



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Department of Fire Services

P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road

Stow, Massachusetts 01775

(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3121

www.mass.gov/dfs



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR

TERRENCE M. REIDY
SECRETARY

IAIN MCGREGOR
CHAIRMAN

CHIEF MICHAEL MANSFIELD
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL
June 29, 2022
Approved**

The Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council held a hybrid meeting in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A § 20 on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. and open to the public virtually through WebEx videoconference.

Present at the meeting were the following Council members:

Iain McGregor, Chair	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Chief Michael Mansfield, Vice Chair	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe	Undersecretary for Homeland Security, EOPSS
Maribel Fournier	Deputy State Fire Marshal
Chief Matthew Belsito	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Jason Saunders	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.

Absent from the meeting were the following Commission members:
Vacancy Representing the Technical Rescue Team

DES Employees in Attendance:

Glenn Rooney, Legal Counsel to the Board	Department of Fire Services
David Clemons	Director of Operations
David DiGregorio, Director	Hazardous Materials Response and Special Operations
Korina Senior, Program Coordinator	Hazardous Materials Response and Special Operations

Other Attendees

Robert O'Brien	Region 1
Michael Pavone	Region 2
Jonathan Martin	Region 3

Administrative Services • Division of Fire Safety
Hazardous Materials Response • Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

Daryl Springman
Richard Nelson
Brian Moriarty

Region 4
Region 5
Region 5

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Iain McGregor, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 10:01 a.m. The Chairman introduced himself, followed by the introductions of the Council members, Department of Fire Services' employees, and public members in attendance.

2. Approval of May 29, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Chief Matt Belsito made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the previous meeting held on May 29, 2022. The motion was seconded by Chief Michael Mansfield. Unanimous roll call vote.

3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence.

No Correspondence.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Equipment – Chief Mansfield states the equipment lists from each region are organized and sent to subcommittee members and the Chair. A couple of members outside of the equipment committee were utilized to compile a fluid comprehensive list of equipment. The equipment list will be presented to the Council after all feedback and comments are reviewed by the subcommittee. Chairman Iain McGregor attests to the work the subcommittee has put into this project. There are over two thousand rows of equipment on the spreadsheet.
- b. Policy – Chief Belsito states the Policy Subcommittee scheduled 2 meetings and could not meet a quorum for both meetings. David Clemons recommends adjusting the quorum for subcommittee meetings. Glenn Rooney suggests the council come up with a minimum number of attendees needed for the subcommittees to conduct business. Can poll now and table a vote for the next meeting. Policies and SOGs will be put into place from these subcommittees and reduce the number of attendees required. Chief Matt Belsito made a motion to hold a special virtual meeting to vote on the subcommittee quorum. Motion was seconded by Chief Mansfield. No further discussion. Unanimous roll call vote.
- c. The Training and Membership Subcommittees held a joint meeting and were able to finalize data matrix and minimum training requirements to be discussed further in the agenda. Geographical and population data still to be gathered and analyzed. Also researching how other states and regions teams are organized.

5. Regional Reports

- a. Region 2 – Michael Pavone reports the team conducted the following

training: surface and underwater, drone pilot, and trench training. New equipment – DJIM30 Thermal drones, photo kite. Needs lighter drones and trax vehicle. Incident – helped with Amesbury search and rescue for a 6-year-old boy. June 24th added twelve new *members* joined region 2.

- b. Region 3 – Chief Belsito reports tech and swift water trainings monthly. Dive teams have been busy with 2 incidents in Worcester and Shrewsbury with fatalities.
- c. Region 4 – Daryl Springman reports they conducted an underwater training with Massachusetts State Police. Sending some members to Michigan for training with Homeland Security funding. Maintaining the 4-gas meters is becoming an issue. Needs updated radio technology. They have twelve pending applications that will be appointed to the team soon.
- d. Region 5 – Richard Nelson reports training with the Beverly Dive Team. Rope rescue system failure drill to take place in July at Camp Curtis Guild. Other regional members are welcome to observe. The team added 4 new members including members from new fire departments that have not been involved in the past. New vehicle obtained from Department of Defense. It is a 2004 but still an upgrade from their current transportation vehicle. Vehicles is their current need. It is hard to transport the equipment they do have to help with rescues when they do not have the vehicles. Mr. Nelson acknowledges Russ Lewis and all his help with the Tech Rescue Region 5.
- e. Region 1 – Robert O’Brien reports the team conducted structural collapse and trench rescue training. They have not received any new equipment. All requests for equipment have been submitted to Homeland Security. Chief Nord is retiring July 15th. With his retirement and others as well, there are a lot of tech rescue changes that will be happening in the next year or so. Currently the Southeast region is preparing for hurricane season to handle any water response needs.

6. Old Business

- a. **Review/Vote data matrix recommendations from Policy Subcommittee pending.**

Chairman Iain McGregor displays the Team Activations 2017-2021 spreadsheet. Discussion on how to gather data and adding additional codes, specifically for recovery and fire departments that may not have reached out for additional tech rescue resources and/or support. Question was asked if a department is looking solely for equipment would that fall under the other category. Chairman McGregor agrees. The data matrix will be sent by the teams to the Council to help clarify the MFIRS data and include any Technical Rescue responses not included in MFIRS reporting. Chief Matt Belsito made a motion to send the data matrix to the teams. The motion was seconded by Chief Michael Mansfield. Unanimous roll call vote.

- b. **Assign Membership Subcommittee Chair**

Jason Saunders volunteered to become the Chair of the Membership Subcommittee.

- c. **Vote on annual report.**

Motion was made by Chief Belsito to accept the annual report as written. Motion was seconded by Chief Mansfield. Unanimous roll call vote.

7. New Business

a. Vote on minimum requirements for team membership.

The Tech Rescue Council Matrix was shared. Chair Iain McGregor discussed the minimum training requirements that the subcommittee agreed on. Discussion on a certificate of attendance versus a certification. The Subcommittee and Council decided it is best now to accept the certificate of attendance to give existing members on the district teams the ability to join the state regional teams. Classes are limited at the academy. Motion was made by Chief Belsito to accept the minimum requirements for team membership. Motion was seconded by Chief Mansfield. No additional discussion. Unanimous roll call vote.

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

9. Future Agenda Items.

- Vote on Subcommittee minimum
- Review/Vote Equipment subcommittee list
- HLS FEMA Funding. Looking for data to showcase needs. Not sustainable funding. What they use and how many times they use it. Is it deployed statewide? Ability to showcase the funding from HLS.

10. Determination of future meeting date(s).

There will be a meeting to vote on Subcommittee quorum held virtually on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

The following meeting will be held in person at the Department of Fire Services, Stow, Boards & Commissions Room on July 27, 2022. Location may change if virtual meetings are allowed before notice is posted.

Chief Belsito made a motion to adjourn. Chief Mansfield seconded the motion. No discussion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:17 a.m.