

Governor's Fire Service Policy Council

1:00 p.m. • Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Office of State Fire Marshal • Mt. Hood Conference Room

Minutes

Members

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

Ex Officio

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

Visitors

- John Caul, OSFM
- Donna Disch
- Dave Fields
- Bob Leopold
- David Sellers OVFA

Executive Director/Staff

- Mark Wallace State Fire Marshal
- Jim Walker, Chief Deputy SFM
- Sally Cravinho, Staff

Welcome/Introductions

Chair Keller welcomed the council and thanked everyone for participating and being here today.

Changes to the agenda:

No changes to the agenda. Moved and seconded, all in favor.

Minutes:

No changes to the minutes. Moved and seconded all in favor.

Communications and Guest/Visitor Input:

None

Executive Director Report

Mark thanked everyone for being here today. He explained what the handouts were and shared with the committee of his activities since the last meeting. He has traveled over 5200 miles and met with 35 different departments within Oregon. He has also stopped by 22 other departments including volunteer departments where there wasn't anyone available to speak with so he left his business card and will try to meet with them at a later date. These numbers do not include the out of state locations. He has spoke at numerous conferences and meetings, where he swore in several new members with different professional organizations. He's also met with several collaborators, customers as well as 85% of OSFM staff. During those conferences he has met with 11 other State Fire Marshals.

Mark attended the Fire Defense Board meeting in Roseburg, traveled to Brooks for a training at the Training Academy and then to Prineville to meet with the Chiefs. He traveled to Seattle for the NW Regional State Fire Marshal meeting and mentioned how many departments have said the State Fire Marshal has never visited before and was receiving good reports on the staff, the quality and wide variety of the people at OSFM. He mentioned there is a high satisfaction rate with all the different services we provide, however there will always be exceptions when we look at code issues.

The second item Mark reported on was the wildland fire update and gave handouts which included a spreadsheet showing information dating back 1999 to 2011 on conflagration costs, the

average of what it costs OSFM in total years, and that there was 4 million in a single year. The following page was information on this year's conflagration; our purpose is for life safety and property protection from the threat of fire, and looking at the outcomes of how well we can respond. Oregon had three fires this year, which were the North River Road Fire, the High Cascade Complex Fire and the Elk Fire. The number of structures threatened were 350 and there was a zero lost, with the exception of one in Warm Springs, only one 10 x 10 outbuilding was lost.

The other thing OSFM did this year is we right-sized the teams based on the threat there. Looking at the handouts, it shows the team costs prior to and the difference of savings when triaging the incident. Moving forward we would like to continue this and put together the flow charts. We're in the process of developing it with more tools to accomplish the task. We integrated our efforts with other teams who have the jurisdiction to lesson costs. We will be reimbursed for our costs on the High Cascade Complex fire on the Warm Springs Reservation, because we have a cooperative agreement with them. The concern lies with the fact we have to pay our bills before being reimbursed by BIA, which causes a cash flow problem.

Last year legislature swept some of our FIPT, which is our fund to pay bills. Mark would like to have a better cash flow so, if and when they sweep it again, we are able to cover the costs in the future and not have to ask the Emergency Board for dollars from the general fund. He would like to get to a final recommendation point. He hasn't reached that yet.

Cameron asked where the funds came from and Mark explained the FIPT fund balance, which was 1.3 million last year, is used to pay the conflagration costs before we get reimbursed by FEMA and other bills, if the conflagration is a large one. In some cases it's taken eighteen to twenty four months to be reimbursed from FEMA for conflagration costs. These costs need to be paid up front and if we had the funds in a separate account, we wouldn't be caught short, before FEMA reimburses us. We get FEMA reimbursement at 75%. On average, a conflagration costs 1.7 million however; the High Cascade Complex fire cost was \$28 million dollar fire. Although it was a BIA, (which they paid for) if it had been our fire we would have had to pay for the costs up front and wait to be reimbursed by FEMA at 75%.

