



**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Fire Service Membership Council Governing Committee
Saturday, April 14, 2018 and Sunday, April 15, 2018
Greater Columbus Convention Center**

“Founded by Members to Serve our Members . . . Benefitting Communities Worldwide”

FSMC Members	Representing	Present
Scott Adams – Chair -- Park City Fire District, UT (Retired)	ICC	X
Gary West --Vice Chair – National Fire Sprinkler Association, Nashville	NASFM	X
Robert Buxton – Hudson Fire Department, NH	IAFC:NE	
Fulton Cochran -- Clark County Building and Fire Prevention, NV	ICC	X
Michael Desrochers – Vermont Fire Marshal’s Office, Barre	NASFM	X
Timothy Diehl -- Rockville Fire Marshal’s Office, MD	ICC	X
Joseph Fahd, Jr. – Cohoes Fire Department, NY	IAFC:E	
Jackie Gibbs -- Marietta Fire Department, GA (Retired)	IAFC:SE	
Joe McElvaney – Phoenix Fire Department, AZ	ICC	
Rick McCullough -- Regina Fire Department, SK (Retired)	IAFC:C	X
James Maxon – Sandoval County Fire Department, NM	IAFC:SW	Excused
Randy Metz – Carlsbad Fire Department, CA	IAFC:W	X
George Michehl -- Buffalo Grove Fire Department, IL (Retired)	IAFC:GL	X
Kelly Nicoletto -- Underwriters Laboratories, TX	NASFM	Excused
Coy Porter – Utah Fire Marshal’s Office, Salt Lake City	NASFM	X
Christine Reed – Central County Fire Department, CA	ICC	X
Marc Sampson-- Longmont Fire Department, CO	IAFC:MV	X
Adolf Zubia -- A to Z Fire & Code Consulting LLC, Las Cruces, NM	ICC	X

International Code Council (ICC) Staff and Liaisons		
Rob Neale – Staff Liaison to the FSMC		X
Angie Wiese- Liaison to the ICC Board of Directors, St. Paul, MN		Sunday
Jim H. Brown -- ICC Board of Directors, Gillette, WY		Sunday
Dwayne Garriss – ICC Past President		Sunday
Stuart Tom – ICC Board of Directors, Pasadena, CA		Sunday
Michelle Porter – ICC Assessment Center		X
Whitney Doll—ICC Vice President of Communications		Sunday
Karla Higgs – ICC Membership Services		X

Guests	
Carl Wren – Austin Fire Department, TX (retired)	Sunday

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Adams at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Mr. Neale called the roll and a quorum was declared at 1:03 p.m..

2) Openings Remarks from the Chair

Chairman Adams welcomed attendees to the meeting.

3) Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda under New Business:

- a. A request for information from ICC Board of Directors Membership Council ad hoc committee, and,
- b. A report from the Board of Directors meeting April 14 on adding representatives from the National Association of State Foresters to the Fire Service Membership Council.

4) Approval of Minutes

Action: Mr. Zubia moved, and Mr. Metz seconded, a motion to accept the minutes of the February 15, 2018 meeting. The motion carried without objection.

5) Reports from Officers or Permanent Committees

Chairman's 2018 Special Project. Mr. Sampson opened the discussion by relating a meeting he had attended at the Colorado Training Institute where ICC Vice President of Member Services Ron Piester and Ms. Porter discussed that the number of test takers for the fire sprinkler and fire alarm certifications has not increased enough to sustain the exams. Mr. Sampson stated ICC is considering changing the program from a certification credential to a tested, post-course certificate program and he asked Ms. Porter to explain the proposal to the entire Fire Service Membership Council (FSMC).

Mr. Cochran asked if Ms. Porter was expecting a FSMC decision from this meeting and also said he was supported sustaining the program as a certification rather than a certificate. He commented there is a huge difference between a certificate and certification He pointed out that after a two-year effort he has been able to get the certification as a condition of employment with his agency.

Mr. Metz asked if there are ICC courses for the material; and that unless ICC was going to develop courses for the new model, he could not see it switching from a certification program. Mr. Cochran commented ICC has no training on fire alarm or sprinkler topics, and ICC needs to step up and partner with one or more of the industry groups so students can pass the test.

