

Certification Board Meeting

Kernersville Fire Department
Kernersville, NC

Thursday, June 6, 2024

Members in Attendance: Chair, Terry Foxx
Vice Chair, Derrick Clouston
Brian Taylor, Executive Director
Josh Crisp
Jennifer Smith
Jim Hanline
Malcom Smith
Ken Hogue
Joel Faircloth
Walter Gardner
Jason Edwards

Staff in Attendance: Brian Wade
Chris Decker
Monna Gillespie
Anthony Killough
David Morris
Bruce Hodges
Michele Thomas
Paul Ward
Katherine Burton
Kim Williams
Kevin Gordon

Welcome and Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Chair Terry Foxx at 10:00am.

Invocation – Joel Faircloth

Approval of Agenda – Malcom Smith made a motion to approve the agenda. Josh Crisp seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes – Walter Gardner made a motion to approve the March 2024 minutes. Seconded by Joel Faircloth. Motion approved.

Standing Committee Reports

OSFM – Brian Taylor

OSFM is waiting for the Legislature to pass budgets. Hopefully it will be within the next 30 days. OSFM’s budget is strapped because of the recent changes and split from NC Department of Insurance.

OSFM has released the Ignite App to assist fire and rescue services.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

TR Committee – Kevin Gordon - See attached documents.

Kevin Gordon reviewed the TR Updates. See attached documents.

TR Requalification will begin in July.

Derrick Clouston made a motion to give all certified VMR's be granted the TR NFPA 2021 Heavy Rescue certification. Mack Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Online Testing Committee – Derrick Clouston

The Online Testing Committee was created to review electronic testing options to fix the frequent cheating issues that have come before the Certification Board. No decisions have been made on electronic testing.

Acadis and Moodle may be options for the delivery of online testing. Committee members are collecting information to determine what options are available. This study will take time.

Old Business

Live Fire Update – Anthony Killough - See Chart attached.

Anthony Killough explained the current process to gain Live Fire Instructor. There is not a back log for Live Fire Instructor. Most students are waiting to the last minute to move to the next step. Those students who are committed are completing the process in one year.

Buce Hodges explained that staff is making every effort to get all students taken care of even those who are waiting to the last minute. There is no pretest only a posttest in phase three.

Jason Edwards made a motion to require the Phase 1 Introductory Course be conducted in person and no longer offer an online option. Ken Hogue seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Skills Update – Brian Wade

All skills are now available online through the OSFM 24 portal.

New Business

VFIS EVDT Course – Woody Sullivan

Jackie Ireland with VFIS discussed their EVDT training numbers are down but their loss ratio is up. Their course isn't being utilized as a refresher or continuing education and some of the feed back is personnel believe they must take EVD certification. They don't understand that they can take the VFIS course as a refresher, for continue education credit and gain points for their ratings inspection. VFIS would is asking for assistance in educating the fire and rescue services on the value of their course. VFIS will provide OSFM staff with statistics and an informational document to be disbursed to various associations, fire and rescue agencies, community colleges, etc.

NCSFA Administrative Course – Tim Bradley

NCSFA continues to see problems and questions with rosters, relief fund and pension programs. Their Board asked a committee to create and course that could be added to the Chief 101 program. They are asking that anyone who takes this course be given credit for the Chief 101 course. Their course covers all of the Chief 101 course and the specific areas of concern for the NCSFA. The NCSFA expands on the how important these tasks and requirements are. After much discussion the item died. No vote was taken.

FIP 3030 – Brian Wade

Running FIP 3030 and still doing the Under 18 requirements isn't possible in the current system. Students that are under 18 years old are becoming an issue for the Administrative Rules. Brian recommends that the Certification Board discontinue the Under 18 Program. Kevin Gordon stated that the Administrative Code can not be done effectively and is creating a roadblock in the development of the Rules.

Derrick Clouston made a motion to discontinue the Under 18 program with a sunset date of December 31, 2024. All programs must be completed by December 31, 2024. Malcom Smith seconded. Motion Passed.

Delivery Agency Additional Levels Request

Burgaw Fire Department – Katherine Burton

Burgaw Fire Department is requesting approval to deliver FLSE 1, 2 and 3 certifications. Malcom Smith made a motion approve. Ken Hogue seconded. Motion passed.

Town of Shallotte Fire/Rescue – Katherine Burton

Town of Shallotte Fire/Rescue is requesting approval to deliver Driver Operator Pumps and Aerials certifications.

Ken Hogue made a motion approve. Malcom Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Surf City Fire Department – Katherine Burton

Surf City Fire Department is requesting approval to deliver FLSE 1, 2 and 3, Fire Officer 1 and 2 and Instructor 1 and 2.

Jim Hanline made a motion approve. Jason Edwards seconded. Motion passed.

Washington Fire Department – Katherine Burton

Washington Fire is requesting approval to deliver Fire Officer 1 and 2, Instructor 1 and 2 and Rapid Intervention Crew certifications.

Ken Hogue made a motion approve. Malcom Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Instructor II Hybrid Request – Pitt Community College MeKenzie Newkirk/Josh Crisp

Pitt is asking to Instructor II as a hybrid through a pilot. Joel Faircloth made a motion to approve Pitt's request to conduct an Instructor II hybrid through a pilot. Jason Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed. Jason Edwards will represent the Certification Board and Greg Palmer will be the OSFM staff representative.

Vice Chair Derrick Clouston made a motion to go into closed session. Ken Hogue seconded. Motion passed.

Sampson County Live Fire Investigation – Brian Wade

Joel Faircloth recused himself from the discussion and vote.

Bruce Hodges updated and reviewed the summary of the investigation.

Jason Edwards made a motion to table the review because Dominic Orlando wasn't notified of the meeting to review. Seconded by Ken Hogue. Motion passed.

Bruce Hodges will notify and ask for confirmation of attendance to the September Certification Board Meeting.

Iredell County MAG investigation – Paul Ward

Chair Terry Foxx recused himself from discussion and vote. Vice Chair Derrick Clouston takes the Chair position.

Whitney Daniels was questioned by the Certification Board Members.

Jimmy Kestler was questioned by the Certification Board Members with his lawyer Joshua Walthall present.

Lucas Wooten was questioned by the Certification Board Members with his lawyer Joshua Walthall present.

Malcom Smith made a motion to recommend to the FRC to enter into a consent agreement with the following individuals and actions:

Chief Wesley Morris – Revoke Proctor Qualification, Suspend Instructor 1 and 2 certifications for 5 years.

Deputy Chief Jimmy Keistler- Revoke Proctor Qualification, Suspend Instructor 1 and 2 certifications and suspend any new certification for 3 years.

Whitney Daniels – Revoke Proctor Qualification, Suspend Instructor 1 and 2 certifications for 5 years.

Cortni Fox – Suspend any new certifications program for 5 years.

Tommy Cook - Suspend any new certifications program for 5 years.

The entire class will have their TR MAG certifications revoked until they retake the course.

Jason Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Malcom Smith made a motion to return to open session. Jason Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Upcoming Meetings

Commission Meeting – April 9, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Certification Board Meeting – June 13, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Malcom Smith made a motion to adjourn. Jason Edwards seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Williams