

FIRE PROTECTION POLICY BOARD

**Work Session
July 23, 2008
General Administration Building
Olympia, WA**

Board Members Present: T.J. Nedrow, Wayne Wienholz, Mark Kahley, Scott Kramer and Jim Broman

Board Members Absent: Rick Chaney and Dean Shelton

WSP Staff Present: Mike Matlick, Ellen Tombleson, Paul Perz and Barbara Gagner

Guests Present: Bob Garrison, Chief Brian Van Camp, and Ward Knable

Chair Nedrow open the meeting at approximately 9:10 with introductions, and advised that a new board member has been appointed to the Board, representing cities and towns. Mr. Mike Ciraulo has served on the Battle Ground City Council for 6 years and was elected Mayor by his fellow council members in January of this year. He has served 22 years in fire service and is currently Division Chief for Clark County Fire and Rescue.

Reports

State Fire Marshals Office – SFM Mike Matlick advised that the State Fire Marshals Office, Military Department and Washington Fire Chiefs continue to work collectively to make process improvements to the Emergency Mobilization Assistance Compact (EMAC), the federal method which allows firefighting resources to be provided to other states, but do not anticipate having anything final until the end of the year, after fire season.

Mike also provided an update on the status of the interstate compact with Oregon and Washington, State Fire Marshal Matlick advised that the compact was repealed when the EMAC process was developed. He further advised that efforts are underway to develop agreements with bordering states, which will be modeled after the EMAC process. State Fire Marshal Matlick also advised that efforts are being made to develop an expeditious process for contiguous states, which would mirror the paperwork and process of the Oregon Conflagration Act and the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan. During discussion, Mark Kahley advised that the NW Compact for Wildland Fires may be able to be utilized for wildland resources. This compact includes Oregon, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia, Alaska, and Northwestern and Yukon Territories.

State Fire Marshal Matlick advised that legislation is going forward to include Regional Fire Protection Authority reimbursement for fire protection provided to schools. Currently this program only includes reimbursement to fire districts. The State Fire Marshal's Office is working with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and other stakeholders to develop a formula to specify funding.

State Fire Marshal Matlick also advised that certification of fire service extinguishers is being brought forward as industry driven legislation.

State Fire Marshal Matlick reported that there were no fireworks seizures this year. The State Fire Marshal's Office is working through WAC issues regarding federal statutes and what is being enforced locally. One issue is certification of tents being used to sell fireworks.

The State Fire Marshal's Office and Department of Natural Resources provided a joint Government Manageability and Accountability Program (GMAP) presentation to the Governor's staff on June 25, which addressed the issues of wildland fires and fire service training. State Fire Marshal Matlick advised that this was a great opportunity to bring issues before key staff of the Governor's Office.

As a result of previous discussions regarding Fireblast trailers, State Fire Marshal Matlick provided information from a recent survey that indicates there are currently five Fireblast trailers in existence. Four have been located and staff is currently in the process of verifying the location of the 5th trailer. All trailers are operational, and vary in level of usage. One trailer (located in Region 5) is now a stationary trailer. There were no reports available specifically identifying costs for regular maintenance or modifications. One issue noted was the difficulty in getting insurance for a mobile prop.

During discussion on State Fire Marshal Office staffing, State Fire Marshal Matlick reported that three clerical staff positions have been filled, and that 30 applications were received for the vacant Deputy State Fire Marshal position, located in King County. Interviews have been conducted, and a final decision is anticipated to be made in the next 2-3 weeks.

Chair Nedrow advised that he did receive a copy of the Bureau's organizational chart, and would also like it to be forwarded to the rest of the Board.

Fire Training and Education Review Committee ~ Chief Brian Van Camp advised that the focus of the Committee's last meeting was the statewide training website. He noted that one task in their Strategic Plan was to develop a needs assessment and estimate the costs of developing a web based training site.

During discussion, Chief Van Camp advised that he feels the committee has gone as far as they can under their current charter. The committee now needs direction from the Fire Protection Policy Board on the direction they would now like the committee to move. The committee recommends modifying their mission to focus the committee's efforts on the decentralized training program. Chief Van Camp will work with State Fire Marshal Matlick to finalize the package that incorporates the website, records management and other training

related efforts in the state Decision Package format. Mark Kahley suggested that the Committee explore IQS, which is the federal system used for wildland training records management.

E-911 – No Report

SIEC – No Report

Fire Service Leadership Forum – At the Forum meeting yesterday, agenda items included decentralized training and novelty lighters. The Washington Fire Chiefs are currently taking legislation forward on novelty lighters, and may explore the feasibility of the State Fire Marshal's Office taking this issue forward as agency legislation. State Fire Marshal Matlick advised that this option will be explored based on direction from the Governor's office, and advised that there is a lack of data on novelty lighters.

SFDC – No Report

During discussion Mark Kahley provided an overview of the Cold Springs Fire in Yakima County (North of Troutlake). Challenges of the this fire include 1,000 spot fires, dead timber (due to bug kill) and the fact that they are unable to perform burn outs due to the fuel moisture. Mark advised that they will continue to manage the fire, but anticipates this to be a season ending event.