Ms. Porter joined the meeting by telephone and explained that as of February 2018, only 28 exams had been administered this year. In 2017, there were 99 attempts across 13 test titles. Due to the low response rate, Ms. Porter said ICC is considering several options and she is seeking recommendations:

- a) Take a “wait and see” approach to see if the number of test takers increases.
- b) Sunset the exams altogether. Ms. Porter said she opposes this approach because ICC still has not recovered the program development costs.
- c) Consolidate the five fire alarm and sprinkler exams into few exams: for example, merge the inspector and plan reviewer skills into a single exam as is done in the residential fire sprinkler plan reviewer and inspector certification. Ms. Porter said this is her preference.
- d) Limit testing options to one code year and one exam in ICC’s web-based test center Pronto.
- e) Create a “certificate of learning achievement” training program that ties an end-of-course certificate to a specific class topic and includes a student exam. She said this has been done successfully with the “When Disaster Strikes” certificate [formerly the disaster inspection certification] and ICC will be issuing another program on firestopping.

Mr. Michehl asked if there would be a charge for the certificate of learning, and Ms. Porter said there would be because it represents more of a training event than an evaluation event. She explained that the longer the Assessment Center sustains the certifications, the more costs accrue to keep them current.

Mr. Michehl asked the status of the co-branding effort to promote and market the exams. Mr. Neale explained the working group was reviewing the draft memorandum of agreement regarding quid pro quo benefits for the organizations that would market the exams. They still are working out the details.

Mr. Cochran supported the option of going to a single code cycle. He added it is no surprise that he is adamantly opposed to changing the program to a certificate of learning achievement. He stated corporations have “loss leaders” and perhaps ICC should accept that for these exams. He pointed out that fire sprinkler protection is one of the core requirements in the I-Codes and to simply walk away from the certification is fundamentally wrong. He commented that it is simply going to take time to get the exam numbers up, and as long as the building code groups do not push certification it won’t grow because that’s where most fire sprinkler plan review occurs.

Ms. Porter said she understands the loss leader comment, but the exams are being scrutinized at the ICC Board of Directors level, and she has to explain and convince the Board why the exams should be sustained.

Mr. Zubia asked if someone is going to cut the exams, who makes that decision? Ms. Porter explained it is not only the ICC chief executive officer and Board of Directors, but there is a variety of persons of who want to help make the decision. Mr. Porter said he hopes are not based on the size of population that can be drawn from since the fire service has less representation. He pointed out the while Utah as four ICC “building” chapters, it has only one “fire” chapter.

Mr. Sampson asked how the ICC exams are discriminated from the National Institute of Certification in Engineering Technology (NICET) exams for designers and installers. Mr. Neale suggested the FSMC look at the ICC certificate exam titles and make recommendations for new titles that clearly describe the ICC exams are for code enforcement officials, not the design and installation professionals.

Mr. Metz asked how many states actually certify fire alarm and sprinkler plan reviewers and inspectors through their state fire marshal’s office or other entity. He wondered if ICC might be able to reach out to those that do promote the programs.

Mr. Metz and Mr. Cochran suggested perhaps ICC look at making the exams perquisites to either Fire Plans Examiner or Fire Inspector II certifications. Ms. Porter said she could look at it, but would have to get a sense of how the potential audience of test-takers would respond to the requirement for additional prerequisites.

Mr. Metz commented that it there were a similar Master Code Professional designation for the fire service, there might be more reason for fire code officials to take the exams. Ms. Porter said the Certification Committee has planned to alter the current Master Code Professional program to make it more of a “cafeteria-style” collection of prerequisites, and suggested the FSMC submit ideas for a “building or fire neutral” Master Code Professional credential.

Mr. Cochran stated the writing is on the wall regarding these exams, and the FSMC needs to talk to the Certification Committee to champion these certifications since fire alarm and sprinklers are a core element of our code.

