



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
 Department of Fire Services
 Massachusetts Technical Rescue
 Coordinating Council*

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CHIEF KEVIN NORD
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 VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
 COORDINATING COUNCIL
 January 28, 2020
 APPROVED**

The Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council held a meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Fire Services, Boards and Commissions Room, Stow, Massachusetts.

Present at the meeting were the following Council members:

Chief Kevin Nord	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Iain McGregor	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Ryan Chamberland	Deputy Chief of Staff, EOPSS
Peter Ostroskey, State Fire Marshal	Department of Fire Services
Peter Jerusik	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.

Absent at the meeting were the following Commission members:

Chief Michael Mansfield	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Santiago Lasa, Representative	Member of the Statewide Tech. Rescue Team

DFS Employees in Attendance:

Maribel Fournier, Deputy State Fire Marshal	Department of Fire Services
Steven Rourke, Esq.	DFS General Counsel and Legal Counsel to the TRCC
Glenn M. Rooney, Esq.	DFS Deputy General Counsel
David Clemons, Director of Operations	Department of Fire Services
David DiGregorio, Director	Hazardous Materials Response and Special Operations
MaryElizabeth Lynch-Lent, Paralegal	Dept. of Fire Services, Office of General Counsel

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

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

2. Approval of September 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Jerusik made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the previous meeting held on October 29, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. MacGregor. Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was approved by unanimous vote of the Council.

3. Old Business

a. Discussion of Map Boundaries

The Council discussed whether to keep the existing map of Technical Rescue Teams created by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, or whether to request that the boundaries be altered.

Chief Nord indicated that he had received several e-mails from fire department Chiefs regarding cities and towns within districts. He indicated that, if boundaries were to be changed, that the Western Massachusetts region (TR-R4) would be most untouched but that changes within Central Massachusetts (TR-R3) could be made so that fire districts 7, 8, and 14 could all be in TR-R3. Marshal Ostroskey stated that the Regions, as currently drawn, was done so to coincide with the layout of current fire districts.

Chief Nord further indicated that he wanted to review the boundaries for each region, in order to create Steering Committees in each district, and would have equal representation. Specifically, he indicated that TR-R1 should consist of Norfolk, Bristol, Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket counties.

A public member in attendance, Ryan McGovern from the Boston Fire Department, stated that he had also received feedback from several communities located in TR-R2 who are also part of Norfolk and Bristol Counties. Specifically, those communities have voiced that if the need arose, their first call would be to members of the 9 cities and towns representing UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative). Mr. McGovern stated that drawing lines is still hard and the cities/towns might be calling from your district, but they will still call their UASI group. Mr. McGovern suggested that the UASI communities be moved to TR-R2.

Motion made by Chief Nord to adopt as TR-R2, the 9 communities in UASI, including: Boston, Cambridge, Brookline, Quincy, Revere, Everett, Somerville, Chelsea, and Winthrop. Motion was seconded by Mr. MacGregor. Council engaged in further discussion where the other communities in TR-R2 would go; either to TR-R5 for the northern communities, or TR-R1 for the southern communities. Motion failed.

The Council continued discussion regarding boundaries and trying to keep cohesive groups together. Mr. McGovern, public member, suggested that the Council consider response, membership, and fiduciary when considering a change to any boundaries moving forward. When questions arose on funding, and whether funding would impact the changing of the boundaries, Mr. DiGregorio stated that the Council needs to define its role and how all teams will operate, which would then allow the Council to go to the state to obtain funding.

Chairman Nord re-iterated his desire to change the boundaries of the teams in order to maintain members of the current Southeast Team. Marshal Ostroskey suggested that the Council look toward create Steering Committees, which can be comprised of those members and the sub-teams in the district. Marshal Ostroskey cautioned the Council that while members may want to make changes now, we should be careful to proceed as we may not be able to “change back” those boundaries and decisions later.

At this time, the matter of Map Boundaries was tabled.

b. Review of Vision and Mission Statements

Chairman Nord explained to the Council that he had drafted the Mission Statement and Vision Statement contained in the agenda for today’s meeting. Motion was made by Marshal Ostroskey to adopt the statements. Motion seconded by Mr. Chamberland. During discussion, Mr. Jerusik suggested some changes to the statements and passed out his edits.

