

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MITIGATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE ADVISORY BOARD

June 13, 2022

10:00 a.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Virtual WebEx

Board Members Attending:

Chief Tim Bailey, Chairman	Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts
Chief John Dearborn	Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts
David Clemons, Director of Operations	Department of Fire Services
Timothy Vamosi	Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts
John McCarthy	Massachusetts Association of Hazardous Materials Technicians

Board Members Absent:

Cathy Kiley, Designee	Department of Environmental Protection
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DFS Employees Attending:

John Dean	Legal Counsel to the Board
Maribel Fournier	Deputy State Fire Marshal
David DiGregorio	Director of Hazardous Materials Response
Timothy Gallagher	Deputy Director
Korina Senior	Program Coordinator

DFS Employees Absent:

None

Monthly Board Meeting

Agenda Item #1:

► **Meeting Opening and Introductions – 10:08am**

Chief Bailey began opening the meeting and introductions were made by attendees stating their presence and capacity.

Agenda Item #2:

► **Approval of March 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

A Motion to accept the Meeting Minutes from March 14, 2022 was offered by Chief John Dearborn. The motion was seconded by Tim Vamosi. No discussion. Roll call taken, unanimous vote.

Agenda Item #3 New Business:

► **a. Vote on team appointments and/or transfers.**

Director DiGregorio states we received a letter from the district 2 State Hazmat Steering Committee appointing Jonathan Yule of the Needham Fire Department. Jack McCarthy made a motion to accept the district 2 member. The motion was seconded by Chief John Dearborn. No discussion, roll call taken resulting in unanimous vote. No discussion, roll call taken resulting in unanimous vote.

Director DiGregorio states we received a letter from the transfer of Deputy Chief David Martell of Sturbridge Fire Department from District 3 State Hazmat Steering Committee. We received the contract to allow him to join district 3 and are waiting for the contract to be executed with the Town of Sturbridge for the Hazmat Response Grant. Contract is needed for new Fire Departments that do not have members on the team. Jack McCarthy made a motion to accept the transfer as stated in the letter. The motion was seconded by Chief John Dearborn. No discussion, roll call taken resulting in unanimous vote.

Director DiGregorio states we received an email from the District 6 State Hazmat Steering Committee appointing:

William Cavanaugh, Wilmington Fire Department
Kyle Forrest, Fitchburg Fire
Ray Balser, Barre Fire
Michael Ryan, Lowell Fire
Keith Baldwin, Haverhill Fire

Jack McCarthy made a motion to accept the recommendation from the district 6 steering committee. The motion was seconded by Chief John Dearborn. No discussion, roll call taken resulting in unanimous vote. No discussion, roll call taken resulting in unanimous vote.

► b. Vote on stipend appeal correspondence.

A letter from District 1 Hazmat Technician Scott Breen of Stoughton Fire Department requesting his second half stipend. He is currently out on sick leave and will be retiring in July waiting for the retirement board to approve his retirement status. Scott Breen spoke regarding his status. Jack McCarthy made a motion to allow him to receive a stipend for what he missed and appreciates all the time Scott has served on the district 1 team. Director DiGregorio states there is a high probability this will change to IOD status and would be eligible for the stipend without the appeal process. Timothy Vamosi thanked Scott Breen for all his time on the team. Chief John Dearborn seconded the motion. Roll call taken, unanimous vote.

A letter from District 1 Hazmat Technician Patrick Friel of Falmouth Fire Department requesting to appeal his stipend for the second half due to injury. He is out of work and using his sick time for recovery. Pat spoke regarding the details of his time out. Director DiGregorio states he is a consistent responder and valuable to the team. Tim Vamosi and Jack McCarthy both support the stipend payment. Motion to support the request of Patrick Friel made by Jack McCarthy. Chief John Dearborn seconded the motion. Roll call taken, unanimous vote.

A letter from District 4 Hazmat Technician Renee Rochette requesting to receive the full stipend due to injury. Renee stated she is attending 3 drills next week. She is attending the Paxton exercise, Lithium-Ion battery training, and the Railcar training on June 30th in Stow. She missed a recent drill due to an appointment she needed to attend for her son, who was recently diagnosed with a medical condition. Jack McCarthy makes a motion to support the stipend payment. She has done everything she can to get the stipend. Chief John Dearborn seconded the motion. Roll call taken, unanimous vote.

A letter from District 6 Hazmat Technician Philip Brady of Holden Fire Department requesting stipend payment while he was short drill attendance from taking Paramedic training. The Paramedic training conflicted with the drill date. He did attend every drill possible. Plans on attending as many drills as he can through the end of the year. Motion to support the request of Philip Brady made by Jack McCarthy. Chief John Dearborn seconded the motion. Roll call taken, unanimous vote.

► c. Discuss Boston Marathon

Director DiGregorio thanks Deputy Gallagher for organizing the marathon. It went through very professionally and was well organized.

► d. Discuss Boston 4th of July Planning

The coverage needed for the celebration this year is minimal. On the 3rd Hazmat will be working with the Department of Energy to setup. State Hazmat covers the water choke point area screening for radiation.

► e. Discuss Training

- i. Hazmat ID Elite – Provided at district training.
- ii. Pendar – new equipment capabilities for specialty teams. The TSU team did training.
- iii. FilmArray – new equipment capabilities for the specialty teams. The TSU team did training.
- iv. Microlearning
 1. Hazard3 5-15 minute trainings that Techs can take 30 in the place of a drill.
- v. Risk Based Battery Emergencies
 1. Training beginning today in every district on lithium battery emergencies. Lithium battery emergency response has become more and more of an issue. We want to get ahead to figure out how to respond to these calls.

Agenda Item #4 Old Business:

► a. Discuss the Academy Hazardous Materials courses.

Director DiGregorio states the next part A course will be on September 6, 2022 in Springfield with focus on District 5 members to attend. Pittsfield is looking to send 10 members and other District 5 Fire Departments may be sending a member or two. Hoping to have a good showing from the western region to cover the shortage in District 5. Hazardous Materials Technician 25B dates are still being discussed. Tim Vamosi asks, How many courses will we be doing over the next training year? For Hazmat Part A and B we have been told two per year.

Agenda Item #5 Any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

None.

Agenda Item #6:

► **Next Meeting Date**

Virtual meeting on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 10:00am at the Plymouth Conference. Director DiGregorio warns we may have more stipend appeals at the conference.

Agenda Item #7:

► **Adjournment approximately 10:54 a.m.**

■ *A Motion to adjourn was offered by Jack McCarthy. Adjournment seconded by Chief Dearborn. No further discussion. Roll call taken, unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned.*