1) **Meeting called to order at 1856 by Chair Jeremy Walla.**

   Board Members in attendance: Ray Bubb, Nick Carlson, Craig Comer, Jeremy Dalman, Caleb Dustman, Jerome Harvey, Duane Hofer, Paul Johnson, Tim Kobes, Charles Maude, Cliff McClure, Ron Rossknecht, Gary Sortland, Jeremy Walla, Dustin Willett

   Guests in attendance: Michael Cosand, Sr, Black Hawk VFD; Chris Gleason, Box Elder VFD; Dan Harn, Rochford VFD; Damon Hartmann, Doty VFD; Bruce Jensen, Whispering Pines VFD; Adam Kuenkel, Box Elder VFD; Pepper Massey, Pennington County Fire; Phil Schlief, Silver City VFD; Richard Small, North Haines VFD.

2) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3) **ROLL CALL:** (see above)

4) **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Nothing brought forth.

5) **AGENDA:** *Motion to approve 8 May 2019 agenda by Johnson, Maude second. Motion carried.*

6) **MINUTES:** *Motion to approve 13 February 2019 minutes by Johnson, Dahlman second. Motion carried.*

7) **BUDGET:** *Motion to approve February, March, April financials by Johnson, McClure second. Motion carried.*

8) **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

   A) FSB Training – Kuenkel reported certification classes are finished, however there is potential for five (5) more practical’s. Hartmann reported that Spearfish and Hot Springs have finished classes, Wall has a few more scheduled and Belle Fourche is still training. Walla noted BHWLT is cancelled on Friday due to low registration, but Saturday is still scheduled. Willett said 16 people attended ICS 300 and an additional five (5) people attended ICS 400 trainings for a total of 21 students. Curriculum has been updated for adding time for both courses, probably increasing training from four (4) days to five (5) days going forward.

   B) EMUB – Sortland stated the 12 April meeting was cancelled due to weather. Next meeting is scheduled 12 July 2019.

   C) BHFAB – After discussion Walla noted the contract should be finalized at the upcoming 29 July meeting beginning at 7pm at Whispering Pines VFD. SD Wildland has been willing to work with us, separating the contract into two (2) parts – contract and Mob Guide. The Mob Guide can be updated annually with a three (3) year contract. Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend the meeting, as well as download a copy of the contract and sign for your VFD as they work through changes to the Mob Guide.

   D) PCFCA – White said they reviewed the Mid-Winter Muster and added $7K to the checking account. They are seeing help in 2020 and need a VFD to step up to write a grant for up to $4K from SD Wildland funds. Grant needs to be submitted by the
end of May. Walla said Whispering Pines did the grant in 2019 and reminded folks that submitting a grant for the Muster would not preclude you from submitting a grant for your VFD; and that a VFD could apply a second time if funds are available in the annual grant cycle.

E) State Radio – Walla directed attendees to the letter from the Board of Commissioners to Governor Noem in their meeting packet, thanking the Governor for funding support. Willett shared the Public Safety Community Council would like to see 10 zones. Walla said the first round of funding is completed for the towers and work continues to find funding for the future.

9) OLD BUSINESS

A) City | County Meetings:

i) Meade County Fire Association – Hofer reported Sturgis/Meade County Ambulance is working on reducing their coverage area due to financial issues. Some rural Meade County residents have approached the Meade Count Board of Commissioners about a permanent funding solution. There is discussion of creating the "9-mile fire protection district" in the Nisland/Arpan area. They continue to work on radios. Their LEPC meeting was held after the Fire Fighters Association Meeting. All Departments that cover into Meade County are encouraged to attend.

ii) Custer County Fire Advisory Board – Johnson reported the meeting was tonight, and he sent a representative. In past meetings there was much discussion regarding funding. A wants/needs list was submitted. They are planning to do a study to help them understand how to effectively spend funds. Walla noted the study is similar to what Pennington County did several years ago. Bill Bell’s celebration of life is 11 May in Custer.

iii) Lawrence County Fire Chiefs Association – Harn reported the next meeting is scheduled Tuesday 14 May.

10) NEW BUSINESS

A) Commissioners Report – Rossknecht stated he had requested that the Commission Office write the letter to Governor Noem, noting that without the bill we would have funding issues for the state radio back bone. He is currently working with Jerome Harvey to resolve the $50-$60K budget shortfall. He spoke with Gail Schmidt recently who expressed safety concerns about Croell Ready Mix vehicles and gravel impacting traffic. If you have concerns, please attend the hearing on Friday (and possibly Saturday). Rossknecht thanked everyone in attendance for their service stating, “we couldn’t do it without the volunteers.”

B) Emergency Management Report – Willett recapped blizzard responses and disaster notifications. County is hoping for positive closure on Serenity Dennard search. EM coordinates resources and acts as liaison between several agencies to fulfill needs. Comer asked if EM was required to pay for 100 oxygen bottles that were needed but not used during a recent blizzard. Willett said yes, even though the verbal agreement was if the bottles were returned with seals intact there would be no fee. Later it was determined that federal law requires billing once bottles leave the supplier’s location.
C) Out-of-State Workers Compensation – McClure explained that Interior recently received a large bill for Workers Comp due to over reporting of expenses by Claims Associates, representing the South Dakota Municipal League. He urged each department to review numbers and information that was submitted on their behalf to make certain they were not similarly over-charged. Brad Wilson from SDML met with McClure and Harvey to review and amend the bill. Harvey said that going forward bills will go directly to individual VFDs instead of routed through Pennington County Fire Admin, but that VFDs are still on the County plan. Walla said Workers Comp will be discussed with State Chiefs Association and encouraged VFDs to speak with their state legislators to advocate for reasonable fees and more transparency.

11) NEW REQUESTS

A) Scenic VFD Reimbursement Request – Maude is requesting help with his annual vehicle insurance, which came in higher than usual. This is the first reading. No action taken.

B) Repeater & Paging Repairs Request – PennCo Radio Shop will do repairs and is requesting reimbursement. This is not an emergency. This is the first reading. No action taken.

12) REQUESTS TO BE ACTED ON

A) Black Hawk VFD Funding Request – Request withdrawn. Funded by Meade County Firefighters Association

13) NEXT MEETING: 12 June 2019, 1900 | Rapid Valley VFD, 3760 Reservoir Road, Rapid City

14) ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by McClure, Sortland second. Motion carried.