

11/28/23

Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission Meeting

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 @ 10:00am at
FETA
6868 Nicholson Drive
Baton Rouge, LA

Call to Order by Chad Major

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	
Brian Lindberg	X		
Chad Major	X		
Louis Romero		X	
Dan Wallis	X		

Prayer and Pledge

Motion: Motion was made to adopt the minutes from the September 20, 2023 meeting with a second to adopt.

Meeting Minutes For 10/17/23

Superintendent's Report:

Rusty Shoultz gave the Superintendent's Report.

- Katie Elliott was introduced as Chief of Administration of the Fire Academy.
- Chad Major asked about the response numbers for the virtual training, Rusty replied that for the 1st class there were 20 and for 2nd, EMS class there were 5.
- Butch Browning inquired about the billing/invoicing, if we were using the FETA IMS, Rusty replied that yes we were using the IMS, Butch asked how we invoiced before, Rusty said that we were using SAGE, the old LSU system.
- Chad Major asked about some classes that had recently been cancelled, Rusty stated that he was aware and gave direction 2 weeks ago that nothing is to be cancelled going forward without Ed or himself being notified and approving. Chad suggested that there needs to be communication as to why there are cancellations to the Fire Departments so that they are aware and can understand.

Municipal Report:

Dustin Kleinpeter gave the Municipal Report

- Butch Browning asked if there were 16 departments aware of the regional trainings, Dustin replied, not all 16 were aware but at least half of them were, some of them did not know the process for signing up for the training, so we are now reaching out to all of them for the future.
- Chad Major asked Dan Wallace if it would be possible to communicate this information through the ESF4 list, Dan replied absolutely and that he is working on a communication tool, especially for smaller departments. Dan stated that emails work well but not for everyone so Dale Broussard, Mark Tredway and Tommy Stone are out with the fire departments daily.
- Rusty stated that in January we will have an online state wide EMR, and that 66 departments that answered the survey are interested in these classes.
- Dustin stated that the goal with regional development is to assist the departments in building their own training programs by us implementing professional development plans for our current and future staff.

Pine Country Report:

Dustin Kleinpeter gave the Pine Country Report

- Chad Major asked if we have hired staff for this campus, Dustin replied that we have Chief Johnny Ogden and Rusty Lenard but still have one opening there.

Recruit Academy Report:

Dustin Kleinpeter gave the Recruit Academy Report

- Brian Lindberg asked how many people were paid from the Work Force Development funds, Dustin replied that they have all been paid. Ed added that there was some supplemental funds on that, we are looking into who else can get some of this money for training, WFC told us to keep what was left.
- Butch asked if we received the funds to buy equipment as well, Ed responded that he will have to check with Tracy Roberts on that. Dustin said that the supplemental funds did not apply for the purchase of equipment. Butch said that there was a portion that came out of the hurricane recovery that was supposed to be for that, that there were two pots of money, one was for the reimbursement and one was to buy equipment. Chad said that as long as the equipment was related to the training, Ed said that he will go back and look
- Chad said that this was the first time that we ever had federal funds passed down, if WFC is part federal funds, you have to have justification, if they said that we can keep it, how do we justify those funds. Ed said that he will go back and check on that.
- Brian Lindberg asked if the Pine Country contract is an annual contract with the State of Louisiana, Ed responded Pine Country Educational Center (PCEC) owns the lease, LSU FETI has an MOU that pays them \$70,000.00 per year, we are, however, working on getting that put in FETA's name.

Industrial Report:

Ed Griffin gave the Industrial Report

- Brian Lindberg wants to be sure that our fire service, as a whole, in our state is being taken care of as much as our industrial services, Ed replied that we are statutorily obligated and morally obligated to take care of our state fire service, and that we want to take care of our industrial but not with a sacrifice of municipal.

- Dan Wallace says that he wants to be very clear that the virtual things that we are going to is not to replace anything, this is based on the voice of our survey.
- Brian says that he represents the people from up north and they see the burns and the industrial classes not being cancelled, while municipal classes are. There was discussion on this between several audience members, commission members and FETA. Dan Wallace says that we have already purchased a tool (IMS) that should take care of classes being cancelled due to low enrollment.
- Butch Browning said that we only had 8 full time instructors in the state, when we got our industrial money that was being kept by the university, he asked how many allocated positions are there for full time personnel now, Ed responded that we have 10 and that a couple of those are short, Dan said that we wanted to have one full time in every region of the state. There was more discussion.
- Skip Pinskton, commented that he would like to know the long and short term goals of FETA, the chiefs and training officers want and need to know this information. He would like to know FETA's strategic plan and maybe a quarterly report that can be shared. He stated that the certification issues have caused problems for his employees, financial especially. He also discussed the certification testing issues. He is asking for information so that they can help FETA be a success.

Technical Rescue:

Ed Griffin gave the Technical Rescue Report

- Rusty Shoultz gave a shout out to Thomas Thompson for his program.

Certification Report:

Steve Billman gave the Certification Report

- Ken Himel commented that certification needs to be fixed as far as people being sent home, not being able to test, people being able to sit at the same desk, sharing tests, he wants to see a report showing how many people show up for tests and get sent home. Rusty said that this was unacceptable and explained what occurred and took 100% responsibility for it, he stated that there was an investigation and he will remedy the situation. Rusty explained that all proctors will be trained going forward.
- Russell DiSalvo had the same comments that Ken Himel had, he is concerned that these things are happening to others.
- Rusty assures that he does have the solution.
- Chad Major commented that he is hearing: We recognize that there are problems recently that are being corrected and that by December there should be a whole different ball game as far as technology and being able to push back the data information to the chiefs that they need for their firefighters.

Financial Report:

Rusty said that the Financial Report will be in the packet each month.

EMS Report:

Ed Griffin gave the EMS Report

- Chad asked about the accreditation for paramedics, Rusty explained that we want to get the EMT, Advanced EMT accreditation for paramedic in a hybrid program. EMS needs to get to the rural areas and regionalize skills and practicals.

Old Business:

- Chad Major mentioned the new campus, Rusty submitted a price point to Chief Wallace, it was submitted to Capital Outlay as well. Chad would like to have something on paper to present to the legislature. Rusty would like to engage a consultant with Fire Marshal funds or funds from the Academy to bring some options. Butch Browning said that a fire training trust fund should be created, to have time to decide how to spend it, take excess FETA revenue that goes into the Fire Marshal Fund and change the law to put that into a trust fund.

New Business:

- Butch Browning brought up that Dr. Moore, FEMA, had her US Fire Supplemental Fire Prevention and Control Priorities for next year, he thinks that everyone would benefit from reading it on the website.

Motion to Adjourn: Chad Major made a motion to adjourn, motion was second.

10/28/2023 Minutes Approved



Chad Major