The Utah Fire Service Certification Council
Minutes of May 20, 2015

The Utah Fire Service Certification Council met on May 20, 2015 at UFRA.

Welcome Council Member and Visitors - Scott Spencer
The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. – Scott Spencer

In attendance: Don Adams, Brett Ostler, Paul Bedont, Jason Earl, David Youngberg, Craig Stanley, Scott Spencer, Rod Hammer

Excused: Merlin Spendlove, Shane Freeman, Ray Stokes, and Chris Trevino.
- Paul Bedont is proxy for Merlin Spendlove
- Brett Ostler is proxy for Shane Freeman
- Jason Earl is proxy for Ray Stokes
- Dave Youngberg is proxy for Chris Trevino

Visitors: Hugh Connor and Brad Wardle

Declaration of Quorum – Scott Spencer
Scott Spencer declared the presence of a quorum.

Approval of Minutes from the meeting of March 18, 2015 – Scott Spencer
No corrections were necessary.
Don Adams motioned to approve the minutes, Jason Earl seconded. The motion was approved.

Approval of Agenda for the May 20, 2015, Meeting – Scott Spencer
Scott Spencer called for a motion to approve the agenda. Brett Ostler motioned to approve the agenda. Paul Bedont seconded. The motion was approved.
**Test/Certification & Failed Skills Report – Jennifer Lindley**

Jennifer reviewed each of the reports with council members. She noted that HazMat Awareness and HazMat Operations testing was down due to a decrease in requests from the Utah National Guard.

Generally testing was on track for the year and failed skills are down.

---

**Report on Standards and Training Council- Hugh Connor**

Hugh reported:

- The Council will be conducting audits of UFRA over the next few months
- Professional Officer Development Program
  
  Overall process is going well.
- UVU Land Initiative
  
  Current land where UFRA resides is leased from Provo Airport. The lease will be up in 15-16 years. UVU has purchased 250 acres west of Geneva Rd near the old Geneva Steele property, for possible rebuild of UFRA and expansion of UVU campus. Discussions will continue for the foreseeable future.

---

**Discussion on Recertification–Rod Hammer**

Hugh Conner wrote an article for The Straight Tip which addressed the issue of recertification. His premise for the article was questioning current recertification policies and to bring awareness of the need for more stringent and comprehensive retesting for recertification.

Hugh presented the following points for discussion:

- Does our certification equate to competency?
- Does our certification testing need to be more comprehensive? Does it need to be evolution based?
- If a person is not continually active in a cert level are they still competent at that level?
- What are the legal implications? When there is an incident who will be investigated? How are we (UFRA) positioned to defend ourselves?
Rod Hammer expressed concern that more testing would lead to a dramatic loss of volunteer firefighters throughout departments.

Paul Bedont suggested that in order to maintain higher levels of training it would require an increase of taxpayer dollars.

Hugh noted that the changes to the certification and recertification process would take a number of years to implement and that the Council should be considering and evaluating what would be necessary for the changes to happen.

*See attached article*

**Wildland Issues and Updates—Brett Ostler**

- All Engine Academies have been performed and accomplished. Attendance was between 300 -400 students.
- The requirement for IS-700 for recertification has caused a stir in the departments. Marta Morrow reported that overall compliance for the new requirement has been good.
- Predictive Services has said June will be cooler and wetter but August will be hotter and dryer.

**Executive Session—Scott Spencer**

A motion was made by Brett Ostler to convene to the Executive Session, Rod Hammer seconded. The motion was approved.

Following the Executive Session the following motions were made in reference to potential problems with West Valley Fire Academy:

1. Paul Bedont motioned to have the students in question to retest. Brett Ostler seconded. The motion was approved.
2. Paul Bedont motioned for the suspension of the Tester for violating tester policy by leaving the room while the test was being conducted, for one year. Brett Ostler seconded. The motion was approved.
3. Paul Bedont motioned to suspend West Valley Fire Academy from performing in-house written test for a period of one year, May 20, 2015 through May 20, 2016. To be reinstated the Academy will need to provide an established set of protocols to avoid problems in the future. Brett Ostler seconded. The motion was approved.

**Discussion and Motion on Proposed TR-Machinery Standard - Lori Howes**

The changes were reviewed, Lori mentioned that if the changes were approved there was still no written test bank to draw from so testing would not be possible. Lori is working on a test bank. Don Adams motioned to approve the changes to the Skills portion of the TR-Machinery standard. Rod Hammer seconded. The motion was approved.

**Discussion and Motion of Officer II Submission by Darrell Young - Lori Howes**

Lori reported that Ray Stokes reviewed the request for Officer II and recommended that the proposal be approved.

Jason Earl motioned to approve the proposal for Officer II. Brett Ostler seconded. The motion was approved.

**Discussion and Motion on updated Policies and Procedures - Lori Howes**

Lori suggested a need to update the signature portion of the different Request forms using the LIVE Fire request form as the model.

Rod Hammer motioned to have the signature portion of the Certification and Test request forms be updated to be uniform with the LIVE fire request form. Craig Stanley seconded. The motion was approved.

**Discussion and Motion on Submitted Petitions - Lori Howes**

There were no petitions submitted for discussion.
**New Business-Lori Howes**

Lori presented the following items to be considered:

- As an FYI: The Officer I & II, Inspector I & II and AARF standards will be presented to the Council in July for approval. The following Council members have volunteered to lead the Review Committees: Jason Earl; Officer I & II, Scott Spencer; Inspector I & II, Paul Bedont; AARF.

- As an FYI: The UVU testing center no longer allows baseball caps to be worn during testing. This could be a discussion item in the future.

- Test Banks for TR- Swift Water, Surface Water and Ice are still unavailable. Lori is waiting on Test Banks from PTS. These certifications will be presented in September for approval.

- Lori is looking for volunteers for the Machinery test bank, to do correlation sheets for Vehicle and Structural and classes. Rod Hammer volunteered for each assignment.

**Old Business-Scott Spencer**

There was no old business to address.

**Next Council Meeting is Wednesday, July 15, 2015, 10:00 a.m., UFRA, Provo, UT**

Brett Ostler motioned to adjourn the meeting; Don Adams seconded. The motion passed, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.