

Chief, John Kimmel
President

A/Chief, Don Davidson
Vice-President

Chief, Brendan Parker
Secretary

Chief, Brad Delatorre
Treasurer

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

McHenry County Division 5

mabas5.org



**M.A.B.A.S. Division 5
Meeting Agenda
October 7th, 2026 – 9:00 am
Woodstock Station 3
2900 Raffel Rd.
Woodstock, IL. 60098**

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance / Introduction of Guests
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of the August 5, 2026 meeting minutes
5. Treasurer's Report: Chief Delatorre
6. Executive Board Report: None
7. Presentations: None
8. Group Reports:
 - A. Box Cards: Chief Parker
 - B. Communications: Chief Spraker (MobileX/Image Trend)
 - C. Training: DC Chris Way
 - D. Prevention: Director Pikora
 - E. Operations: Chief Wagner
 - F. EMS / Rehab: Chief Linneman
 - G. Chaplain Group: Rev. Cramer
 - H. Investigators/Photographers Groups: Director Innes
 - I. Logistics Group: AC Davidson
 - J. Special Teams Leaders: Operations Chief Chris Way/Chief Steingart
 - K. Ad Hoc Mental Health Legislative Group: DC Bush
9. Alarms: Structure Fires
10. Old Business:
 - A. Approval/Discussion of IFERN Equipment Proposal
 - B. Update/Discussion Interdivisional Strike Team, Inbound, and Outbound Box Cards
11. New Business:
 - A. Incident Support Team
12. Any other business not on the agenda.
13. Next Meeting / December 2nd, 2026, Refreshments: McHenry
14. Adjournment

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MABAS Division 5 Meeting Minutes August 5, 2026 – 09:00 am Woodstock Fire/Rescue District Raffel Road

Call to Order: 09:00

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited.

Invocation & Moment of Silence: Led by Reverend Cramer for guidance and to remember fallen members.

Guest Speaker: Chief Lambel (Illinois Fire Chiefs Association - IFCA)

- **Hot Sheet Newsletter:** Recently reformatted and sent out; members should check spam/firewalls if not received.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Annual Conference:** October 11–14 in Peoria.
 - **75th Anniversary Dinner:** October 15 in Lombard (over 200 registered, sponsor-supported).
 - **Chief Fire Officer Applications:** Due September 14.
 - **Scholarship Fishing Classic:** September 18.
 - **State Fair Day (Public Ed):** August 23 (Short on volunteers; seeking 12 additional fire chiefs or family members).
 - **VCOC Conference:** January 22–23 in Bloomington.
- **Association Management Transition:**
 - Retired long-time administrative assistant Maureen (after ~40 years) and Executive Director John Buckley.
 - Association transitioned management to a Wisconsin-based firm (effective June 1) experienced with state fire chief associations.
 - Transition requires more active involvement from board members and chiefs.
- **Legislation & Advocacy:**
 - **RESCUE Act / Ambulance Billing:** Met with U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider in Lincolnshire/Wilmette regarding GEMT, Medicare, and Medicaid reimbursement rates. Rep. Schneider co-signed a bill to adjust Medicare rates (last updated structural base dating back to 1998/2003).
 - **State Fire Marshal Recertification:** Ongoing dialog regarding membership concerns.
- **IFCA Foundation & Committees:**
 - Annual higher education scholarships distributed ~\$70,000 this year (nearing \$3 million total awarded historically).
 - Executive Board covers monthly updates from IFSAP, Joint Labor Management, EMS/GEMT, Funeral Committee, and DEI.

- Recognized Chad Hoefle (Stillman Valley) elected as international VCOC board member.
- **Emergency Management Feedback:** Local Emergency Management representative requested IFCA legislative support for the **FEMA Act reform** and updates to **disaster declaration threshold formulas** (current Illinois public assistance threshold requires \$24 million statewide impact, disproportionately affecting rural/smaller counties like Effingham and Marion). Noted a \$500,000 increase in state EMPG grants.

Guest Introductions: Deputy Chief Paul Polep introduced as the new Deputy Chief of Operations for McHenry Township Fire Protection District

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes from June 3, 2026 meeting approved.
- *Motion:* Fox River Grove | *Second:* McHenry | *Result:* Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Chief Delatorre)

- **Previous Balance:** \$9,039.81
- **Deposits/Income:** \$61,462.67 (including 4.5 SRT check and online payments) + \$97,757.00 (dues checks).
- **Current Checking Balance:** \$45,334.14
- **Total Available Funds (with POT funds):** \$45,834.14
 - *Motion:* Spring Grove | *Second:* Fox River Grove | *Result:* Passed unanimously.

Box Cards (Chief Parker)

- **Draft Cards Pending:** Gurnee and Palatine.
- **Effective Cards:** Lake Villa, Harlem-Roscoe, and Boone County Station 2.

Communications (Chief Spraker)

- **Mobile X / CAD Upgrade:** Police RMS upgrade scheduled around August 19, followed by CAD upgrade and transition to Mobile X. Testing iPads in McHenry.
- **Countywide Records Management System (RMS) RFP:**
 - 5 vendor proposals evaluated by Huntley, Algonquin, McHenry, and Woodstock; 2 were disqualified for lack of NERIS compliance.
 - **Shortlisted Vendors:** First Due vs. ImageTrend (ERP deemed not ready).
 - **Comparison:** First Due offers an integrated platform (preplans, scheduling, asset management, incident command), but evaluates to ~\$200,000–\$250,000 more over 5 years compared to ImageTrend (\$768,000 vs \$1.1M base proposals). ImageTrend includes FlowMSP preplanning integration.
 - **Next Steps:** County purchasing will request Final and Best Offers (FBO) for ETSB board review prior to county committee approval. Aiming for a January 1, 2027 go-live date.

