



# MSFCA

## Meeting Minutes Montana State Fire Chiefs Association Board Meeting Teleconference Wednesday, December 16, 2009, 10:30 am MST

Called to order by Chairperson Rich Cowger at 10:33 am MST.

### ROLL CALL

#### Career Chiefs' Section

- Steve Larson
- Jeff Miller
- Jason Shrauger, 2<sup>nd</sup> V.C.

#### Combination Chiefs' Section

- Rich Cowger, Chairperson
- Tom Kuntz
- Brett Waters

#### Volunteer Chiefs' Section

- Leonard Lundby, Vice-Chairperson
- Kraig Hansen
- Bruce Charles

Staff: Jessica Heintz and Jen Winans

### CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Brett Waters, seconded by Kraig Hansen to approve the Board Meeting Minutes dated September 18, 2009, September 19, 2009, October 7, 2009 and December 2, 2009 as presented. Motion passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

Mid-Winter Meeting – Kraig brings up discussion about the Association giving a % of the revenue from license plates to Volunteer Association, will continue discussion at Mid-Winter Meeting. You can either call Jessica to set up lodging for the meeting or call the hotel directly (Bozeman C'mon Inn). There is a block for MSFCA. Mid-Winter meeting will start at 1:00 pm at Bozeman's Station #3.

SAFER Grant – A rough narrative has been sent out. The Board needs to look the narrative over and give feedback. This will mainly help Volunteer and Combination stations (on the Volunteer side) but will help the Career stations as well if it funds the Coordinator (Executive Director) position. Jason Shrauger joins the call. To help the Career Chiefs some funding could be used to offset the cost of the Fire Fighting Testing Consortium. Wyoming was awarded \$1.16 million. Add the new ISO changes in the narrative. The old ISO formula was 5-6 Volunteers for every Career. Grant is due on Friday. A question is brought up wondering if psychological testing should be added to the physicals section of the SAFER grant. Group will do a working teleconference to finish the grant and submit it. Group will send out a draft before it is sent out. Board will send an electronic OK to Jessica by mid-morning Friday.

### NEW BUSINESS

Board Committee Appointments – Updating the committee appointee chart. Discussion of positions that are Governor appointed. Is the e-911 position already appointed? Rich will follow up, may have been appointed to Chief Paul Dextras from Billings. Steve wondered if he is on Homeland Security Committee (SAC), as he has been receiving information and going to the meetings, Steve will remain. Kraig/Leonard on the Volunteers. Rich will follow up on the State Interoperability Executive Committee position. Add a column about who is responsible for the meetings.

The NRCG committee has openings. Fire Wardens and Fire Chiefs have opportunities to be on these committees. It is important that each association have representation on committees that are predominately run by Federal Agencies. Will ask Brett Christopherson to be on Prevention and Training committees. Will ask Curt Belts to represent the Wardens on a committee and Scott Waldron to be on the Business committee (he is still interested in the position and the Board agrees to keep him in the position). That leaves the Equipment committee.

Membership Drive – Jessica sent out a letter and application to show the Board what will be sent out to members and prospective members in early January. Board approves.

Membership Cards –These new cards will go out at the end of February after the Membership Drive. Image will also be the picture on the front of the membership mailing.

Alliance 2010 Agenda – Discussion regarding the agenda, and the draw for Career and Combination Chiefs. There is approximately \$13,000 in the Alliances budget for the conference; have yet to see a cost breakdown. Question is who would pick up the cost if it goes over budget. Representative from Chiefs Association, Volunteers Association and Wardens Association need to sit down and talk about how to make the Alliance concept work. Rich will talk with Leonard and go over the agenda with the Alliance at their next meeting. The goal of this conference should be to get good quality education to draw a lot people and to make a profit. The Alliance was designed to create a funding mechanism to pay lobbyists. Rich will send an update and discuss again at the next conference call.

ESCI Partnership/Training Discussion (Consolidation/Merger Seminar) – Should be of minimal cost to MSFCA, could brand with MSFCA. This could also be a good agenda item for the Alliance. Rich will follow up.

Adoption of Residential Sprinkler Code – Allen Lorenz sent out a notice about a meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December. The new Director of Building Codes Division wants to work together with the Fire Marshals on the new Sprinkler Codes.

Rich talked to Chief Mike Painter about having Gary Honold stay on as the Chair of the Fire Marshals Forum of Montana under MSFCA. He will have Honold stay on, is concerned with having multiple meetings on same topics. Chief Painter would like to see things work out so we are all on the same page. Discuss more at the Mid-Winter Meeting.

## **CHEIFS SECTIONS' REPORTS**

Career Chief's Section – Steve reports on the SAC meeting. The meeting was an update on Spring funding. Most of their money is coming from Law Enforcement. There has been a big push by the Citizens Corp and Special Needs on their website called Ready Community and Fire Ready Montana. Presentation of both the axe and the plaque for Chuck Winn and Greg Megaard, things went well.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Jen has been working on large address list to get membership mailings sent out. MSFCA has never had a good mailing list to go off of, so this year will be a big mailing and next year we will be able to make changes and corrections and have a more accurate mailing list.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Rich thanks the Board for their willingness to have open discussions before “lines are drawn in the sand”. Reminds everyone that that is what we are here for.

Next meeting is January 6th at 10:30 am MST

**There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 pm MST.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jen Winans, Administrative Staff