
- 2023 Legislative session passed [SB1068](#) which says a RFPD can annex land within 7-road miles of a fire district if that land has met certain conditions.
- Property Tax Overview: rate x value = tax
- Measure 5 started in 1990 to limit property taxes.
- Measure 47 didn't work.
- Measure 50 established permanent rate system.
- DOR tax expenditure report.
- [Oregon Property Tax Statistics](#)
- [A Brief History of Oregon Property Taxation](#)
- [Measures 5 and 50: A Primer](#)
- Types of *Ad Valorem* Taxes.
- Urban Renewal overview & blight.

- [Property Tax Exemptions](#) are created by the legislature. Oregon has 120 property tax exemptions.
- Exemptions Characteristics and Variations:
 - Some exemptions from Real Market Value (RMV) or Assessed Value (AV)
 - Full or Partial
 - Annual approval or ongoing
 - Based on ownership, use, or both
 - Local opt-in or Statewide
 - Enterprise Exemptions
- Enterprise zones are one of the economic incentives that attempt to bring business to Oregon.
- [HB 2009](#) was presented in the 2023 Legislative Session requires that when entities go through the approval and authorization process, they must get a report through the County Assessor and discuss any potential impacts to local infrastructure before they go through and start building.

Enterprise Zone Map



- Special Assessments are like property tax exemptions because they affect the value of the property.
- Collection rates and uncollectable taxes overview.
- Resources:
 - [Tax Expenditure Report](#)
 - [Property Tax Statistics Report](#)

Data, Surveying, and Research

Eric Gemmel, A&I Unit Manager, OSFM

- Currently 74 Enterprise Zones, see attachment 2.
 - The yellow areas on the map are enterprise zones that the state has per Business Oregon. Currently there are 74 Enterprise Zones, 56 are rural and 18 are urban. Most of the zones are active until June 30th, 2032.
 - Additional map at future meetings which will show which jurisdictions, which Fire Agencies and/or districts have Enterprise Zones.
 - [Enterprise Zones | Enterprise Zones | Oregon GEOHub](#)
- The second map shows whether fire fighter is career, volunteer, or combination.
 - 8% of agencies in Oregon identify are career.
 - 47% identify as combination.
 - 42% identify as volunteers.
 - Information is based on annual information from the agency profile update that OSFM receives directly from agencies.
 - Most agencies have volunteers.
 - Most careers are in urban areas.

- Combination in the valley.
- Last Table
 - Population data is pulled from the US Census.
 - Combination is self-reported.
- See attachments 2 and 3 as reference.

Top Priorities Report and Exercise

Task Force Chair, Chief Johnson

- See attachment 4 of topics that were brought forward during the October 30th meeting.
- See attachment 5 for post meeting results.

ORS 478 Clean-up

Travis Medema, Chief Deputy, and State Fire Marshal, OSFM

- The committee will review one section at a time as a group.
- Prior to December's meeting the committee will read section [ORS 478.001-478.160](#) and send their thoughts/recommendations through the platform that Dr. Gemmel will create.
- If there is another statute that is referenced, highlight it to see how it connects. LC will cross reference impacted statutes as well.

Close Out and Future Needs

Task Force Chair Chief Johnson

- Prior to next meeting read ORS 478.001-160
 - Instruction template to come.
 - Geona volunteered to help assist Adam with navigating statutes and legislative issues.
 - Consider the [Civil Service Rules](#) while reviewing ORS 478 making sure it reflects current practice.
- Alison Green will create a document with "Key Themes" to share with constituents, so all committee members share the same take aways. See attachment 6.
- All - Think about what data you want to see from Dr. Gemmel going forward.
- All - Look ahead in ORS 478 and think about future speakers to invite who can provide clarity.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 1321 pm.
- Next meeting: December 20th at OSFM

Name of Team: Rural Structural Fire Protection Review Taskforce (HB 2522)

Rev. Date: 11/29/2023

Chartering Group	Sponsor	Committee Chair	Team Kick Off Date	Proposed Team Sunset Date
Governor's Fire Service Policy Council	State Fire Marshal	Chief Roger Johnson	10/30/2023	09/15/2024

