

Minutes of the Meeting of the Fire Service Membership Council Governing Committee

Thursday, June 11, 2018
1:30 p.m. EST

“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	
Robert Buxton – Hudson Fire Department, NH	IAFC:NE	X
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	X
Jackie Gibbs -- Marietta Fire Department, GA (Retired)	IAFC:SE	
Joe McElvaney – Phoenix Fire Department, AZ	ICC	X
Rick McCullough -- Regina Fire Department, SK (Retired)	IAFC:C	X
James Maxon – Sandoval County Fire Department, NM	IAFC:SW	X
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	
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	
Adolf Zubia -- A to Z Fire & Code Consulting LLC, Las Cruces, NM	ICC	

International Code Council (ICC) Staff and Liaisons		
Rob Neale – Staff Liaison to the FSMC		X
Jim H. Brown -- ICC Board of Directors, Gillette, WY		X
Stuart Tom – ICC Board of Directors, Pasadena, CA		X
Dwayne Garriss – ICC Past President		
Michelle Porter – ICC Assessment Center		X
Autumn Saylor -- ICC Assessment Center		X

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Adams at 1:30 Eastern time. Mr. Neale called the roll and a quorum was declared at 1:31 pm.

2) Openings Remarks from the Chair

Chairman Adams expressed his appreciation and thanks to those who attended the meeting, and announced that once the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, the agenda would be suspended to give full time to ICC Director of Certification and Testing Michelle Porter the floor to discuss the matter of ICC certifications and ProBoard accreditation.

3) Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

There were no additions or correction to the agenda.

4) Approval of Minutes

Action: The amended minutes of the May 17, 2018 meeting were approved without objection.

5) Unfinished Business

Ms. Porter explained recent changes to NFPA 1031, *Fire Inspector Professional Qualifications*, affect documentation and recordkeeping requirements to satisfy ProBoard accreditation standards. She is seeking input from the Fire Service Membership Council to determine the value to members of keeping ProBoard accreditation.

Ms. Saylor, who sits on the ProBoard accreditation board, explained that NFPA 1031 requires both cognitive and skills testing for candidates to achieve certification. Currently, candidates for ICC Fire Inspector I and II submit an affidavit to certify they have completed the requirements of NFPA 472, *Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents*, that are pertinent to the fire inspector exam.

The changes to NFPA 1031 would require ICC certification candidates to submit affidavits on other skills such as “attending a legal proceeding,” “preparing a budget” and other items that are not included in ICC certification examinations. ICC is not prepared or resourced administratively to process those affidavits. Ms. Porter stated experience has shown many people have taken ICC Fire Inspector I and II exams but have not submitted their NFPA 472 affidavit and therefore are not certified. She wondered if more affidavits would be worth keeping the ProBoard accreditation.

Mr. Michehl commented that a similar problem occurred in Illinois where students would take a class but not obtain the post-course affidavit from their fire chief, nor did they complete the required post course practicum, therefore, they did not get certified.

Mr. Metz said he has been ICC certified for a number of years, but did not recall ever submitting an affidavit pertaining to NFPA 472. This comment led to considerable discussion on the history of ICC accepting transfer certifications and the requirements for them. Mr. Braxton asked when the NFPA 472 affidavit is required to be submitted: before or after taking the exam? Ms. Porter stated it did not matter as long as it was received. A candidate is not considered to be certified until the affidavit is submitted. Ms. Saylor assured those on the call that anyone who possesses a legacy ICC Fire Inspector I or II certification will not have to submit the affidavit.

Ms. Porter said if ICC were to stay with the ProBoard standards, she anticipates the number of ICC candidates would drop because there would be no incentive to take an ICC exam and perform the additional requirements to submit affidavits. She said Fire Inspector I is one on ICC's "top 10" most popular certification exams. She added that if the ProBoard restrictions were removed, Fire Inspector I and II could be moved almost immediately to PRONTO for online certification testing.

Mr. Metz stated that it appeared the only advantage to ProBoard accreditation is the "portability" it provides candidates who want to move their certification from one state to another. Ms. Saylor explained that most ProBoard that have accredited agencies require the accreditation credential to enable students to test at higher certification levels.

Chairman Adams asked if ICC did not sustain its ProBoard accreditation, what is the impact? Ms. Porter stated ICC exams would remain the same, but certificates would not bear the ProBoard stamp that would allow portability.

Mr. Metz confirmed the discussion was pertinent only to Fire Inspector I and II exams, not ICC's fire plans examiner or certified fire marshal because neither is currently ProBoard accredited.

Mr. Braxton encouraged the Membership not to be short-sighted in regards to accreditation; he said his staff is aggressively pursuing fire and building certifications, and for their standpoint portability is an important piece. He added that over time this may be important to others as well. ProBoard may not be the model, but accreditation is model.

Ms. Saylor asked whether ANSI 17024: *Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons* might be an option or does accreditation have to be through IFSAC or ProBoard.

Mr. Cochran suggested ICC survey the state fire marshals to get their position on the matter since they have legal influence in their jurisdictions. Mr. Desrochers said he would work with National Association of State Fire Marshals' executive director Jim Narva to

have a survey distributed. Ms. Porter will work with Mr. Desrochers to develop an online survey. It is hoped to have the responses collected within less than two months.

6) Good of the Order and Emerging Issues

Next Fire Service Membership Council Conference Call. Chairman Adams announced there would be no FSMC conference call until Thursday, September 20. He wished all members a pleasant and safe summer.

ICC Annual Conference. Chairman Adams encouraged all members to make their travel arrangements for the ICC Annual Conference in Richmond, Virginia, October 21-24. More information can be obtained at http://media.iccsafe.org/2018_ICC_AnCon/index.html

7) Adjournment.

Action: There being no additional business to come before the Governing Committee Mr. McCullough moved, and Mr. Porter seconded, a motion to adjourn meeting. The motion carried without objection and the meeting was closed at 2:33 p.m.

Scott W. Adams, Chair
FSMC Governing Committee

For questions or additional information, contact:

Rob Neale, Staff Liaison
Tel.: 1.888.422.7233 Ext. 6256
E: rneale@iccsafe.org