



MBFTE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 11, 2025

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

LOCATION: Elk River Fire Department
13073 Orono Pkwy NW
Elk River, MN
Teams/Teleconference

Board Member	In Person	TEAMS	ABSENT
Vance Bachmann – Assoc. of Townships			x
Dean Wrobbel – League of Cities		X	
Jesse Buhs- League of MN Cities		X	
Chip Lohmiller - MSFCA	x		
Thomas Schulte- MPFF		x	
Kate McKay - MSFDA		X	
John Peura – Public Member		x	
Michael Shwankl - MSFDA		x	
Chad Vermeersch		X	
Jim Fisher – Assoc. of Townships		X	
Gavin Peterson – MSFDA		x	
Becki White - MSFCA		X	
Jason Forshee - MSFDA	X		
Dan Krier – SFM - DPS	X		

Staff:

Steve Flaherty (Executive Director, MBFTE) Allison Marcus (Licensing Coordinator MBFTE) Ross Hoernemann (MBFTE)

Guests: (In person) David Jensen (SFMD)

(Teams) Jared Rozeboom (SFMD), Tate Mills (SFMD), Jeremie Baker, Jeremy Maxey, Tom Popsun, Scott Saehr (MFSCB), Mike Warner, Jen Elleraas

- I. Call to order at 10:31 am – Chip Lohmiller, Vice Chair
 - a. Roll call attendance listed above
 - b. Agenda additions –none
- II. Approval of the agenda (Motion by: Krier / Second by: Wrobbel)
 - a. Agenda approved
- III. Approval of minutes from November 12, 2024 (Motion by: Rowan / Second by: Wrobbel)
 - a. Minutes approved as written via roll call vote
- IV. Reports
 - a. Budget –Steve Flaherty, Executive Director
 - i. Starting to spend down 1-time funding for reimbursements
 - ii. Addition of \$250,000 for EV-Stored energy training
 - iii. \$4.732 million balance
 - b. Executive Director, Steve Flaherty
 - i. Database currently on State Server with MNIT
 - 1. Allison and Steve are looking at external vendors to support database
 - ii. Vector Solutions contract is underway
 - 1. 204 fire departments subscribing to Vector Solutions CORE version
 - a. Adding Wildland Refresher course to platform
 - iii. Reimbursements started processing in January, 2025
 - iv. Leadership training starting this weekend
 - c. Executive Committee Report, Vice Chair, Chip Lohmiller
 - i. Discussed MNIT update
 - 1. Researching 4 vendors
 - 2. Recommendation to come in March 2025
 - ii. EV-Stored Energy training
 - 1. Discussed process:
 - a. Training provider submits course curriculum to MBFTE Staff to approve, Reimbursement form to be sent to provider, Fire Department would submit roster and reimbursement form with invoice to MBFTE Staff for reimbursement
 - 2. Report will be required to give to FSAC at end of FY26
 - d. License Update – Allison Marcus

- i. 207 new license applications in 2024
 - e. Fire Service Specialist —David Jensen (SFMD)
 - i. 2 FSS positions starting end of February 2025
 - ii. Focus is on informing new Chiefs about MBFTE and their training dollars

V. Old business

- a. Vector Solutions Contract—Steve Flaherty
 - i. Contract approved and underway
 - ii. Calendar year 2025 payment to be received by VS next week
- b. EV-Stored Energy Training—Steve Flaherty, Executive Director
 - i. FSAC gave \$250,000 to MBFTE to provide training to fire service
 - ii. End of FY26 will need to provide report to FSAC
 - iii. Executive Board recommends following process:
 - 1. Training provider submits course curriculum to MBFTE Staff to approve, Reimbursement form to be sent to provider, Fire Department would submit roster and reimbursement form with invoice to MBFTE Staff for reimbursement
 - a. Krier notes free options do not need to submit for reimbursement, Board determined unnecessary to track free class data
 - b. McKay suggests including evaluation forms along with course roster
 - i. Board consensus to include evaluation form with course roster submitted to MBFTE
 - 2. Motion to approve suggested process with evaluation form Peura/Second Wrobbel
 - a. Motion carries

VI. New business

- a. New Board appointments—Steve Flaherty, Executive Director
 - i. Board welcomes:
 - 1. Jason Forshee- MSFDA
 - 2. Jesse Buhs- League of MN Cities
- b. Governor's Budget Recommendations—Dan Krier, SFM
 - i. Annual appropriation increases to:
 - 1. TF1 (\$300,000), TF2 (\$100,000) and MART (\$150,000)
 - 2. Increase in charter school fire inspection fee to be per square foot to match public school fee
 - ii. Base budget increase not included in recommendation

- c. Base Budget Increase & 1-time Ask—Steve Flaherty, Executive Director
 - i. Goal to have \$200/FF and funded projects requires \$7.5 million
 - 1. \$5.5 million base budget does not fully fund fire service
 - a. Supports \$100/FF and basic FF, no FAO, Instructor or Officer
 - 2. Question to Board, should we request 1-time funding from FSAC and how much
 - 3. Suggestion for new per FF goal to be \$250-\$300 per FF
 - a. Motion to ask for \$3 million from FSAC (Peura/Rowan)
 - i. Amended motion to request \$3.2 to include funds to cover new training study (Peura/Rowan)
 - 1. Dean suggests making 2 separate asks, one for \$3 million and one for training funds
 - a. Amended motion fails
 - b. Original motion to ask for \$3 million from FSAC carries
 - ii. Dan Krier motions to ask FSAC for \$250,000 for training study Second McKay
 - 1. Motion carries
- d. Review Statute –Dan Krier SFM
 - i. No action needed today
 - ii. Suggests to look at policy proposals for next Legislative session
- e. OLA Report Review—Dan Krier, SFM
 - i. Satisfied all but one OLA finding
 - 1. Outstanding finding is the TF1, TF2 and MART allocation transfer to DPS
- f. Proposed OSHA Standard—Steve Flaherty, Executive Director
 - i. OSHA has paused changes
 - ii. MBFTE role is to ensure fire service meets current standard
- g. Election of Officers—Chip Lohmiller, Vice Chair
 - i. Chip nominates Dean Wrobbel for Chair, Wrobbel accepts
 - ii. Dean nominates Kate McKay for Vice Chair, McKay accepts
 - iii. Dean nominates Chip Lohmiller for Secretary, Lohmiller accepts
 - iv. Board expressed appreciation for Natascha Huspek and John Peura for their work and engagement on MBFTE Board

VII. Public Comment

- a. None

VIII. Next Meeting date:

- a. Scheduled for May 13, 2025

IX. Motion to Adjourn at 12:09 p.m. by: Wrobbel / second by: Fisher

- a. Motion carried

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