

Fire Service Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 8, 2014 10:10 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
League of Minnesota Cities

**Members/alternates present:**

Mark Kulda, (Alternate) Insurance Federation of Minnesota – Acting Chair  
Steve Zaccard, Fire Marshals Assoc. of MN/International Assoc. of Arson Investigators  
Rick Loveland, MN Professional Firefighter’s Association  
Jim Fisher, MN Association of Townships  
Chris Parsons, MN Professional Firefighters Association  
Don Smiley, MN State Fire Chief’s Association

**Members/alternates absent:**

Bob Johnson, Insurance Federation of Minnesota – Chair  
Mark Dunaski, Designee MN Commissioner of Public Safety  
Dan Winkel, MN State Fire Department Association  
Nyle Zikmund, MN State Fire Chief’s Association  
Sue Iverson, League of Minnesota Cities  
William Goede, League of Minnesota Cities  
Shane Schmidt, MN State Fire Department Association

**Others present:**

Bruce West, State Fire Marshal  
Marv Calvin, MnSCU Fire Training Consortium  
Sherry Munyon, Capitol Access  
Tim Oland, DNR  
Todd Manley, DNR  
Pete Leschak, DNR  
Angela Geraghty, Department of Public Safety – Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Mark Kulda at 10:10 a.m. Mr. Kulda recognized there was not yet a quorum present.

The September 4, 2013 meeting minutes were tabled until the next meeting for lack of a quorum.

**Fire Safety Account**

Mark Kulda provided an update on the Fire Safety Account. Collections for the first two quarters of FY14 total approximately \$7.6 million. Collections are ahead of projections and include the change in the surcharge from .65% to .50%. The newest available statistics for average homeowners insurance premiums came out last week and continue to show increases from year to year.

**Scene Safe Project**

Fire Marshal West stated the Scene Safe DVDs were produced and have been distributed to police, fire and EMS around the state. Approximately \$18,000 was left after production and mailing. The Responder Highway Safety Committee recommended these funds be used to purchase collapsible traffic cones and “Emergency Scene Ahead” folding signs to be distributed to agencies around the state. Input was previously sought from the Fire Service Advisory Committee regarding this. The traffic cones and signs have been purchased and the Responder Highway Safety Committee will be developing a plan to distribute these items throughout the state.

### **DNR Funding Proposal**

DNR Rural Fire Programs Coordinator Tim Oland, Fire Training Coordinator Todd Manley and Fire Technician Pete Leschak introduced themselves and distributed a packet regarding a funding proposal from Minnesota Incident Command System (MNCIS) for fire service leadership training. The fire service organization and state agencies are seeing a change in leadership. MNCIS identified this as a training need and contacted Mission-Centered Solutions (MCS) to obtain a quote for the delivery of 4 weeklong sessions of their "At the Point of the Spear" training to take place at Camp Ripley from 2014 to 2017. This course is an L380 nationally recognized certificate program designed to build cohesion and develop leaders. The total cost for 4 sessions of the training is \$135,144.04.

Participants from both structure and wildfire groups will be combined for this course. MCS was approached regarding the idea of the combined training and felt it presented the perfect opportunity for structure and wild land firefighters to start developing leadership, communication and tactical decision making skills before they meet on the fire ground. This leadership training will better the response capability for the state of Minnesota.

Mr. Leschak has attended MCS leadership courses and spoke about how valuable the training is. Mr. Leschak stated he has been in the fire service for 33 years and has never had a better course. Fire fatalities, whether they occur in structure fire or wild land fire, have nothing to do with an individual's skill with hoses or pumps or ladders. Fatalities have to do with human factors. MCS stepped up and developed a training program to address these human factors. MCS is an organization of retired military Special Forces and typically use a three person cadre to put on the training; two retired Special Forces people and one retired person from the fire community. This is an emersion course, is exercise based and incredibly intense. Firefighters are taken out of their comfort zone and while they have their fire knowledge as a base of familiarity, they are then put into situations for which they have very little experience.

There was discussion on the cost of training and how the money would be appropriated over the 4 year timetable. It was suggested the appropriation could be broken down to approximately \$35,000 per year. The funds could be appropriated to MBFTE and when invoices are okay to pay, they would be forwarded to MBTFE to release payment. A fiscal problem was identified with the funding of the first training session to take place in September of 2014. The supplemental appropriation request from DPS has already been made and the FSAC has made a recommendation to the Commissioner on how to spend those dollars. The next funding cycle is to come back to the legislature in 2015 for a 2 year appropriation and at that time this could be incorporated into the budget.

### **Fire Service Needs Assessment Report**

Nyle Zikmund, who was unable to attend today's meeting, provided a Fire Service Needs Assessment Report prior to the meeting. The report is considered a first draft and lays out where the fire service is today and what needs to be done as part of the long-term vision for fire service in the state of Minnesota. Steve Zaccard requested the Office of Pipeline Safety be added under 2013 State Resources.

### **2014 Legislative Session**

Members agreed at the last meeting that they would like to work to have the FSAC formally reinstated in statute after they learned it had sunset according to 2009 statute. Sherry Munyon stated MnFAC is working to draft a bill to reinstate the FSAC. She provided draft language to the committee for review. Two changes will be proposed; one to the statute creating the FSAC and the other to the statute that

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addresses the advisory committees. MnFAC will have it as a standalone bill to be certain that it is introduced.

Minutes recorded by Angela Geraghty