In other business, Ms. Porter reported that since moving to the Pronto certification exam platform in August 2017, ICC has administered nearly 2,000 exams among 23 titles. This represents about a 30% increase in test-taking and is a greater uptick than ICC expected. The Assessment Center will be adding more exams to Pronto, as of July 1 it will host all of the 2015 code edition exams, and all 2018 code edition exams will be on Pronto only. The 2012 edition exams will sunset in 2019.

Ms. Porter also reported the Assessment Center soon will launch a new look on its web page, including “EZ” buttons that will provide a quick way to get information. On April 24, there will be two new features: print-on-demand wall certificates and an automatic feature that when all certifications within a “group” are earned (e.g. Certified Fire Marshal) the system will generate a certificate for the collected outcome.

Finally, Ms. Porter reported the Fire Inspector I and II certifications currently are only on PearsonVue computer-based testing and have not moved to Pronto because of issues with ProBoard accreditation. She said her office had discussions last week with ProBoard and they believe the issues are resolved that soon will allow online examinations via Pronto.

Ms. Porter explained that with PearsonVue, the testing was limited to two code editions. She asked if the FSMC recommended moving to the 2015 and 2018 editions, or staying with the 2012/2015 exams? She reported the Fire Inspector I exams currently are about 50-50 on the 2012 edition and the Fire Inspector II exams lean slightly toward the 2015 edition.

Mr. Cochran recommended the Assessment Center retain the 2012/2015 exams until 2019.

Training and Education. No report.

Membership Outreach. Mr. West reported that the work group was satisfied with the draft mock-up of the recruitment bookmark.

Action: Mr. Zubia moved, and Mr. McCullough seconded, to move the design forward to the ICC graphic arts department for final mock-up. The motion carried without objection.

Fire Prevention Week/Building Safety Month/ FSMC web page. Mr. Michehl the group had several teleconferences. He explained that the ICC member e-magazine “Building Safety Journal Online” has been phased out and replaced by “ICC ENews” that can be updated in real time. This will not affect the FSMC’s ability to submit articles on items of interest.

Ms. Reed said the work group had collected and reviewed daily tweets that will be posted on the ICC Twitter account during Building Safety Month. She reported that all who had reviewed the draft tweets commented that they well done.

Emerging Issues and Trends. Mr. Desrochers reported he had discussed the work group mission with Mr. Diehl and Mr. Neale and plans to conduct a teleconference to come up with ideas to present to the FSMC for consideration.

Mr. Zubia expressed concern that the International Association of Fire Chiefs Fire and Life Safety Section (FLSS) – that has representatives on the ICC Fire Code Action Committee (FCAC) – is issuing a position paper on tall wood buildings that is contrary to the positions of the ICC ad hoc Committee on Tall Wood Buildings. The position paper was submitted to the ICC Board of Directors. Mr. Zubia pointed out that while the FCAC has some concerns about tall wood construction, ICC Code Action Committee rules won’t allow one committee to vote against another.

Mr. Zubia said he is concerned there are accusations and misinformation being shared on the topic. The fire service cannot position itself against wood construction without

some justification on its own. He is concerned that comments at the code hearings will not be constructive or productive.

Mr. Zubia commented ICC members are going to receive alternate methods and materials proposals for tall wood construction and have only limited knowledge and no code references to support their decisions. He said the current code proposals are not perfect, but will not negatively affect the public or fire service. He added he is not seeking action at this time, but only wanted to express his opinion,

Mr. Michehl said his perspective is the FLSS members know it's going to happen in the code development proposals, and they are concerned they are not seeing sound science and full-scale testing to back up pro-tall wood building statements from American Wood Council. He said ICC owes it to the fire service to see full scale testing, with or without working sprinklers, and with or without drywall membranes.

Mr. Metz said the International Fire Code/WUI Code committee will be looking at all of these changes. A member of that committee, Mr. Metz said their role is to listen to everything; and they have not heard anything from ad hoc Tall Wood Building committee. He said he hoped they would have seen more coming out of the ad hoc committee than they already heard.

