

Setting Lake Fire Department Meeting and Wet Fire Practice

August 11, 2024 - 9:00 am- 11:00 am

Minutes

Attendees – Twenty-four firefighters, emergency medical responders, and fire and emergency support volunteers attended the meeting.

Carmen McKenzie	Jordy Correia	Margaret Friesen
Darren Pulak	Kevin Watson	Nels Thompson
Donna Henry	Larry Palanuik	Penny Fraser
Harold Smith	Laurent Auger	Rick Morris
Hugh Fraser	Linda Toews	Ron Eastman
Ian McKenzie	Lloyd White	Terry Nychuk
Jacek Hornik	Lorraine Nychuk	Walter Costa
Jeff Henry	Luke Robinson	Wes Jeske

1. Setting Lake Fire Department Chain of Command

Jeff referred to the July 30, 2024 lightning strike near Road 1 when a Setting Lake firefighter reported the event to MB Wildfire Services. Jeff emphasized that it was the right thing to do.

Jeff informed the membership that he had not been informed of the strike when it happened and that two SLFD firefighters later informed him that they and a third member had taken fire department equipment and responded to the scene.

Jeff explained that is not the way Setting Lake Fire Department operates. The fire chief is required to provide details of every incident the department responds to to Manitoba's Office of the Fire Commissioner. The chief is also responsible for overseeing what fire and police departments called the 'chain of command.' Laws, regulations, and standards require every fire department -volunteer or paid - to use the chain of command system to protect the health and safety of individuals engaged in a very dangerous occupation.

The chain of command is important because it provides clear direction, clear lines of communication, and clear accountability for everyone involved in the fire department. It is the way that fire departments make decisions efficiently and coordinate people and equipment during emergencies. At an incident scene, the chief, deputy chief or the person in charge of the chain of command lays out areas of

responsibility and accountability. For those reasons, every member is required to follow the chain of command. There are no exceptions.

The discussion continued during the wet practice debriefing. Deputy Chief Rick Morris emphasized that members must never act on their own. They must always call SLFD's reporting line at 204-677-2911 and inform the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief or the member in charge of an incident. He pointed out that if a firefighter acting on their own hit a pedestrian it would be the member - not the fire department – that would be personally liable. And if a fire had broken out at a Setting Lake property that day and the chief did not know that members had taken an important piece of fire suppression equipment, the results could have been disastrous.

Responding to a member who noted that historically structural and wildfire departments have not worked together, Jeff commented that this is changing. Cross-training events, like the roof-top sprinkler system training that MB Wildfire Service delivered to SLFD in 2022, and the recent firebreak work bee are evidence of that.

A member suggested that, in view of these changes, SLFD revise the fire reporting information on SLCOA's website, social media, and the bulletin boards. She also suggested that Jeff make sure SLCOA members are aware of that at the AGM.

Members agreed that new posters will inform the public that in the event of a wildfire they should call both the MB Wildfire Service and SLFD reporting numbers.

Action 1. Donna Henry will change the fire reporting information and post it.

Action 2. Members of the fire department who attended the July 30, 2024 wildfire incident will provide written reports to Jeff for inclusion in SLFD's report to the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

2. Setting Lake Fire Department Pumper Truck

Jeff reiterated for the benefit of members who missed the July 28 meeting that Pumper One has been fully saftied and needs only minor attention to the taillights.

Because Jeff is enrolled in a 5-day compliance officer course in September, Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure is fast-tracking Pumper One's safety fitness certificate so the vehicle can be licensed, insured and put into active service.

The Province will cover Jeff's \$1100 compliance officer tuition fee. After Jeff writes the exam, the department will be in full compliance with provincial legislation.

3. Long Service Recognition

Sixteen firefighters were recognized for their dedication and years of service. All have been active for a decade or more. Lloyd White has been a member of the fire department since its founding in 1988

Aime Valois	Jim McIvor	Nels Thompson
Al Kozakowski	Larry Palanuik	Pat Leahy
Ian MacKenzie	Laurent Auger	Penny Fraser
Jerry Garriochl	Lloyd White	Terry Nychuk
David Skime	Lorraine Nychuk	Wes Jeske
Hugh Fraser		



Jeff presents Ian with a SLFD/FireSmart tee

Blanche Parsons, Margaret Friesen, and Rick Morris were recognized for their outstanding service in providing training SLFD members.

4. Wet Practice

Four teams were established – Pumper One orientation and practice, Honda, Floto, and Wajax pump practice, emergency medical service practice, and trailer organization and inventory.

5. Training Debrief

Pumper One, mobile pumps, and emergency medical training went well and the trailer was inventoried and re-organized.

Action 3: Jeff authorized Rick to purchase gas to be stored in the equipment trailer and other supplies that the team identified.