

# Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission Meeting Minutes – 3/8/23

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 @ 10:30am  
FETA, 6868 Nicholson Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70820; Medical Bldg.

**Call to Order** (11:10am)

**Pledge and Prayer**

**Roll Call**

<u>COMMISSION MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>ZOOM</u>
Bryan Adams			X
Butch Browning		X	
Brandon Davis			X
Russell Di Salvo	X		
Stephen Guidroz	X		
Ken Himel	X		
Matt Lee			X (arrived @ 11:25am)
Brian Lindberg	X		
Chad Major	X		
Louis Romero	X		
Dan Wallis	X		

- Chad Major reminded everyone that at 11:30am the interview process with the 5 candidates remaining will begin and that the meeting will be short.
- Please note that Ken Himel was present at the 1/17/23 Commission Meeting and the record has been changed to reflect same.
- Minutes from previous meeting were distributed.

**Motion:** Motion was made to adopt the minutes from the January, 2023 meeting with no objections.

## **Deputy Superintendent's Report:**

Chief Stone reported that the recruit dorm is still on track, drainage project at the MOD X bldg. is complete with further repairs scheduled in April.

## **Municipal Report:**

Chief Fowler gave the Municipal report, highlighting the Fire School in Winnsboro, with the normal training track but also added the Mobile Water Supply Certification course with 15 of the 16 that took the exam getting certified. Rope Awareness Operations and Technician has been submitted to IFSAC, we are

waiting on their response. Above ground trench props drawings are for cost determination. Will follow up with Dustin Klienpeter to get an update for the next meeting. All of the paperwork on the 2022 Grant is completed on our side and is in the system for approvals. The 2023 Grant is completed and submitted. Instructors have been training and completing train the trainers. We ran about 300 more municipal classes in 2022 than we did in 2021. We are on track to run even more than that in 2023. The pass rates are about the same, Chief Fowler explained that we are about 80% pass rate.

- Ken Himel mentioned a few phone calls that he received from around the Lafayette area regarding a class cancelation, Chief Wallace said that he spoke to Chief Stone about it and Ken said that he was good with that, Ken was just asked to bring it up.
- Ken Himel asked about the subject brought up last meeting regarding challenging tests, Chief Stone said that we are moving forward with a couple of them as they get reaccredited, we are working with Rusty and Chief Heinen on changing the Fire Investigator Class to add the new JPRs and possibly extending that class to a 2-week period and this would be the first one that will not be allowed to be challenged. Chief Fowler stated that Trench Rescue is a non-challenge class, because you cannot finish the practicals as an individual, the live fire instructor in charge is the same, it is a non-challenge because one person cannot complete it alone in general. Ken Himel asked if they wanted him to bring this up to the Chief's Association Zoom meeting on Friday, 3/3/23, and find out what their stance is on this test challenge issue to gain some support.
- Chief Stone mentioned that the Special Accommodation Request letters under the DPS policy and the first ones are going out. And that we are hosting Trench Rescue OSHA class here at FETA on 4/4/2023.
- Chad Major mentioned that on the Mobile Vehicle Extrication, we may want to see if a wrecker yard may allow us to use some of the wrecked vehicles, Ken let him know that the Prop is for the rural departments that do not have access to wrecker yards.

### **Industrial Report:**

Sam Colon gave the January, 2023 Industrial Report, highlighting that there were 329 students, 292 class hours. They are going to 4 days, 10 hour classes to accommodate industry.

- Chief Stone mentioned that some new HazMat equipment has been purchased and more training suits will be purchased soon.

**Certification Report:**

Steve Billman reported that Vehicle Rescue, Awareness, Operations tests as well as Fire Investigator is in the process of getting off to IFSAC. He then gave a summary of the Certification Report.

- Stephen Guidroz asked if the software was looked at further, Stephen stated that he is looking at a few and collecting proposals.
- Brian Lindberg asked what is the best way to obtain test results, Stephen said that an email with the date, location and fire department ID.
- Russell DiSalvo asked what the usual timeline is for grading tests, Stephen stated that they usually get graded on the day that they come in.
- Chief Stone stated that we are closing the gap, Stephen said that it is usually 2 weeks sometimes the end of a week tests, grades and certifications are all done and caught up.
- Chief Wallace applauded Steve for getting the Certifications out in such a timely manner. He also states that whatever system we go with we need to talk with the agencies that require certifications from fire fighters to see if their requirements can be met with the emails from the new system. Steven then said that he has a form letter for anyone needing a Certification for state supplemental pay requirements, they will accept this letter instead of a hard certification.

**Motion:** Motion was made to go into Executive Session to conduct interviews and it was seconded.

**Next Meeting Date:**

April 24, 2023 @ 2:00pm in Lafayette at the LFCA Conference

**Future 2023 Meeting Dates:**

May 16, 2023 @ 10:00am at FETA

**Adjourn:**

**2/28/2023 Minutes Approved**

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**Chad Majors**