

WASHINGTON STATE FIRE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2008

West Coast Wenatchee Convention Center

A regular meeting of the Washington State Fire Defense Committee was held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at the West Coast Wenatchee Convention Center beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Members attending the meeting were:

Central Region	Tedd Hendershot, Steve North
Lower Columbia	Dave Leitch
Mid Columbia	Randy Johnson
Northeast Region	Bill Walkup
Southwest Region	Tom McDowell, Dave LaFave
Southeast Region	Grant Baynes
FPPB	Mark Kahley
DNR	Joe Shramek
EMD	
South Puget Sound Region	
WSP-Fire Protection Bureau	Paul Perz, Dan Johnson, Sue Carr, Esther Hernandez
Guests	Albert Kassel, Dick Gormley

Chairman Dave LaFave called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Minutes:

The minutes of the March 18th, 2008, meeting were discussed and some comments submitted. Both Bill Walkup and Dave Leitch recommended changes to the minutes. Fire Protection Bureau staff requested that committee members provide final comments/corrections to DSFM Sue Carr via email. The committee will approve the final minutes at the next SFDC meeting in May.

Announcements: None

Introductions: None

Correspondence: None

Topics for Discussion:

Meeting Organization

(Dave LaFave) Discussion regards to the structure and mechanics of the Fire Defense Committee meetings. The group should be more of a task group for the FPPB and provide feedback on relevant issues for the Mobe Plan. Discussions regarding the need for the group to stay focused.

Randy suggested the group needs to spend its time and energy on task orders from the Policy Board.

Meeting schedules were also discussed, with the final suggestion being quarterly meetings and monthly phone conferences. The Committee would still discuss pertinent matters monthly via a conference call and meet in person on a quarterly basis. Those quarterly meetings would be more of a workshop for projects to be completed and consensus to be refined.

Dave LaFave highlighted that the meetings should have a clear agenda communicated to the group and all pertinent research materials provided in advance of the meeting. Agendas will be built with items and complete details. The group will move on those issues that are complete and will hold those that need additional clarification.

Members also discussed the importance of making the commitment to be responsive and responsible to duties assigned. Grant Baynes – This will only work if we all make the commitment.

All Risk Inventory

Group discussion that it is imperative that we continue to work on this project and maintain the inventory. This should be the highest priority for the committee and done regionally and provide feedback on All Risk resources as well as wildland resources. Dave LaFave referred to the survey which Dan Johnson sent out.

Fire Defense Committee Maintenance

Succession Planning – All discussed the difficulty in recruiting and maintaining members of the committee. It was understood that all have greater commitments to their districts and have less time to work on projects. Further discussion centered on the responsibility of the group to ensure an equitable and fair distribution of project work within the FDC.

Dave suggested the model for the FDC to use is PNWCG: steering committee gives task order; the agenda items for the committee are the assignments that come from the Policy Board; time management is critical.

Fire Defense Committee Maintenance (cont'd)

Mark, as a Policy Board member, stated this group is operating well and doing what the Policy Board expects.

Joe Shramek stated this may be an opportunity for the FDC to take an agenda/plan to the Policy Board.

Many felt it appropriate to review the SFDC By-Laws and ensure that there is a clear nexus as to the duties the group has taken on and those the group are actually responsible to manage. Dan Johnson suggested adding a section or chapter to the Mobilization Plan that would state how the SFDC operates and lays out how task orders from the FPPB will be handled.

Action/Decision

Dave suggested this be an agenda item for the next meeting.

IAFC Gap Analysis

The group discussed the relevance of this Gap Analysis of the Mobe Plan in comparison to other State Plans. The future development of these plans will allow for interstate mobilization of fire service resources. It was discussed that the Washington Mobe Plan has been previously reviewed at the national level with very few issues being noted. Joe Shramek stated the mobe plan is state focused but the gap analysis is for interstate-is that relevant to the state mobe plan? Bill Walkup stated he believes that this project is outside the scope of the Fire Defense Committee and that if the State Chiefs believe this to be a relevant cause, they should make a request to the FPPB for tasking to the appropriate agency or group – that may not be the Fire Defense Committee.

Action/Decision

The group concurred and Dave LaFave agreed to take this issue forward to the State Chiefs for further tasking.

State Fire Services Resources Mobilization Plan

Regional Mobe Plans – Several in the group mention it seems as though the continued maintenance and update review of these regional plans has fallen off our plate. It was discussed that the regions should send in their most current plans and the group should review whether the “check list” should be scrutinized for update as well. Randy suggested the members do some “leg work” before the next meeting.

Action/Decision

It was agreed that the information would be provided to the FDC in preparation of our next conference call where the issue would be discussed and a plan of action finalized.

IMT Credentialing

The group discussed that similar to the Gap Analysis this should be forwarded to the FPPB for tasking, as this is not specific to the Mobe Plan. Bill Walkup discussed that this is in the Fire Defense Committee business plan, which has been adopted by the FPPB who know they will need to take action. It seems more likely that we need to clarify the scope of this issue. Mark Kahley stated that this issue has been around since Mary Corso was the State Fire Marshal and the governor's declaration gives responsibility of all risk to WSP. A possible solution is that the Fire Defense Committee send this question to the FPPB - this issue is important to us provide guidance on where we go from here. Both Bill and Mark agree that this does not truly fall into FDC purview and should have been tasked to WSP.

Future Meetings

The committee members agreed to quarterly with conference call in-between. Bill raised a concern if the committee can accomplish its tasks with quarterly meetings. Dave stated the real issue is getting people to do the work. Bill suggested the quarterly meetings be more of a workshop format.

The meeting concluded at 1210.