

MBFTE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 9, 2021

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION:

Teams

Meeting via teleconference &

Board Member	PRESENT	ABSENT
Reno Wells –	х	
Assoc. of Townships		
Dean Wrobbel –	х	
League of Cities		
Rick Loveland - MPFF	Х	
Jonathan Kahnke - MSFDA	Х	
Chip Lohmiller - MSFCA	Х	
Roger Ihrke –	х	
League of Cities		
Chris Ford - MPFF		Х
John Peura –	х	
Public Member		
Robert Dixon Jr - MSFDA	Х	
Roxanne Altmeyer -	x	
MSFDA		
Jim Fisher –	х	
Assoc. of Townships		
Gavin Peterson –	х	
MSFDA		
Becki White - MSFCA	Х	
Natascha Hennen - MSFDA	Х	
Jim Smith – SFM - DPS	Х	

Guests: Steve Shapira (Century College), Patrick Kelly (M-State), Theresa Zikmund (MFSCB), Dave Schliek (MFSCB), Paul Seleski (MFSCB), Chris Johnson (Ridgewater College), Wayne Kewitsch (MnFIRE), DeeDee Jankovich (MnFIRE) and Jessica Zemien (State of MN Fiscal)

Staff: Steve Flaherty, Executive Director and Margaret Koele, License Coordinator

I. Call to order – Dean Wrobbel, Chair 10:09 a.m.

- a. Accept agenda
 - i. Motion to accept agenda as presented by Reno Wells, second by Rick Loveland, motion carried

II. Approval of minutes from August 12, 2020

- a. Motion to approve August minutes by Rick Loveland, second by John Peura, motion carried
 - i. Rick & John P approved

III. Reports

a. Treasurer, John Peura

- i. Financials are in order as presented
 - 1. FSA balance, Marshal Smith
 - a. We have not received the updated balance from fiscal, once received we will forward out to the board members
- **b.** Executive Director, Steve Flaherty
 - i. COVID update
 - Meetings are just starting to open up a little bit, county chiefs & regional meetings, with most being done virtually. We are doing are best to get information out virtually, verses face to face, which has been a challenge this last year working remotely
 - ii. Target Solutions pilot program update
 - **1.** 115 departments on the core version, combined with 31 on the premier platform that allowed to link on the enterprise site
 - a. We have 4500 firefighters training in the program
 - b. Positive feedback on the online training being offered
 - iii. Certification board transition update
 - 1. We have met multiple times and the statutory language has been drafted to be introduced through a couple authors to legislation
 - iv. DNR Wildland training to structural firefighters update
 - SFM FSS Tate Mills and Steve Flaherty, Executive Director have had multiple meetings with the DNR on what type of training should the wild land firefighters and structural firefighters have so they are competent when being called out of state or within state for different fire situations they are being sent to
 - a. Cross walk training for credentialing when firefighters are being called out to help in different situations for wild land or structural firefighting
 - i. It is about safety and training that they are prepared for whatever situation they are called upon to do
 - v. Leadership update
 - 1. Just completed module two in Brainerd at the Arrowwood Resort, will have module three and four in St Cloud
 - a. Smaller group due to COVID
 - b. MnFIRE was added for CISD with Dr. Margaret Gavian and was well received by the group
 - i. We Would like to see this content continued in the program going forward
 - vi. Virtual speakers update
 - **1.** We have had four speakers so far, with very good feedback
 - a. \$7.30 cost per attendee for this program being offered, good return on investment for this program
 - b. This would be a good way to continue getting quality national speakers and reaching across the state with training

- c. Rick Loveland commented his members have loved this training series and is there a way to track how many are watching the recorded versions
 - Steve Flaherty commented that we are able to track the views, but we cannot calculate if there is a group watching the session. We will have numbers for the next meeting on how many have viewed the speakers
- vii. Qualified Instructor update
 - 1. 260 qualified instructors with 100 we are trying to get completed
 - a. We are ready to implement the program July 1 for departments to get reimbursed using a qualified instructors from the list
- c. Training Committee, Chair Chip Lohmiller
 - i. Approval to allow Steve Flaherty, Executive Director, to oversee and add training informational videos to the TargetSolutions enterprise site with vetting done by the Training Committee
 - **1.** Becki White motioned to approve the recommendation, Rick Loveland second the motion, motion carried unanimously
 - ii. MnFIRE course content added to the NFPA1001 program, as a requirement to complete the course, starting FY22
 - **1.** Steve Flaherty, Executive Director is in conversation with MnFIRE on cost and if would be in person or online
 - a. This would be awareness level that is valuable to the program will have more information next meeting after there is input from training providers on the subject
 - i. Wayne Kewitsch believes this is a valuable program and we can discuss in new business on the agenda
 - iii. CISD added to the leadership course
 - 1. We will continue to work with MnFIRE on this program and the cost of being added to the leadership course
 - iv. Discussion to continue to budget in upcoming fiscal years the speaker series with offering high quality speakers
 - 1. Board members getting positive feedback from their respective departments on the speakers
 - 2. More discussion for this to be added to the budget for next fiscal year with fewer speakers, using the same organization or open up to others to present proposals
 - a. Possibly leaving under conference and seminars grants as virtual option
- d. Executive Committee, Chair Dean Wrobbel
 - i. Virtual meeting to continue until further notice
 - **1.** AG representative has determined that we can continue to meet virtually after executive orders are lifted, per state statute
 - ii. Chip Lohmiller was added to the Executive Committee to report on behalf of the Training Committee as chair of that committee
 - iii. Governor office interpretation of membership on the board for appointments

