

Fire Service Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 5, 2012 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
League of Minnesota Cities

**Members/alternates present:**

Bob Johnson, Insurance Federation of Minnesota – Chair  
Mark Dunaski, Designee MN Commissioner of Public Safety  
Dan Winkel, MN State Fire Department Association  
Jim Fisher, MN Association of Townships  
Tom Thornberg, MN Professional Firefighters Association  
Steve Zaccard, Fire Marshals Assoc. of MN/International Assoc. of Arson Investigators  
Nyle Zikmund, MN State Fire Chief's Association  
Rick Loveland, MN Professional Firefighter's Association  
Sue Iverson, League of Minnesota Cities

**Members/alternates absent:**

Shane Schmidt, MN State Fire Department Association  
Mark Kulda, (Alternate) Insurance Federation of Minnesota  
H. Dan Ness, League of Minnesota Cities  
Don Smiley, MN State Fire Chief's Association

**Others present:**

Kevin Reed, Department of Public Safety, HSEM  
Bruce West, MN Board of Firefighter Training and Education  
Jerry Rosendahl, State Fire Marshal  
Marv Calvin, MnSCU Fire Training Consortium  
Sherry Munyon, Capitol Access  
Becky White, State Fire Marshal  
Angela Geraghty, Department of Public Safety – Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Johnson at 10:00 a.m.

The June 6, 2012 meeting minutes were approved as written.

**New Business:**

Chair Bob Johnson acknowledged Commissioner Dohman's approval of Committee recommendations made in July. Members were previously sent a copy of the Commissioner Dohman's letter approving the recommendations.

State Fire Marshal Rosendahl introduced Fire and Life Safety Educator Becky White from the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Bruce West advised that the Position Paper on Fire Safety Account Training Funds developed by MSFCA, MSFDA, MPFF, MNIAAI and FMAM was accepted by the Training Board as written and is being used by the Board as a tool to determine which classes are eligible for reimbursement. The Training Board is prepared for Round 5 of reimbursements in FY13. Eligible reimbursements added this year include infant, child and adult CPR, AED initial certification and refresher classes and Live Burn training. Fire departments participating increased from 334 in Round 3 to 529 in Round 4. Also in Round 4 there were 157 new submittals from fire departments who had not previously participated.

There are 163 departments that have never taken part in the program and the Training Board continues to encourage these departments to participate.

There was discussion regarding reimbursement for EMS training. The position paper suggests that the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) has the greatest ability to determine the type, amount, and frequency of training needed to fulfill the mission of their organization and asks the Training Board to allow the AHJ to request reimbursement for what they determine those training needs to be. If the AHJ determines EMS training is critical and they would like to use their training reimbursement dollars for EMS classes, they would be eligible to do so. Bruce West indicated that he plans to research what reimbursement is available currently for EMS training.

The Training Board has set aside 1.72 million for NFPA 1001 Firefighter 1 and 2 and Hazmat Ops. Grant requests totaling \$209,000 were received for conferences, seminars and leadership development. The FSAC had recommended \$150,000 be designated for these grants and the Training Board added an additional \$50,000 to bring the total reimbursement amount to \$200,000. TF1 will receive \$245,000 for training. Recommendations from the FSAC were for TF1 to receive \$200,000; the Training Board will provide an additional \$45,000.

There was discussion regarding the Training Board hiring a contractor to deliver a particular training program to all fire departments in the state. State contracting requires agencies to look at whether there is a state employee, current or in layoff status, who able to perform the work before contracting with a private party.

Kevin Reed advised he met with Task Force 1 and they are working on a 5-year spending plan based on the projected needs of TF1 over that time period. The plan will be finalized by October.

Marv Calvin advised that MnSCU did an analysis of what the fire service was looking to receive from MnSCU as training agency. MnSCU has 12 fire program managers and is the largest fire training agency in the state. The analysis revealed concern from the fire service that there is not consistency in training pricing or curriculum. In approximately a two-month time period program managers were able to bring consistency in pricing and curriculum to roll out to the fire service.

There was discussion regarding legislative changes made to the Fire Safety Account law in the last session and how those changes may impact future planning of the Committee. It was thought that with the direct appropriations and the reduction of the insurance percentage, the Committee's discretion may be more limited. Bob Johnson reported that increases in insurance premiums are predicted.

Members discussed providing legislators with a progress report and summary on the use of Fire Safety Account funds at the beginning of the legislative session. The report will be tied back to the strategic plan and detail the successful completion of objectives. Nyle Zikmund volunteered to take the lead in developing this report in consultation with the other fire service organizations. A report will be drafted and brought to the Committee for review.

State Fire Marshal Rosendahl provided an update on the Fire Safety Account balance. Collections for FY12 totaled \$14,055,365, which exceeded projections of \$13,300,000. FY13 projections are \$13,300,000; collections to date for FY13 total \$3,584,742. FY14 and FY15 projected collections are \$10,200,000 reflecting the decrease in the percentage.

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**Other Business:**

Assistant Commissioner Dunaski advised that MNJAC, the state fusion center, will be revamped. Minnesota will expand the program to adopt an all crimes/all hazards approach which will include the fire service. The program will be similar to one being utilized in Colorado. Information will be gathered, analyzed and disseminated from various entities at the local and national level to assist in prevention and response. Assistant Commissioner Dunaski asked those present to begin thinking about how their agency gathers information, what is done with that information, how it is shared and the potential benefits that can be derived from this new system. Assistant Commissioner Dunaski will work with staff on an outline of what this may look like for fire service involvement for the December Committee meeting.

Minutes recorded by Angela Geraghty