Mr. Cochran explained that his agency has “donated” Mr. Steve DiGiovanni, P.E. to the ad hoc committee and reminded everyone ICC rules don't allow anyone to lobby or talk to anyone about it. He said Mr. DiGiovanni has been out of the office weekly for the last two months presenting to various groups. He said from what he has learned, AWC has done extensive testing.

Mr. Metz reported CalFire had studied some of the beams from the fire tests and discovered glue gaps in the cross-laminated timbers. Mr. Diehl reported that at the last FCAC meeting there were a lot of questions about this and they asked AWC to provide information explaining the circumstances.

Mr. Cochran reminded everyone this is the time to ask the hard, serious questions about tall wood buildings: between now and October before final code decisions are made.

Building Official Membership Council liaison. Mr. Diehl reported the BOMC is looking at creating an advisory group to assist incoming Governing Committee chair. They are proposing a change to their charter to add another position to their Governing Committee. They also are approaching the Board of Directors for more funding to increase their presence in marketing booths at various events and expos.

6) Reports from Special Committees

Nominating Committee. Mr. Desrochers reported that for the FSMC Governing Committee there will be one ICC elective candidate and four IAFC appointments for terms that expire December 31, 2018. The committee will also have to come up with names during the Annual Conference for the 2019 chair and vice chair.

Bylaw Committee. No report. Mr. Neale reminded the Governing Committee their attendance proposal to the Board of Directors was still not resolved. The item will be added to the next meeting agenda. Mr. Cochran said Mr. Nicoletto needs to be aware of what the BOMC is doing so the charters remain as uniform as possible.

Succession Planning. Chairman Adams reminded the Governing Committee to identify fire service “up and comers” who might want to get involved and eventually become candidates for the ICC Board of Directors.

Mr. Zubia said he called 6-8 people who were suggested by FSMC and said several had a desire to be on the Board of Directors but few wanted to put the effort in to accomplish it. Potential candidates need to get on various ICC committees, the FCAC, and other efforts to show their commitment. He said several people he contacted thought that because the Governing Committee was advocating for them they did not to do anything. He said they still need to put in the leg work to show their accomplishments

Mr. Cochran added the Governing Committee needs to remind the candidates they need to “pay their dues”, get known, be asked to sit on nominating committee for the Board of Directors as that is the group that usually has the candidate pool. He said he FSMC and FCAC are good starting positions to get noticed by Board of Directors and make connections.

Chair Adams directed that succession planning be added to the agendas as a regular item of business.

The FSMC took a break at 2:18 pm; and reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

7) **Unfinished Business.** There was no unfinished business before the Committee.

8) **New Business**

Innovation in Code Administration award. Mr. Neale reported ICC received five applications for the 2018 Innovation in Code Administration award. Mr. Porter said the joint FSMC/BOMC/IAFC/NASFM review committee has scheduled an early May conference call to review the score sheet criteria for the award. The award will be presented at the Government Relations Forum at the Annual Conference in Richmond.

Contemporary issues in school safety. Mr. Cochran said the recent school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that killed 17 students has fostered additional discussions about school security. (The alleged shooter evidently activated the school fire alarm to get students out into the open.) Mr. Cochran said his fire chief is discussing a position of whether schools should be evacuated on the fire alarm sounding or wait until a decision-making process reveals positive confirmation of a fire.

Mr. Cochran, Mr. Michehl and Mr. Porter shared position papers from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Association of State Fire Marshals and

Massachusetts state fire marshal on the topic, (The position papers will be posted with the approved meeting minutes.)

Mr. Cochran said the FSMC should monitor the national news and fire service networks to see if there are one or more solutions that emerge.

ICC code action and final action hearing schedules . Mr. Metz reported that he and Contra Costa County Fire Marshal Robert Marshall had a discussion on how the code hearings are scheduled in relation to annual conference and committee action hearings. They are concerned that they don't have the ability to cover both building and fire code hearings at the same time. They want to propose that a representative from each membership council work with ICC Technical Services to find schedules that work for everyone.

Mr. Cochran said he believes Technical Services intentionally alternates the from the front of cycle to back of cycle while balancing the hearings against other interests. He suggested Mr. Metz check with Technical Services to see if they intend to keep it that way and if that's the case the issue is moot. Mr. Metz said he would check with Technical Services to learn its intentions.