Mission Statement	Conduct a comprehensive review of the provisions of Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) Chapter 478 that relate to structural fire protection. Develop recommendations to modernize and improve the structural fire protection operations of rural fire protection districts. Identify future work and any additional recommendations with associated or connected ORS 478 statues that improve structural fire protection operations.
Problem Statement	ORS 478 was created more than 50 years ago for specific purposes. Over the past half century Oregon has changed, and modernization is necessary for the new reality of the State's landscape.
Goals & Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a shared understanding of the current state of Rural Fire Protection Districts (RFPD's). 2. Define Problems, Gaps, and Challenges. 3. Identify and recommend ORS 478 changes within the scope of HB 2522. 4. Recommend changes that modernize and improve structural RFPD operations. 5. Identify and develop recommendations for relating Oregon Revised Statutes to rural fire protection districts. 6. Scope, and where applicable consider, other existing Oregon Fire Service Initiatives or workgroups that improve rural structural fire protection districts. 7. Identify additional opportunities and work needed for creating efficiencies within rural structural fire protection districts.
Customers	<p><u>Direct:</u> Rural Fire Protection Districts, Oregonians, and Visitors to Oregon.</p> <p><u>Indirect:</u> Oregon Fire Service, Cities, Counties, Districts, Unincorporated Areas, and State & Private Businesses.</p>
Feedback Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reports will be shared at the Governors Fire Service Policy Council (GFSPC) quarterly meetings and during regular operational meetings. 2. Recommendations will be shared via a report to the Oregon Legislature per the requirements in HB 2522 (2023).
Scope/Priority	The work of the taskforce (GFSPC subcommittee) is a high priority and shall meet deadlines established in HB 2522. The Rural Structural Fire Protection Review Taskforce shall report to one or more relevant committees or interim committees of the Legislative Assembly on or before September 15, 2024.
Procedures/ Meeting Frequency	The taskforce plans to meet monthly, however more frequent meetings maybe required. Tasks will be assigned and are expected to be worked on between meetings.
Decision Making Process	The taskforce will reach recommendations by majority vote based on Robert's Rules of Order meeting process.

Decision Ratifying Body	State Fire Marshal with advisement from GFSPC members.		
Boundary Conditions to Decisions Made	The taskforce may make recommendations; however, the final decision to move forward any and all recommendations will be made by the State Fire Marshal.		
How Decisions Are Communicated	Approved recommendations will be communicated to the GFSPC and the State Fire Marshal through a variety of means including but not limited to memorandum, email, website, conference calls, and meetings.		
Committee Members	Roger Johnson	Chief, Sisters Camp Sherman Fire Department	*Taskforce Chair*
	Genoa Ingram	Executive Director/Legislative Advocate, OFDDA/OVFA	OFDDA/OFVA
	Christopher Griffin	Tangent Fire	OFDDA
	Mike Cook	Chiloquin Fire Chief	OFVA
	Karl Koenig	OSFFC President since 2018, IAFF Local 1159 President Emeritus 20 years	OSFFC
	Irik Rinnert	OSFFC District Vice President covering Southern Oregon Members	OSFFC
	Brian Stewart (alternate: Rick Huffman) (removed: Nick Browne)	Assistant Chief, Clackamas County Fire District	OFCA
	Mike Hussey	Chief, Jackson County Fire District #3	OFCA
	Ben Stange	Polk County FD 1 Fire Chief, Special Districts of Oregon Association Board, GFSPC member	SDAO
	Ty Darby	Assistant Chief Fire Marshal	OFMA
	Kevin Cameron (alternate: Alvin Klausen)	Commissioner, Marion County	AOC
	James Cleavenger (alternate: Scott Hollett)	City Administrator, City of Oakridge	LOC
	Travis Medema	Department of the State Fire Marshal	OSFM
Mariah Rawlins	Department of the State Fire Marshal	OSFM	
Committee Staff	Mariana Ruiz-Temple	Department of the State Fire Marshal	GFSPC Executive Director
	Eric Gemmill	Department of the State Fire Marshal	Analytics and Intelligence
	Adam Meyer	Department of the State Fire Marshal	Taskforce Administrator
	Sabrina Bies	Department of the State Fire Marshal	Taskforce Administrator
	Amanda Wright	Department of the State Fire Marshal	Taskforce Administrator
	Alison Green	Department of the State Fire Marshal	Communications Admin.
	Kassondra Keller	Department of the State Fire Marshal	HB 2522 Report Writer
Sunset Clause	On or before September 15, 2024.		
Sustaining Plan	Future work or groups identified by the Committee on or after September 15 th 2024.		

Tax & District Boundaries

- Mergers and annexation, District formation assistance
- Taxing Zones, Enterprise zones, local improvement zones, urban renewal- Exemptions to tax improvement districts, enterprise zones
- Tax caps/ Revenue- measures that impact the ability to collect revenue. Exemptions to tax caps for public safety.
- Tax-exempt lands (pay-per-call)
- Work with water departments and SDC – charge for lighting.
- City annexing land and the process- removing revenue from a fire district. City annexation glide path (ORS 198.882)
- Unprotected properties (SB1068) and development- needs associated with SB1068 and measuring its effectiveness.

