

West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority
Regular Meeting

119 NE Church Street White Salmon WA 98672.

Thursday August 21, 2025. 6:30pm.

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Thomas Montag at 18:30.
- Flag Salute.
- Attendance:
WKRFA Governing Board: Quorum: Thomas Montag, Ben Giant, Robert Connor, Charles Virts, and David Lindley, Jason Hartman
Advisory groups/staff: Chief Long, Thomas Crumpacker, Rozalind Plumb, Eric Bosler
- Agenda:
“Motion to approve the agenda” made by Jason Hartman second by Charles Virts, (5 in favor, 0 opposed) motion passed.
- Minutes of the last Meeting.
“Move to approve the minutes from July 17th, 2025.” Made by Charles Virts, second by Jason Hartman (5 in favor, 0 opposed) motion passed.
- Public Comments: None
- Administrative Secretary’s report
 1. The financial report was reviewed no questions
 2. Approval of the scripts read by Secretary Plumb.

Date	Amount	Date	Amount
7/16/25	1,041.61	8/11/25	\$3,843.12
7/28/25	59,453.71	8/19/25	\$13,213.43
8/06/25	4,779.64		
8/07/25	3,630.02		

“Motion to approve the scripts made by Jason Hartman, second by Ben Giant. (5 yay, 0 opposed) motion passed.

- Fire Chief’s Report –See attached by Chief Long.
Additional calls since the report was sent out to the board. Eric Bosler and Chief have completed fire safety surveys at the schools. Chief noted that the report will be sent to the county.
Table top Emergency response exercises- A couple of months ago the county participated in these exercises and the follow up is coming in the form of GIS modeling for wildfires in our area. The modeling program was compared against the actual Burdoin fire and they were

very consistent. The models are able to give specific recommendations to reduce the rate of spread of fires. This will be a great tool to help with prevention efforts.

Fire academy is being planned for the region. There is an ongoing issue with the need for adequate training grounds.

Wildland urban interface summit – scheduled for September 30 in Moses Lake. Chief has been asked to present at the summit.

- **Training Report:** See attached by Captain Crumpacker.
Driving skills are being checked off. Wildland training and apparatus inspections are ongoing, Smoke reading, and training on report writing. Forcible entry training was recently lead by John Abercrombie who started as a volunteer with KCFD3 and is now a career firefighter. He is bringing his knowledge back to the department.
Commissioner Connor asked about Swift water rescue training. Captain Crumpacker indicated we train to a 1st response level to assist, but we do not conduct actual swift water rescue. Issues are related to cost of the training and having enough staffing to maintain an active team. We rely on the river companies and Klickitat Search and Rescue for trained personnel.
- **Volunteer Representative Report.** Eric Bosler reported that the Pancake breakfast associated with the Huckleberry Festival will be hosted by Bingen Fire Department this year. Commissioner Connor noted that the Snowden Community Council have invited the firefighters to a potluck dinner on Wednesday September 3rd as thank you for their efforts on the Burdoin Fire. Bob noted the invitation is also to the staff and commissioners.
- **Information Only Items.**
 1. **Staff evaluations scheduled for September – Discussion occurred** on how to approach the reviews under the RFA.
Decision was to have 2 commissioners head the review of Chief Long via evaluation forms- evaluations should include a cross section of the volunteers, staff and commissioners.
Jason Hartman and Charles Virts will conduct the Chief's review. Executive session is scheduled for the September meeting.
 2. **2026 Budget is due in November** – RFA Policy states the staff will create a draft budget to present to the board in October. There will be opportunities for public review and comment before the budget is submitted to the County in November.
- **Unfinished Business- Follow -up Items.**
 1. **IT Services** – Working with Radcomp to get this project completed. The server has been moved. There are some additional areas that need work including the office that will be assigned to Chief, the City of White Salmon has IT equipment in the office that will need to be moved.
 2. **ADA walkway at station 31.** On hold due to staff time and the need to complete the public works process accurately. Concern from Commissioner Virts that it is a potential liability is we do not meet ADA standards.

3. Station 30 – building damage- Chief Long has talked with City Public works on the building damage caused by the ice machine leaking. Chief has also discussed the roof in the fire bay that has a leak. Current status is to get a quote for both projects. Discussion on who is responsible when we have signed a lease “as is”. Comment was also made about the HVAC not functioning correctly.

- **Discussion Items**

1. **Resolutions- None**

2. **Policies-**

- a. *Hiring – Selection, Recruitment, Retention.*
Waiting for legal counsel to review.

3. **Agreements**

- a. **Memorandum of Understanding between the City of White Salmon and the West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority Regarding Planning, Development, and Life Safety Coordination.**
Intent is to have a mechanism to work with the City to provide comments or input during the planning process for developments. Chief was given authority to work on the MOU with the City. Chief will be working out the compensation.

4. **Other Discussion Items**

- a) **Water Tanks on Snowden.** During the Burdoin Fire crews were pulling water from the Tank on Tunnel Road and reported the water contained oil. Chief has identified that the two in ground tanks installed by KCFD3 on DNR land and on Green Diamond land are now out of service due to oil residue. Testing will need to be completed, and the tanks will need to be cleaned accordingly (possible contaminants are PCBs). Discussion on the possible process (testing the water, removing and disposing of contaminated water, cleaning the tanks). Tentative cost of cleaning both tanks is around \$88,000 to \$100,000. If the tanks are leaking, then additional costs will be involved. Chief indicated the cost will set us back on capital replacement. In the meantime, we do not have water available on Snowden Road. Chief will need to let the community know. Jason asked if grants might be available to help pay. We need to know what we are dealing with before we look into that. Department of Ecology will be informed and should help guide the process.
- b) **Hiring – Firefighter /EMT –** scheduling for interviews is set for September 6th. We have contracted with National Testing Network to coordinate the written testing. Physical ability will be a pack test, and interviews will be conducted by a panel of firefighters. The Board has the authority to hire career staff. Discussion on the timing of offering the job. The recommendation will come to the board in September for Board approval.

- **Action Items**
 1. **Resolutions** –none
 2. **Policies** – Hiring – in process
 3. **Agreements** –MOU – in process
 4. **Other action items as needed.**

- **Executive Session** Not needed.

- **Good of the order.**
 1. **Burdoin Fire help** – Robert Connor commented that the Lyons club is helping those affected by the fire if people want to donate.
 2. **White Salmon Education Foundation Silent Auction** - Jason Hartman asked if the RFA can donate a ride in a fire engine. Chief is happy to do this and has done it in the past.
 3. **Brad Knowland** – Charles Virts commented that the board acknowledge the loss of Brad Knowland the Fire Chief at Wahkiacus Fire Department. Brad had been a very active member of the fire community and EMS over the years. He will be missed. Chief Long noted we will be involved in the procession for his service.

- **Next Meeting:**
Regular Board meeting September 18th, 2025, 18:30. Location: Station 30, 119 NE Church Street White Salmon.

- **Motion to adjourn made by Jason Hartman seconded by David Lindley. (5 in favor 0 opposed). Motion passed.**
 Meeting adjourned 20:04.

APPROVED:


 WKRFA Chair -Thomas Montag (date)

Attest:


 Secretary Rozalind Plumb