



# MINUTES

## USAR Subcommittee

of the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council

Meeting: January 29, 2024, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Teams

**CALL TO ORDER** Chief Heppel called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

### ATTENDANCE

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Heppel, Eugene Fire, Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Rep. Nancy Nathanson                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Charlton, Hillsboro Fire |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Barney, Portland Fire      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Holland, Clackamas Fire | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cord VonDerahe, Salem Fire    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Watson, OSFFC                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Traeger, Gresham Fire           | <input type="checkbox"/> Wayne Morris, Eugene Fire                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mariah Rawlins, OSFM                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Godon, TVFR            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kyle Olson, Clackamas Fire    |

### Others in Attendance

Sara Zavala, OSFM, Scribe  
Greg Deedon, Guest

### Welcome – Chris Heppel

- Chief welcomed the group at 10:00 and summarized the status of the groups work. We are in development of the draft report.

### Task Updates

- **Needs Assessment**—Chris Heppel
  - Assistant Chief Rawlins is in California this week. Input is in the draft report. Any changes to this section should be sent to Sara.
- **Team typing** – Dan Watson, Cord Von Derahe, Chris Barney
  - There is an understanding that these teams may look different than in the past. There may be some education to agencies on what USAR is versus tech rescue. USAR and SAR difference will also need to be continually shared.
- **Legal Authority** (ORS/OAR), Organization (State and local), Management – With OSFM.
- **Deployment methodology** (OFMAS) and Integration (local, state and federal) – Mariah Rawlins, Chris Barney
  - No further changes at this point. Ready to move forward with the information that has been gathered.
- **Training requirements**, DPSST Task Books, State training site – Cord VonDerahe
  - Chief Von Derahe said the biggest change is that Julie is leaving DPSST; will need to stay on this to see who will replace her and then begin conversations about reopening these training courses. Kayla Ballrot is Julie's replacement and is well versed in this topic. She attended the chiefs round table that was held last week. Kayla is aware of the USAR component; the challenge would be around NFPA realignments of their standards. Chief Heppel recently attended a meeting on this topic back east; 1021. Task books may need to be adjusted. This is an

opportunity to jump in with changes, as others are making changes based on the NFPA updates.

- **Sustainable funding** source & amount needed – Michael Traeger
  - Chief Traeger shared a draft spreadsheet for funding. Please review and provide feedback.
  - The funding reflects 8 legacy teams. This layout is not ideal, as it may be viewed as Portland metro focused. We need teams to be force multipliers to the tech rescue teams. Regional, organizational management for training will be important.
  - Greg said location and membership might be the cart before the horse. Might consider establishing one team and see how that goes. One type 4 team.
  - Chief Olson asked for the end goal. Chief Barney provided a presentation a while ago on this; the concept was pulled from wildfire structure. There would need to be a balance around the state as we push out teams. The goal is four regional teams (managed regionally); will plan a type 3 team for later down the road (managed by OSFM). That would be similar to HazMat. Chief Barney said the group that met arrived at a decision. Chief Von Derahe said the four-region approach was preferred. This may help garner support from legislators. Greg mentioned that Southwest Oregon may absorb a lot of training dollars because there isn't a team set up near there.
  - Chief Charlton suggested looking at models for the four regional teams; identify what regions look like and how do we backfill capabilities. Resources are packed into the Portland metro area. We need buy in from Fire Defense Boards and share resources. Chief Heppel said the cost to "get in the game" might be too great for some areas.
  - Chief Heppel asked if another workshop is necessary to confirm this deployment scheme and methodology to ensure we cover the best plan. The proposed funding need to tie into deployment and that's not clear at this point. Chief Olson said the deployment right now may be different than 3-5 years from now. What could we drop in today (regionally). Can we stand up a type 3 team right now in the metro area? Does that team travel the state? Chief Heppel said Assistant Chief Rawlins would like to start with type 4.
    - A plan for incremental, deployable assets maybe the way to approach this. The OSFM IMT concept is very defined, but it took 20 years to get there.
    - At or below \$200M would be best so that this program balances with other priorities. We are working to balance statewide needs and ensure equity.
    - Chief Von Derahe offered to work with DPSST to determine how many tech personnel are out there, so we can have a better picture. Chief Heppel asked Chief Barney to lead the conversation on this. Team makeup and deployment will drive the cost matrix.
  - Peter said the needs are greater than reflected on the current funding spreadsheet.
  - A state type 3 or type 4 team would help bolster the roster of existing department teams.
  - Training funds have been difficult in the past few years.
  - Chief Heppel asked if state funded, will it be mandatory to be deployed? Group agreed that this would require deployment from their agencies if state dollars are received.
  - Chief Charlton reminded the group that this should be modeled after the mob plan. Develop some scenarios for illustration. The mob plan has been tested and works. We need to be able to explain the final numbers.

**Next Steps – Chris Heppel**

- Need a deployment workgroup to be set; this will feed into the funding spreadsheet.
- What does the deployment management look like? This group needs to develop this.  
*Deployment, management, coordination with IMT, return home.*

**Next Meeting –**

- Sara to set a meeting at OSFM in February to discuss deployment methodology, team type, connection to funding. Planning for a full day meeting 9-4 or so.
- Next regular meeting will be late February.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:53.

DRAFT