ICC Fire Twitter Chat April 25. Mr. Neale reported ICC Communications will be hosting a fire-related Twitter Chat on April 25 at noon EDT. The purpose is to promote ICC fire membership, codes and products.

Mr. Neale said ICC is looking for some "plants" to be prepared with questions for the Twitter Chat and is looking for volunteers. He will send more information to the Governing Committee on the event.

Position announcement: ICC Vice President of National Fire Service Activities. Mr. Neale reported that he is retiring June 30 for personal reasons; and encouraged Governing Committee members to consider applying for the position. The position announcement and application are on the ICC website.

Mr. Zubia asked if Mr. Neale is going to be on the interview panel for his successor and Mr. Neale reported he has not been asked.

Request from ICC Board of Directors Membership Council ad hoc committee. Chairman Adams reported that ICC Vice President for Member Services Ron Piester asked, on behalf of the Board of Directors ad hoc committee on Membership Councils, for the FSMC to respond by June 1 to the following questions:

- 1) What do you believe is the purpose of your Membership Council?
- 2) What are you doing to achieve your purpose?
- 3) How do you promote and open your Council to the entire ICC membership

Mr. Cochran suggested the Governing Committee go back several years to report on its activities, not just the past 12 months. He said the “Fire and Building Officials Working Together for Public Safety” course was an outcome of FSMC and BOMC discussions.

Mr. Diehl said the issue for the ad hoc committee is entirely financial. They are asking if ICC needs any more councils and whether the existing ones are doing their jobs? He said there is a proposal to add another membership council.

Chairman Adams asked Mr. Neale to draft a response letter for the Governing Committee to review and approve.

Report from the Board of Directors on the National Association of State Foresters.

Chairman Adams reported that the ICC Board of Directors approved the FSMC request to add two representatives for the National Association of State Foresters.

Chairman Adams expressed his appreciation for Director Stuart Tom who supported the proposal and the strong support from President Elbettar who thought it was important to get representation on the board.

Mr. Metz said the Board’s biggest concern was about the size of the FSMC Governing Committee. He said Director Tom spoke very well to explain how the NASFM/IAC MOAs affect participation.

The FSMC recessed at 4:37 p.m. and convened at 8:00 a.m. April 15.

9) Questions and Comments from the Audience

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

10) Good of the Order and Emerging Issues

On Sunday, April 15, ICC Vice President of Communications Whitney Doll reported the following information:

The new Building Safety Journal is launching on Tuesday, April 24. Once live, it will be available at <https://bsj.iccsafe.org/>. The editorial calendar for the newsletter, BSJ Weekly, is available online. Article submissions should go to tlukasik@iccsafe.org. The first issue of BSJ Weekly will go out on Thursday, April 26.

ICC’s new monthly social media feature, Twitter chats, will debut on Wednesday, April 25, at 12:00 p.m. (ET) with ICC Vice President of Fire Activities Rob Neale. You can join in by using the hashtag #CODEversation to share thoughts or ask questions. If council members want to host one of these chats or have ideas for future topics, they should email communications@iccsafe.org.

The ICC Pulse Podcast is available on the ICC website, Apple Podcast or Google Play. The hashtag for social media is #ICCPulsePod. ICC is looking for topics and potential guest ideas – please contact communications@iccsafe.org.

The new code development process infographics “How It Works and By The Numbers” are available for download on the ICC website as JPEGs or PDFs.

The interactive digital posters for Building Safety Month will be up on the website soon at www.buildingsafetymonth.org. Also available is a poster, event guide, promotion tips, news release template, and much more. Also coming soon is a social media how-to guide. It will be posted on the ICC store for free download. The social media hashtag for the 2018 campaign is #ICCBSM18. Proclamation details are available online here. Submit your photos and videos from Building Safety Month events to us at bsm@iccsafe.org.

11) Adjournment.

Action: Having no more business to come before the Fire Service Membership Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

*Approved May 17, 2018 by the
Fire Service Membership Council
Governing Committee at its
monthly teleconference meeting.*