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IAIN MCGREGOR
CHAIRMAN

MICHAEL PAVONE
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL
February 22, 2023
APPROVED**

The Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council held a virtual meeting in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A § 20 on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. and open to the public virtually through Microsoft Teams videoconference.

Present at the meeting were the following Council members:

Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe	Undersecretary for Homeland Security, EOPSS
Peter Ostroskey	State Fire Marshal
Iain McGregor, Chair	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Chief Michael Mansfield, Vice Chair	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Chief Matthew Belsito	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Jason Saunders	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Michael Pavone	Representing the Technical Rescue Team

DFS Employees in Attendance:

David Clemons	Director of Operations
David DiGregorio	Director of Hazardous Materials Response
Korina Senior	Program Coordinator

Other Attendees

Alex Merry	Region 1
Mark McCabe	Region 1
Francis Otting	Region 2
Paul Morrison	Region 2
Daryl Springman	Region 4
Pham Sang	State of MA Technology
John Weir	Region 15 NE MA Tech Rescue

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Iain McGregor, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 10:04 a.m. The Chair introduced himself, followed by the introductions of the Council members, Department of Fire Services' employees, and public members in attendance.

2. Approval of January 25, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Chief Belsito made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held, Wednesday, January 25, 2023. The motion was seconded by Michael Pavone. No further discussion. Unanimous roll call vote was completed.

3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence.

No Correspondence.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Joint Training and Membership – Jason Saunders states they created the draft application for team appointment. They also discussed the tiering system.
- b. Policy/SOG – Still drafting policies. The subcommittee has a few for vote from the previous meeting.
- c. Equipment – The equipment list was released about a month ago and waiting to hear if any changes need to be made. Look to vote on this next month to move forward.

5. Regional Reports

- a. Region 2 – Michael Pavone states region 2 has done high water training. Met with FirstNet and was provided with a temporary solution to try during large events that would impact their communication system. Paul Morrison adds that Cambridge is updating a large building that would be beneficial for Technical Rescue trainings for the next four to five months. Working with rules of engagement to address liability concerns in hopes to open it up to other regions.
- b. Region 3 – Jon Martin mentions district 7 coordinator met at Devens to utilize the facility for a mini MOBEX with smaller workstations to focus on interoperability, medical capabilities, and deployment. Hoping to involve DFS, MEMA and other agencies in the event.
- c. Region 4 – Daryl Springman – Three calls in the last 2 months that were all recoveries: water suit, two days of search, and cliffside. Conducted a 2-day training at the Big E to work on rope skills. Continue to train in the water discipline, the goal is to become deployable as a water asset this year. Working with Bay State for future hopes to include surgical team.
- d. Region 5 – January annual rope drill and classroom refreshers done in the Andover station. February the team completed some shoring training in a vacant retail store. New leadership being incorporated and placed in roles at the training exercises.
- e. Region 1 – Establishing a steering committee with the five counties to establish trainings. Barnstable had a call out for a search for a missing person. Bristol large animal rescue. Norfolk had a standby cancelation. Working on keeping the members trained and member retention. All counties are working together.

6. Old Business

- a. Discuss MOBEX meetings held in December and January.
 - The minutes of the MOBEX meetings were typed out and distributed. From the meeting there was a list of objectives from the regions that they

would like to evaluate on. Plan to have a subcommittee of the Council and have it fall under the council to oversee the operation. It will help the Council prioritize the needs for the statewide Technical Rescue Response. The objectives are just as important as the after-action review. Chief Mansfield recommends they stick to the main 4 disciplines that the council has voted on 1. structural collapse 2. trench 3. confined space and 4. rope. Michael Pavone states that drones are becoming more and more of an asset for not only Tech Rescue but HazMat and other situations as well. There are also interior drones to see in confined spaces. It would be beneficial to see some element of drones in the next MOBEX Chief Mansfield does not have any objection as long as the drone element is not the main focus. Need to focus on the basics. If structural collapse is a portion of the MOBEX, drones would be a great asset and we could utilize DFS for the drones. DFS Hazmat is currently looking at drone capabilities. Chair states they are also working with the National Guard and would need to include a HazMat element to the MOBEX training. Daryl Springman states Western MA is no longer receiving funding for training and would need some type of support to participate. The identification of cost factors will be a focus of the MOBEX Subcommittee.

Chief Mansfield made a motion to create a MOBEX Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Marshal Ostroskey. Unanimous roll call vote.

- b. Discussion on DFS Staffing.
 - The selection for Deputy Director has been made and anticipate the position to be filled in the next couple of weeks.
- c. Tabled – Discuss and vote on Equipment Subcommittee List.
 - Provide any feedback to Chief Michael Mansfield.
- d. Tabled – Discuss and vote on SOGs from previous meeting.
 - AAR Format Document – suggested to add to the format to the SOG format. The Deputy will be looking at the SOGs and other documents to make sure that the documents are following the same formatting. Chairman McGregor asks the Undersecretary if Technical Rescue should use the HSEEP format to be compliant with Homeland Security. The report presented today is well done it just needs to be put into an HSEEP format. Form to be sent to Chief Belsito for SOG implementation.
 1. SWIC Statewide Interoperability Coordinator would be an asset for all training exercises. Contact: Richard Fiske Richard.Fiske@mass.gov (617) 620-3607.
 - Confined Space – minor grammatical edits need to be made, with the understanding the Deputy Director will be making those edits, Jason Saunders made a motion to approve the SOG. The motion was seconded by Chief Michael Mansfield. Unanimous roll call vote.

7. New Business

- a. Team Application – Table for next meeting. Some edits include adding Union President signature and updating the Chief signature to include Administration in the event a Chief is an applicant. Also including a regional selection committee.
- b. Discuss Draft Budget – The budget drafted mirrors what HazMat technicians are currently receiving as a response division. This is only one item and revenues need

to be included in the budget. Council needs to build rules around for billable responses. Where are the revenue sources? The draft budget is not sustainable. Need to get the thought process vetted out. The budget request needs to start somewhere but will not be sustainable at the current request. Brief discussion on the number of team members needed for each region. Region 5 is surviving well with 50 or less members. The goal is to get the initial funding and people needed. DFS is the fiduciary through legislation. A sustainable realistic budget is needed to get the program off the ground.

- HLS Councils have up to three years to spend awarded funding. There may be some funding that was reallocated based on project needs. We need to work on standardized equipment for each region, which is being reviewed now. It would be a mistake to have multiple different versions of tracking. Council is to setup a D4H system for Tech Rescue across the continuum of all regions. Mid-March is the deadline to put a request in HLS funding. Lastly, need a sustainable approach. They can fund the start of the system, but the Council will need to establish the sustainability for future years. This will be a priority item for the Deputy.

8. Any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair. None.

9. Future Agenda Items.

- a. D4H

10. Determination of future meeting date(s).

The next meeting dates will be:

- a. Virtually via Microsoft Teams on March 22, 2023, at 10:00am.
- b. In person on April 27, 2023, at 10:00am in the Link at DFS Stow.

Marshal Peter Ostroskey made a motion to adjourn. Chief Belsito seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45am.