

Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan
Advisory Board Meeting Notes
November 18, 2025

Members Present

- Anne Finn, Cities Representative
- Anthony Scavo, Volunteer Firefighters
- Jay Wood, Volunteer Firefighters Representative
- Justin Sorenson, Fire Chief Representative
- Rose Hennessy-Allen, State Auditor's Office

Members Absent

- John King, Volunteer Firefighters Representative
- Steve Fenske, Townships Representative
- Cal Larson, Cities Representative
- Steve Shykes, Volunteer Firefighters Representative
- Justin Nielsen, Volunteer Firefighters Representative

Staff Present

- Doug Anderson, PERA Staff
- Gladys Rodriguez, PERA Staff
- Amy Strenge, PERA Staff
- Jaime Voight, PERA Staff
- Sarah Broton, PERA Staff
- Heather Schoenberger, PERA Staff
- Josh Harrison, PERA Staff

Others Present

- Aleena Wilson, LCPR Staff
- Susan Lenczewski, LCPR Staff
- Kate Wagner, MN Fire Association Coalition
- Ann Lenczewski, Lockridge Grindal Nauen

1. Meeting called to Order and Introductions

Strenge called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Members participated both in person and via interactive technology, as permitted under Minnesota Statutes section 13D.015. A roll call was conducted to establish a quorum; however, a quorum was not present.

Introductions were made.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes from October 22, 2025

Strenge presented the meeting notes from October 22, 2025. With no quorum present, no official business could be conducted.

3. SVF Incentive Plan

Anderson provided an overview of the incentive plan and its history, noting that it was established by the Legislature in 2023. The plan created a \$5 million incentive pool for departments joining the SVF, with incentives allocated under a formula of \$10,000 per plan plus \$1,000 per active member. The formula allows for modification if necessary.

Anderson reported that 23 plans joined the SVF in 2024, resulting in total incentive payments of \$756,000. In 2025, 52 plans joined, with incentive payments totaling \$1,719,000 based on resolutions received as of October 20, 2025. In 2026, 23 entities have submitted resolutions to date, resulting in incentive payments of \$740,000, with an estimated 10 additional plans expected to join before year-end.

Overall, more than 100 plans have received incentive payouts to date, totaling an estimated \$3 million. Additional plan enrollments are expected, which is anticipated to fully utilize the remaining funds in the incentive pool.

The Advisory Board will need to decide whether to modify the incentive formula or leave it unchanged. Staff recommended maintaining the current formula, as it continues to work effectively and does not require any adjustments. With no quorum present, no official business could be conducted.

4. SVF Administrative Legislative Proposal

Strenge noted that at the last meeting she reviewed the legislative proposals for 2026, which are organized into three categories: Deadlines and Consequences, Administrative Changes, and Policy Changes. With no quorum present, no official business could be conducted.

The group discussed the recurring issue of low attendance at recent meetings and considered potential solutions. One suggestion was to allow members to designate a representative or alternate to attend on their behalf when they are unable to participate.

Under current statute, proxies are not permitted; however, the language could be amended to allow a delegate when a member is unable to attend. Staff will explore this possibility and will also contact the appointing authority regarding meeting attendance and terms.

5. SVF Discussion Topics- No further topics were raised.

6. Next meeting date: to be determined

Staff will reconvene a meeting in early December to approve the legislative recommendations and the SVF Plan incentive for inclusion in the 2026 legislative agenda.

7. Adjournment

Since a quorum was not present, no official business could be conducted. Therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.