Training (Deputy Chief Berg)

- Active shooter training deferred to next year; fall training will focus on live-fire operations.

Prevention (Director Innes)

- **Fire Inspector I Course:** September 28 – October 2 at Wauconda Station 1 (hosted via IFSI).

Operations (Chief Wagner)

- Radio emergency activation button policy being finalized to standardize programming across agencies.
- Upcoming focus on area command protocols.

EMS/Rehab (Chief Linneman)

- No Report

Chaplain Group (Reverend Cramer)

- Presentation on "Life After the Call" hosted by McHenry Township and 100 Club of Illinois covering stress management.

Fire Investigation Strike Force (Director Innes)

- 7 total MABAS box alarm callouts YTD (recent incidents in Wonder Lake and Marengo).
- Seminar on electrical fire origin and cause scheduled in Rosemont; local McHenry County training planned for fall.
- *Marengo Arson Update*: Arson/burn pattern evidence gathered from two simultaneous structure fires; awaiting lab result confirmation for grand jury charges.

Logistics (Assistant Chief Davidson)

- No Report

Special Teams (Chief Steingart)

- **Water Rescue Incident Operations**: Recent deployments in Des Plaines River, Lake Geneva, Fox Lake, Kenosha, and Libertyville using sonar boats and ROV units.
- **Equipment & Surplus**: Division 4 TRT container delivered to Crystal Lake; surplus TRT 5 container available for interested departments.
- **Grants & Assets**:
 - HazMat validation by MABAS scheduled for October.
 - Division 5 received a UTV skid unit (~\$11,000 value) located at Hebron via MABAS funding.
 - Exploring interest in forming an SRT Drone Team.
 - Marengo acquired a grain bin rescue tube asset compatible with neighboring agencies.

Ad Hoc Mental Health Group (Deputy Chief Bush)

- A meeting is scheduled for this month. No other updates currently.

Alarms

- Two structure fires occurred in Marengo and two structure fires in Wonder Lake.

Old Business

- **IFERN Equipment Proposal**: Awaiting official equipment proposal; must be received by next meeting to fit into the county budget cycle.
- **Interdivisional Box Cards**: Chief Parker finalizing cards for formal approval at the October meeting.

New Business & Open Discussion

- **Soy-Based (Green) Foam Warning (Deputy Chief Menzel)**: Caution advised regarding UL 162 soy-based foams. Concerns raised regarding breakdown on alcohol-type fires and lack of rigorous third-party/mil-spec testing compared to traditional agents.
- **ComEd Energy Efficiency Grants (Chief Wagner)**: ComEd releasing additional funding for lighting upgrades. Across the Board Business Solutions cited as an active

contractor (caution expressed regarding past vendors like Varaday/Green World over warranty/sensor integration issues).

- **Cybersecurity / AI FOIA Scams:** Alert issued regarding automated, AI-generated FOIA requests targeting small municipal districts. Scammers attempt to collect out-of-court settlements under threat of non-compliance fines. Requests must be verified, and attachments are restricted by recent statutory updates.

Adjournment

- **Next Meeting:** October 7, 2026
- *Motion to Adjourn:* Motion Fox River Grove | *Second:* McHenry | *Result:* Passed unanimously at 10:01 AM.

Brendan Parker

ATTENDANCE

Department	Name	Department	Name
Algonquin	John Knebl	McHenry	Paul Polep
Algonquin	Matt Berg	McHenry	Steve Spraker
Algonquin	Eric Busby	McHenry	Karen Bush
Carpentersville	Rick Nieves	Nunda	Chris Way
Cary	Brad Delatorre	Nunda	Rev. Mary Cramer
Crystal Lake	Mark Menzel	SEECOM	Pete Sofie
County Dispatch	Melissa Himelrigh	Spring Grove	Paul Klicker
Fox River Grove	Bob Kreher	SRT	Jeff Steingart
Harvard	John Kimmel	Union	Mike Paige
Huntley	Dan Wagner	Wonder Lake	Bill Oeffling
Marengo	Don Davidson	Wonder Lake	Chris Kozel
MCEMA	David Christensen	Woodstock	Brendan Parker
MCEMA	Brooke Loyd	Woodstock	Alex Vucha

MABAS Division 5 Treasurer's Report October 2026

	<u>General Funds</u>
Previous Meeting Ending Balance	\$45,334.14
Disbursements (detail below)	\$35,161.00
Deposits (detail below)	\$1,200.00
Check Account Balance	\$79,295.14
POD Funds	\$500.00
Total Available Funds	\$79,795.14

CHECK #		DISCRIPTION		
1273	8/5/2026	A. Vucha - Oct, Nov., Dec,'25 Jan. Feb. March '26	\$	1,200.00

Total Disbursements	\$	1,200.00
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Deposits:	# Items	DISCRIPTION		
8/7/2026	1	MABAS Dues Deposits (3)	\$	26,567.00
8/21.26	2	MABAS Dues Deposits (1)	\$	8,594.00

Total Deposits	\$35,161.00
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Respectfully submitted:
Chief Brad Delatorre
Treasurer, MABAS Division 5