The need to look at the HazMat costs as well as US&R could end up being very costly. They wouldn't be as much as a conflagration, but if all happens at the same time, we need to be prepared. Mark asked for the support from the committee.

Cameron asked what happens to the Ending Balance and Eriks said it just rolls over. In the past, when there has been a large balance, it was swept because it looked like excess funds. Mark spoke about having 1 million in HazMat fund and 3 to 4 million for the conflagrations. If the 2 million in funds hadn't been swept this year, we would have had plenty to cover our costs on these events. It also levels out the angst of having to go to the board for additional funds.

Eriks explained the sweeping of the funds and having the excess. The problem is historically, FIPT goes up, but not a lot. With the increase of expenses, it won't cover the needs.

Cameron spoke about OEM's funds and how the legislature wants to control the purse strings.

Mark has found two sources in the history of 2005-2007 that have exactly the same amount of actual numbers reported. He went over the handout of Cash Flow chart and the balances with the

sweep and the impact it had. He's trying to trend back to previous budgets to get actual numbers in order to be able to project our future on "actuals" instead of "projections or estimates." The closer we can get to that, it will give us a better look at costs and trends. We have five different funding silos. These are the funds in which we could set money aside to support our conflagration fund.

We're working on hiring a Research Data Analyst 3 to help out the future proposed budgets and the research needed for large scale data. The goal is to have all future budgets based on good solid data we put together to base our financial recommendations on.

Eriks spoke about the funds being written off and fixed the OFGI, where Oregon insurance companies were able to write off their FIPT if they were competitive. This was a win for the whole state. Mark mentioned that he has met with the insurance industry for the future.

Mark went over the final statistical report provided by Dave Gulledge, Data Manager at OSFM. Statistics shows we're at 79% of fire agencies reporting. He also looked at the trending of the age group on fatalities. Erik McMullen asked about the statistics for people who are not using FireBridge. Mark explained the information is entered into FireBridge when we receive the reports from the fire departments. The numbers are all encompassing, even if you're not using FireBridge, but using another system, it is still included in the statistics. Kelly Bach spoke about the fire departments having injuries and capturing those numbers on the *fire personnel*. The reportable injuries have to be a full on emergency, not a minor injury or casualty. Mark explained that these numbers come from checking the box on the NFIRS report form.

Kelly also spoke of all the injuries that haven't been recorded. Mark said we would have to look into how to capture this information on minor injuries. Greg asked about the 21% not reporting and would this even out, or change by the next calendar year? Scott Mullen mentioned checking the information from their FDID. Mark said we've received reports from 251 departments that we provide the FireBridge program for free, along with the training, which is provided by OSFM.

A CD was provided to the council as well. This contains information on the High Cascade Complex Fire report. Chief Wallace and the IMT's will meet on Wednesday to go over the final report on an incident that occurred during the fire.

Action:

Power Point presentation on the Branding Project to be presented at the next meeting. (Ask Shelly or Anita to present a next meeting.)

OLD BUSINESS

Annexation into Fire Districts

Dave Fields reported on the annexation into other fire districts. He suggested creating a Survey Monkey to get a better look at costs of annexation. He explained the process of actually getting an annexation in place, a lot of times they don't know the first steps to start getting it in action. A checklist process needs to be created for this purpose. Maps need to be presented to have a visual piece for a better understanding of the lay of the land. Dave explained the problem with the insurance industry, real estate industry and the fire districts not knowing what their part is in annexing. He identified more road blocks that have been brought up on annexations.