Cost Recovery

- Revenue sources from campgrounds, state parks, federal lands, high recreational areas, and transportation routes.
- Difficult to recover costs for suppressing unlawful fires (+ battling insurance companies)
- Allow fire districts to charge fees for services, temporary series, visitors and recreationist, large events happens that will take most of small FD budget.
- Small departments limited capacity to recover costs
- Districts only receive a portion of response does not cover base costs
- Growth/population increase (and decrease in areas) Service level expectations/ Demand
- Mutual aid local regional statewide- costs associated with it, standards, billing.

Education & Workforce

Loss of volunteers— more robust process and systems to gain volunteers, maintaining volunteers and training, recruitment capabilities.

Workload and Shift in focus -- Fire calls have gone down EMS call up Include fire/public safety in EMS policy

Limitations on ability to increase personnel to protect the public.

Education- policies, best management processes for departments and chiefs.

ORS Cleanup, Reporting, & Technology

Legislative/policy patchwork

Service reviews to improve efficiency and public education for Bond's.

Fire department boards; Clean-up & modernize ORS 478- 478.002; Allow for 3 member boards; Increase pay for Directors; maintain continuous service.

Adapting to new and complex technologies

Fire code and standards (Ex: for stations)

Diversity in districts– education, capacity, services

Annual basis publish report structural fire protection they can provide – report on what you are able to do.

Communications system and statewide approach – dispatch and operational – one standard for everyone Improve efficiency – Equipment program, recruitment, and training.

Tax & District Boundaries

9-Votes	Taxing Zones, Enterprise zones, local improvement zones, urban renewal- Exemptions to tax improvement districts, enterprise zones
6-Votes	Tax caps/ Revenue- measures that impact the ability to collect revenue. Exemptions to tax caps for public safety
5-Votes	Mergers and annexation, District formation assistance.
3-Votes	Unprotected properties (SB1068) and development- needs associated with SB1068 and measuring its effectiveness
0-Votes	Tax-exempt lands (pay-per-call
0-Votes	Work with water departments and SDC – charge for lighting.
0-Votes	City annexing land and the process- removing revenue from a fire district. City annexation glide path (ORS 198.882)

Cost Recovery

8 ½ Votes	Allow fire districts to charge fees for services, temporary series, visitors and recreationist, large events happen that will take most of small FD budget.
Discussion at Meeting: <i>Using Idanah as an example money to the FD decreased significantly due to 2020 but tourism has maintained and/or increased.</i>	
4-Votes	Revenue sources from campgrounds, state parks, federal lands, high recreational areas, and transportation routes
3-Votes	Districts only receive a portion of response does not cover base costs.
3-Votes	Mutual aid local regional statewide- costs associated with it, standards, billing.
Discussion at Meeting: <i>Most are tied back to Mob Plan.</i>	
1-Vote	Growth/population increase (and decrease in areas) Service level expectations/ Demand.
½ Vote	Small departments limited capacity to recover cost.
0-Votes	Difficult to recover costs for suppressing unlawful fires (+ battling insurance companies)

Education & Workforce

5-Votes	Workload and Shift in focus -- Fire calls have gone down EMS call up Include fire/public safety in EMS policy.
4-Votes	Loss of volunteers - more robust process and systems to gain volunteers, maintaining volunteers and training, recruitment capabilities.
2-Votes	Limitations on ability to increase personnel to protect the public.
0-Votes	Education- policies, best management processes for departments and chiefs.

ORS Clean-up, Reporting & Technology

6-Votes	Communications system and statewide approach – dispatch and operational – one standard for everyone Improve efficiency – Equipment program, recruitment, and training.
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2-Votes	Fire department boards: Clean-up & modernize ORS 478- 478.002; Allow for 3 member boards; Increase pay for Directors; maintain continuous service.
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2-Votes	Diversity in districts– education, capacity, services.
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Discussion at Meeting: *For Apprentice Program and Education/Outreach that FD's can give to the public.*

1-Vote	Annual basis publish report structural fire protection they can provide – report on what you are able to do.
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1-Vote	Legislative/policy patchwork.
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0-Votes	Service reviews to improve efficiency and public education for Bond's.
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0-Votes	Fire code and standards (Ex: for stations).
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Discussion at Meeting: *This was brought up in a break-out group on 10/30/23 but there wasn't anything specific.*

0-Votes	Adapting to new and complex technologies.
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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 15th, 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