Fire Prevention Committee – Anjela Pimentel advised that the Committee will be meeting in the next few weeks and determining their meeting schedule for the remainder of 2008.

Discussion

Chair Nedrow advised that plaques recognizing previous Board members Dean Hosni and Jennifer Gregerson's service to the Board have been ordered. He will develop a plan to present them to Dean and Jennifer.

In discussion on adding a local emergency management position on the State Fire Defense Committee, it was agreed that this would aid in providing a comprehensive information exchange. Mark Kahley feels this would be beneficial, and suggested it be a representative of an umbrella organization, such as Washington State Emergency Manager's Association. Chair Nedrow advised that the State Fire Defense Committee would like more direction from the Fire Protection Policy Board on where their efforts should be directed. He advised that he will contact Chief Dave LaFave to discuss his view of this suggestion.

Mark Kahley provided an overview on the status of the Forest Fire Protection and Prevention Work Group Report, and advised the report is due to the legislature by August 1st and will address "No Man's Land" (unprotected structures within DNR protected areas, or on adjacent grassland), proposed adoption of the ICC Wildland Urban Interface codes on a state by state basis, and structural surcharges of parcels with improvements.

Certifying Firefighter less than 18 years of Age – Assistant State Fire Marshal Paul Perz provided an overview of issues involving certifying firefighters less than 18 years of age. Paul

advised that staff met with L & I on the liability issue. The main focus was if they were in volunteer status. Chair Nedrow advised that the Washington State Fire Fighters Association will not place anyone under 18 years of age in their Fireblast trailer.

It was also noted that the Board for Volunteer Firefighters provides insurance to firefighters 16 years of age and older.

Mark Kahley advised that DNR certifies youth camp residents 16 years of age as Firefighter I (Wildland Firefighters). They can't be used on federal land, and do occasionally provide initial attack.

Following discussion on further direction on this issue, it was agreed that the Fire Protection Policy Board should move forward with a Decision Item at the August Board Meeting that identifies the pros and cons of establishing a policy to not certify firefighters less than 18 years of age.

October Work Session Date Change - In discussion on the conflict with the date of the October Work Session, Chair Nedrow advised that Ellen will solicit availability for a possible meeting replacement date.

Decentralized Training – SFM Matlick provided a brief history of the development of the Business Plan for the Fire Training Academy and the efforts to rebuild the Academy.

State Fire Marshal Matlick advised that the Decentralized Training Plan is the 2nd component of the Business Plan, which identifies the need for a decentralized training plan. State Fire Marshal Matlick advised that the program is designed to provide access to training, state funding of basic firefighter training, and consistency of training and provides for establishment of the State Board on Fire Service Training, and reviewed the proposed make up of this Board. State Fire Marshal Matlick also pointed out that the decentralized training plan replaces the current Basic Fire Fighter Training Reimbursement Program and utilizes the funding to maintain the new program.

Jim Broman advised that the Washington Fire Chiefs are in very strong support of taking the proposal forward, and does not want to see un-answered questions regarding the governance of the program hold up the progress. State Fire Marshal Matlick advised that at the Forum meeting yesterday, concerns were raised regarding creation of another Board with similar responsibilities of the Fire Protection Policy Board. State Fire Marshal Matlick advised that he is not opposed to the suggestion of establishing a Technical Advisory Group, vs. creating a new Board.

Further discussion was held on the need for adding training officer representation on the Board/TAG. Discussion was also held on the possible involvement/blending of the current Fire Service Training and Education Review Committee into the new Board/Tag. Chief Van Camp suggested that the proposal link to the Fire Training Education Master Plan. Following this discussion, State Fire Marshal Matlick advised that based on the input received, he would re-

craft the proposal, and forward out for additional review and input. He will also brief Rick Chaney and Dean Shelton on the recommended changes to the proposal, which include:

- Removing the “Board on Fire Service Training” from the legislation, and inserting language that requires the State Fire Marshal to consult with the fire service for advice and direction on firefighter training;
- Establishing a TAG under the State Fire Marshal’s Office to perform this function;
- Rolling the members of the Fire Protection Policy Board’s Training and Education Review Committee into the new TAG;
- Adding two fire service Training Officers to the Tag, and
- Removing two Fire Chiefs from the TAG.

Chair Nedrow advised that a standing meeting for the FPPB Chair and the State Fire Marshal has been scheduled, generally occurring on the 2nd Monday of the month for 45-60 minutes to have discussion on on-going points of interest in the interim of meeting and work sessions. Chair Nedrow advised that the rest of the Board are invited and encouraged to attend as schedules allow.

Information Item

Deputy State Fire Marshal Barb Gagner reviewed the Information Item on Pro Board certification, and clarified that the issue basically is if the Fire Protection Policy Board wants dual certification programs by competing entities. Following discussion, it was agreed that a Decision Item would be prepared and brought forward for a decision at the August meeting. Elements to be included in the Decision Item include identifying the benefit to individual firefighters, the cost to implement and control of standards. Assistant State Fire Marshal Paul Perz advised that anyone has further questions on this issue, they should be forwarded to him.

Correspondence

The Inland Empire letter was tabled until the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:10

Next Meeting

August 27, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.
WSP Conference Room
General Administration Building
Olympia, WA