Eriks spoke about solar panels being discovered during an incident that occurred in Malin down in Klamath County. This was a rural structure fire which was a barn with electricity where fire fighters found solar panels under the roof of the barn, which was a grid type system and were still energized. They contacted an electrician to come out to deactivate them but he wasn't aware of how the system worked. A second company was contacted to de-energize it. This is one of the issues fire fighters are facing. They are working on training for these types of incidents in partnership with NFPA, IGA as well as the U.S. Fire System. Training programs are being implemented by NFPA, but have nothing on solar panels. NFPA is working on this, but nothing will be coming out until 2014 NEC update. Eriks is working with Captain Matt Piese with San Jose Fire Department to have him come up and do training. He's done this training in California on solar panels and we would like to have him come to Oregon to do a presentation. Eriks will keep the council updated on any news he receives on it.

Scott Mullen brought up the concern on the wind turbines/generators may be a problem as well. What do you do when it catches fire and how to put it out, or shut it down, to render it safe?

Eric McMullen spoke on the subject as well and the concern of green roofs and the "green" living concerns. There will be more to follow on this.

Cameron went over the appointment schedules and the recommendations for the replacements of the members whose terms have expired. He thanked Scott Mullen for his time he was on the council.

Action:

Find out when Bob's term expires. Get forms for the appointments and the list of the current members, and the official order of paperwork and being elected.

Chair Keller went over the process of electing the new members and informed the council we will need to elect a new Vice Chair at the next meeting and asked if anyone was interested in ascending in the hierarchy. There will be nominations from the floor for this position and then there will be a vote on it.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Action:

REPORTS

Chair Keller reported that on **August 25th** there was an EMS Summit at DPSST. There were 75 plus participants with anybody and everybody who is in the EMS, which did a full day of brainstorming and reports. They spoke on funding, work force standards, local control, regionalization and integration of data in EMS. They are looking at the electronic gathering of data, system development like what is currently being used by OSFM. There is an anticipation of future meetings with stakeholders and developing goals and direction for each of those 4 areas. It was a great opportunity for these groups to get together and share information both on the private and non-profit, fire service, air service, and public entities with a lot of good discussion regarding similar issues between public and private side of things.

Eriks explained the differences in data. It's not just collection but also communication. There is a lot of nuggets and aspects of data and it will take many years to get it all worked out. There is a lot of work to do. A report will be coming out from this summit and Greg will be getting a copy.

Scott Mullen mentioned Nehalem Bay Fire Department has moved in to their new station and they will be having an Open House with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Chair Keller recognized Scott Mullen for being on the committee. Scott said it was his honor to serve and he felt very privileged to be on the board. It's been one of the highlights in his career to be able to sit with such high level and talented people and keeping the good of the order in the fire service.

Kelly Bach updated committee on his Fire Depts. He shared his interest in serving as the Vice Chair for GFSPC and that he has previous experience being on the board at DPSST.

Bob Reeves reminded everyone of the OFDDA/OFCA Joint Conference coming up in Seaside.

Cameron updated the committee on the legislature; the forecast will come out on legislative session, pre-paid 911 cell phones, insurance, and the next generation technology.

Umatilla just had their last mustard gas burn and the jobs hit to the region from that federal contract. What does this look like for the future for Base Realignment, DAS, and Natural Resources? Forecasters were originally thinking this winter would be a mild one following our strong La Ninja of this year. There is a potential for strong flooding, severe storms and a possibility for major incidents with 75% being severe storms and flood related.

Eriks spent time with national organizations including the FEMA Advisory Committee in Emmitsburg, Maryland discussing grants. Program criteria will remain the same. In ten years since the programs started, over 30 million has come into Oregon. He shared that the lynch pin being that the program needs to be reauthorized. It's a fear that it won't and there is a lot of uncertainty of it not passing in Washington, D.C. Ernie Mitchell is in the ring for being the next U.S. Fire Administrator and the first person from the West Coast as the Director. He's also a fire service personnel.

Council Member Reports

There was nothing to report from the staff.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Next meeting dates:

January 24, 2012

April 24, 2012

July 24, 2012

Meeting location:

Office of State Fire Marshal
Mt. Hood Conference Room

Meeting time:

1:00 pm