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IAIN MCGREGOR  
CHAIRMAN  
MICHAEL PAVONE  
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE  
COORDINATING COUNCIL  
October 26, 2022  
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, October 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. and open to the public virtually through Microsoft Teams videoconference.

**Present** at the meeting were the following Council members:

Iain McGregor, Chair	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Maribel Fournier, Designee	Deputy State Fire Marshal
Chief Matthew Belsito	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Jason Saunders	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Michael Pavone	Representing the Technical Rescue Team

**Absent** from the meeting were the following Commission members:

Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe	Undersecretary for Homeland Security, EOPSS
Chief Michael Mansfield, Vice Chair	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.

**DFS Employees in Attendance:**

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

**Other Attendees**

Robert O'Brien	Region 1
Neil Tuepker	Region 1
Shawn Simmons	Region 1
Francis Otting	Region 2

Alan Sirois  
Rick Nelson

Region 4  
Region 5

## **1. Meeting Opening and Introductions**

Iain McGregor, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 10:06 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 September 28, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

Jason Saunders made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held, Wednesday, September 28, 2022. 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. Equipment – No update to report
- b. Policy/SOG – The policy committee has 4 more policies to vote on today. They have been very busy and covering a lot of topics.
- c. Membership/Training – Oct 18<sup>th</sup> had a joint meeting with discussion on a points matrix and moved the recommendations for new members to the Council. The scoring system provided for a working group looked at. Discussed team size.

## **5. Regional Reports**

- a. Region 1 – Ongoing training is being conducted. A structural collapse class will be going on at the Academy.
- b. Region 2 – Michael Pavone stated the Boston Tech Rescue team was requested by Everett Fire for a call.
- c. Region 3 – Matt Belsito mentions they continue to work on planning the mini MOBEX in April 2023.
- d. Region 4 – Alan Sirois reports training continues and the region is now operational in water after receiving search water rescue equipment.
- e. Region 5 – Rick Nelson reports on the drill and new leadership opportunities/roles.

## **6. Old Business**

- a. Discuss Statewide MOBEX proposal and potential working group.  
Looking to have the MOBEX training in the spring or fall 2023. The current recommendation is to put together a group of people and have dates to get together and discuss concepts and create a planning group. Chief Belsito asks if a member of the group needs to be a current firefighter can it be a retired member? Past precedent, each group would submit at least one member to assist in planning. Whomever wants to participate in the activity would need to submit a member to assist in the

planning then that group would be able to participate. The reason to have a member from each group is to allow teams to work together and come up with an objective. Including some retired members experience would be beneficial to planning the exercise. Goal is to post December and January concepts and objectives meetings. After February the MOBEX planning committee would need to meet monthly until closer to the event timeframe. With new Governor and Cabinet coming into MA, the MOBEX exercise would be a perfect opportunity to demonstrate Technical Rescue Response teams capabilities currently available and promote response needs to keep the program successful. Need to establish the planning committee and then the plan is to have a Deputy Director by February for when the monthly MOBEX planning meetings begin.

- b. Discussion on DFS Staffing.  
Looking at applicants for the Deputy Director position for Special Operations and Technical Rescue Division. There are over a dozen applicants and interviews are setup for valid candidates that will be interviewed.

## **7. New Business**

- a. Tabled - Discuss and vote on Equipment Subcommittee list.
- b. Discuss and Vote on Draft SOGs/Policies.
  - Planning Officer: Rob O'Brien took on the task of writing this policy any questions can be asked as he is on the call. Michael Pavone made a motion to accept the draft Planning Officer SOG as written. Jason Saunders seconded the motion. No discussion. Unanimous roll call vote.
  - Team Leader Aide: Jason Saunders made a motion to accept the Team Leader Aide SOG. The motion was seconded by Michael Pavone. Unanimous roll call vote.
  - Medical Specialist: Chief Belsito praises Jonathan Martin's work on the medical related SOGs. He has an extensive background in medical experience and did an outstanding job writing the SOGs. A change was made referencing the NFPA standard. The standard was recently updated to NFPA 2500. Jason Saunders made a motion to accept the Medical Specialist SOG. The motion was seconded by Michael Pavone. Discussion to Unanimous roll call vote.
  - Medical Team Manager: Believe the intent is to have a medical team manager in each region. If some regions are experiencing concerns with this in the future the SOG is a guideline and not a requirement. Jason Saunders made a motion to accept the Medical Team Manager SOG. The motion was seconded by Michael Pavone. Unanimous roll call vote.
  - Chair McGregor appreciates the SOG Committee's hard work with preparing 3 – 4 SOGs per Council meeting for voting.
- c. Discuss and vote on recommended team size.

After much research, the Membership and Training Subcommittees agree the recommended minimum team size of 80 technicians and each typing would vary based on response data and team members attendance.

Rope, confined space, and water rescue typing' would have a minimum of 12 technicians, 30 technicians for trench and collapse rescue incidents.

Discussion on the response percentage and length of time to arrive on scene. Region 4 is concerned about the large geographical mapping area and having the ability to have a responder their quickly for at least an assessment of the incident.

Chief Belsito made a motion to accept the recommended team size as written. The motion was seconded by Jason Saunders. Unanimous roll call vote.

d. Vote to elect Chair and Vice Chair.

Motion made by Jason Saunders to nominate Iain McGregor for another term as Chair. The motion was seconded by Michael Pavone. Iain McGregor accepted the nomination. Unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Iain McGregor to nominate Michael Pavone as Vice Chair of the Council. Jason Saunders seconded the motion. Mr. Pavone accepted the nomination. Unanimous roll call vote.

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

**9. Future Agenda Items.**

- a. Data spreadsheets
- b. SOG/Policies to send to Council for review.
- c. Equipment subcommittee list – tabled.

**10. Determination of future meeting date(s).**

The next meeting will be the meeting for November and December. Council agreed on November 30, 2022, at 10:00am for the November and December meeting. Any work brought to the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting can be distributed and

Iain made a motion to adjourn. Michael Pavone seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:54 am.