

# Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission Meeting

## Meeting Minutes January 4, 2017

### **Commission Members Present:**

Michael Donahue, Chancellor's Designee from LSU  
Chad Major, Professional Firefighters Association of Louisiana  
Louis Romero, Professional Firefighters Association of Louisiana  
Brian Castille, Louisiana State Firemen's Association  
Butch Browning, State Fire Marshal  
James Wood, Louisiana Fire Chief's Association

### **Commission Members Absent:**

Martino Latino, Louisiana Fire Chief's Association  
Charlie Metcalf, Louisiana State Firemen's Association  
Karen St. Germain, Governor's Appointee

### **In Attendance:**

Clay Crain, FETI  
Jarod Charlie, FETI  
Christen Vaughan, FETI  
Michael Truax, FETI  
Eddie Pyle, FETI  
Eddie Tessmer, FETI  
T. K. Devall, FETI  
Carey King, FETI  
Keith Bennett, FETI  
A. G. Monaco, LSU  
Brant Mitchell, LSU  
Stephen Gibbs, LSU

The Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission was called to order by Mr. Chad Major. Pledge of Allegiance was led. Invocation was led by Mr. James Wood. Mr. Chad Major called the roll and announced that a quorum was present. The meeting began.

### **Chairman's Report**

Mr. Major presented his report. He began by updating the board about the recent flood issues and damage. 181 employees out of 600 people in his department sustained water damage to their homes and properties which in turn caused staffing issues and their availability to have regular meetings. About 80% of displaced individuals were back in their homes at this time. He felt that it would take several years to recover as it did after Katrina, but they were ready to move forward.

He stated that he did not have anything new to report. No one else voiced any comments or questions. This concluded the presentation of the chairman's report.

## **Director's Report**

Mr. Casey presented his report. The report included in the board packets was extensive and long since it had been awhile since they had met, but he would not be adding much discussion to it. He stated that the modular burn addition was 99% done. He wanted to take everyone on a quick walking tour of the burn addition, the 20 ft burn trailer and the men's and women's dorm after the meeting ended.

The 20 ft burn prop that they had gotten in was done by a Canadian company, and it was brilliant. It was high temperature line, so flashovers could be done in it. They had received the AFG FY 2014 prop and bits and pieces were still coming in to put on it so they could put it on the road for the rotation. There were more than the usual things on them so more could be used in teaching and demonstration.

For the AFG 2015, the skills trailer was awarded to Fire Blast Global and they would be meeting with them Thursday to finalize the plans. It was very unique. It would allow for almost all the non-live fire or EMS JPR's for Firefighter 1. It is supposed to be in by the summer. This would be the first one done by Fire Blast Global and out of all the bidders looked at, no one else had done one either.

The LP fueled structural prop-trailer was waiting to go out to bid. He was hoping it would go out to bid this week. Also outside was the first of two Ram 5500's that had been ordered 14 months ago. The second one was reportedly in Baton Rouge and they hoped to get that directly. The PPE had also arrived.

The new AFG FY 2016 had been turned in. They had actually conversed a lot with the individuals who ran the programs at the North American Fire Training Directors. They had been able to spend some quality time with them. They had also applied for a new pumper to replace the old one at Pine Country. It was old and very basic in design so a new one was needed. They had also asked for a new F750 to tow their bigger trailer props. The Peterbilt was working okay but it was old as well and a heavier truck was needed to haul the additional props they now had. They had also asked for additional SCBAs for Pine Country and a cardiac monitor/ defibrillator for there on the main location. They felt confident that these items would be awarded, however it was still in peer review. This year's peer review would be conducted by other state training directors which should help in getting the approvals tremendously.

They were wrapping up the Fire Officer 1 at Crowley. Mr. Romero stated that they had been done since October 31, 2016 and no one had contacted them to let them know what the next step would be. Mr. Casey answered that he would need to check on that. There were several departments that wanted to be a part of the second pilot for Fire Officer 1.

The Strategic Planning Group had not met in awhile. Their last meeting had accomplished a lot which created a lot of work that needed to be done. They were at the curriculum development point right now but it was just taking time. They were working on it. They were planning to get together in March. He wanted to give them some time with the new four tier curriculum before they met again. The first tier was almost done and he felt that the other tiers would go more quickly.

The men's Recruit Academy had been refurbished. There were a few things that were not in the initial scope of work that they would go back and do. The women's dorm was also completed except that there were no women in the current class that were utilizing it. He had felt that Building 5 would be done by now, but it was not slated for completion until the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Some discussion ensued regarding the Firefighter 1 pilot. The first pilot went well, but there were some students that had dropped out or just didn't engage. They were getting feedback from the students to see why some did well and some did not.

Mr. Major asked if there were any questions regarding the director's report. None were voiced. This concluded the presentation of the director's report.

#### **Certification Report**

There was no certification report to review.

#### **Financial Report**

Mr. Donahue presented his report. He stated that the money was looking good. The flood had slowed them down some but not much. They were applying for \$76,000 in insurance reimbursement money for the loss in bottom line revenue from the courses that were cancelled. These were not able to be rescheduled based upon the client's schedules or their own schedules having conflicts.

Building 5 was brought back up without any out of pocket expenses since LSU had already met the deductible. Our calendar is looking good for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Mr. Wood asked if there was any concern for FETI's funding due to the recent flooding. Mr. Donahue stated that there was not since they had prepared a 0% growth budget for 2017 in the event that something like this may happen again.

Mr. Major asked if there were any questions regarding the financial report. None were voiced. This ended the presentation of the financial report.

#### **Old Business**

Mr. Romero asked where they were on the company leadership conference. Mr. Casey stated that they were working on it. They had an agreement in place with LSU E, but there was no save the dates just yet. One of main speakers scheduled could not make it, but the tentative date was May 16 – 22.

#### **New Business**

After some discussion regarding dates and schedules, it was decided that the next meeting be held on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 am which would count as their February meeting. March 6<sup>th</sup> would be the next scheduled meeting following that at 10 am at FETI.

Mr. Browning added that they were working on a data and technology system for them to use. They were working with the state and they had increased productivity by 40% already. He brought it up only because it is exciting and revolutionary for them and the state.

Motion to adjourn was entertained by Mr. Major. Motion was made by Mr. Major and Mr. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. No objections were voiced. Meeting was adjourned.

**Approved by: Chad Major**

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Date: 1.27.17