- This was brought up as Dean Wrobbel was retiring from his position with St Cloud Fire Department and The League of Cities wanted to open the seat, as he would no longer be a member of the city
 - a. The League interprets our current statute as "the person representing their organization be elected official or employee of a charter city"
 - b. The Governor office and AG representative reviewed the statute and it does not specify that the individual has to be an employee of a charter city or elected official, also the other organization member appointment statutes do not specify the individuals seeking the appointment need to be a member of those organizations such as MSFDA, MSFCA, and Association of Townships
 - The League of Cities would like to recommend that wording be changed in the statute to specify their wishes for a person being appointed to represent their organization on their recommendation
 - **c.** The AG representative also commented that a person cannot be removed from their seat due to retirement and they can complete their term
 - i. Steve Flaherty, Executive Director will work on setting up a meeting with the Governor office to discuss the appointment process and the importance of the recommendations that are made from the respective organizations
- 2. Appointments for current open seats will not be made until March
- iv. All MFSDA and Officer schools have been cancelled this fiscal year
- e. Licensing, Chair Rick Loveland
 - i. FT -2229
 - **ii.** PT 132
 - iii. POC 1125
 - iv. VOL 302
 - v. Unaffiliated 8 (active licenses renewed and the individual is no longer affiliated with a department but will remain licensed until expiration)
 - vi. Current total active licenses 3788
- f. Fire Service Specialist Report Tate Mills, FSS
 - We have gotten approval to go out again with social distancing and precautions in place.
 We have also been busy in several zoom meetings, which can be done with more in a day than in person meetings
 - 1. FEMA application is open and closes Friday
 - 2. We have been busy with fire department dissolutions, the line three project and hazmat training
 - 3. We had joint meeting with Association of Townships and League of Cities to get some informational guidance documents on the process for contracts
 - ii. We have just completed interviews for the fourth FSS and hope we have an answer soon

- iii. Working with DNR, along with the major organizations on training that needs to be obtained for when deployments happen around the state or to other states
- **IV. Public comment**
 - a. No public comment
- V. Old business
 - a. First meeting 2021 vote board positions (can hold two terms)
 - i. Chair Dean Wrobbel (1 term)
 - 1. No nominations
 - a. Reno Wells called for white ballot, Rick Loveland second the motion
 - i. Roll call vote done with unanimous vote for Dean Wrobbel to remain board chair, motion carried
 - ii. Vice Chair Jim Fisher (2 terms)
 - 1. Jim Fisher nominated Chip Lohmiller, Rick Loveland second the motion
 - a. Roll call vote done with unanimous vote for Chip Lohmiller to be vice chair, motion carried
 - iii. Secretary Natascha Hennen (1 term)
 - 1. No nominations
 - a. Jim Fisher nominated to white ballot for Natascha Hennen, John Peura second the motion
 - i. Roll call vote done with unanimous vote for Natascha Hennen to remain secretary, motion carried

VI. New business

- a. Training informational videos being added to the TargetSolutions enterprise site
 - i. The committee would like to get safety training videos out on the enterprise site
- b. MnFIRE course content added to NFPA1001 program
 - i. Great idea to add to the program content, but we need to discuss how to handle if online, in person, hours needed to add
 - 1. Financial cost to add this program
 - Wayne Kewitsch commented that MnFIRE is making a big impact across the state and this is a good opportunity to get the information out more. We will need to have more discussions with the Executive Director of MBFTE
 - i. Rick Loveland commented for Steve Flaherty, Executive Director to get more information and pricing for the next meeting and have the training committee work through the process
 - ii. Steve Flaherty, Executive Director would like to get more input from providers for this discussion
- c. CISD added to the leadership course
 - i. Financial cost to add this program
 - 1. Steve Flaherty commented that in discussion with MnFIRE it was agreed upon at the time to use funding from their FSAC allocation this fiscal year, going forward

we will need to discuss. MBFTE cost was the hotel room for this session. We have a DNR financial module that they come in on their own time and do at no cost for MBFTE

- a. Wayne Kewitsch commented we will need to have more discussions on this, as there are costs associated with all this
- 2. Feedback from the students was positive and a valuable message to continue on with the program
- d. Virtual speakers add to budget in upcoming fiscal years
 - i. Keep in mind we are on a base budget funding this next fiscal year
- e. Steve Flaherty, Executive Director had a meeting with DNR who had gotten funding from the FSAC for the L380, L381 & L481 courses and they could not have the courses this fiscal year due to COVID and the funding will go back to the FSA
- f. Rick Loveland commented that M-State will be offering a live fire school in April

VII. Adjourn 11:28 a.m.

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