The Council discussed the changes and modified the statements to read as follows:

Mission Statement

Our mission is to coordinate the Commonwealths Regional Technical Rescue Teams, to provide specialized technical rescue response personnel and equipment to the 351 communities of the Commonwealth. The Council shall develop uniform rules and standards, systematic education and training, orderly mobilization and application of funding mechanisms.

The Marshal withdrew his initial Motion and Mr. MacGregor made a motion to accept the amended mission statement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jerusik. Motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Council.

Vision Statement

We envision ensuring every member of a Regional Technical Rescue Team has the knowledge, training and equipment to respond and operate safely into the future. The Regional Technical Rescue Teams will have uniform rules and standards needed to operate safely and efficiently, standard training guidelines that ensure the interoperability of the teams, equipment that meets or exceeds the accepted needs and achieve financial stability for sustainment.

Mr. Jerusik made a motion to accept the amended vision statement. The motion was seconded by Mr. MacGregor. Motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Council.

c. Review of Surveys distributed to District Team Leaders

Mr. DiGregorio advised the Council that DFS staff hopes to have all information collected as part of the surveys sent to each team, collated and formatted to look the same and then share that information with the Council at the next meeting. We will e-mail out to the Council members to identify who has completed this exercise and who has not.

Attorney Rourke cautioned members that upon receipt of information, they should not discuss the same with other members of the Council, so as to not run afoul of the Open Meeting Law.

d. Discussion / Vote on regional advisory committee's structure

Mr. DiGregorio suggested that the Council use a format, similar to that used by the Hazmat Team with Steering Committees. Each Technical Rescue Region would have a Steering Committee, comprised of 5 members (2 Chiefs at the rank of Deputy or Assistant Chief or above; 1 technician at the rank of Captain or below; 1 Team Coordinator and 1 Training Coordinator). These Steering Committees would work with subcommittees, as appointed by the larger Council, and bring information back and forth.

Mr. DiGregorio suggested that the team boundaries needed to be established in order to create the Steering Committees. Chief Nord indicated that no changes would be made to boundaries at this time. Suggested that Fire District leaders be advised that nominations should be put forward to fill these positions. Mr. Jerusik questioned whether 5 was enough members for the larger districts. Other members believe that it would be sufficient.

Questions arose as to whether there would be work for the Steering Committees to do right now. Chairman Nord indicated that he believed there would be work for them to do, first with introducing themselves to the TRCC and in completing surveys needed to determine manpower, equipment and expertise, and to develop subcommittees.

Marshal Ostroskey suggested mentioning this to the recognized Technical Rescue Teams and other interested stakeholders to get feedback. Chairman Nord did not want to have any further delays but, at the suggestion of Attorney Rourke, was agreeable to voting on Steering Committees while also getting additional information/suggestions from the Teams on this and other matters.

Motion made by Chairman Nord to Accept Makeup of Steering Committee as Discussed for currently existing Tech Rescue Regions. Motion seconded by Marshal Ostroskey. Discussion continued as to the makeup of each of the regions:

- **TR-R1** - Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes, Nantucket counties;
- **TR-R2** – metro Boston and UASI;
- **TR-R3** – District 7, 8, and 14;
- **TR-R4** – Western, MA (all four counties); and

- **TR-R5** – Essex County and the Northeast Team, Fire Districts 5, 15, and 6.

Discussions continued as to who would receive notification of these newly created Steering Committees (i.e. existing Technical Rescue Team leaders, Fire District Chiefs, and County Chiefs) and how the Committee positions would be advertised and filled. No formal decision was made but Chairman Nord indicated he would compile a list of names as to which groups will receive notification.

Questions arose as to whether there were term limits on Hazmat Steering Committee members and Mr. DiGregorio confirmed that Steering Committee Chairs cannot serve more than 2 years, but there is no term limit as to how long someone can serve on the Committee. By analogy with Hazmat, Team and Training Coordinators on each time, in Hazmat, those positions have term limits and must be voted on every year and are part of the Steering Committee.

Marshal Ostroskey suggested that before the Council can make notification of any Steering Committees, the larger council needs to determine: what the job of Steering Committee is, what are their tasks, and determining the membership/makeup of the Steering Committee. Chief Nord suggested the Council also needs to determine the timeline to establish such Committee.

Based upon the conversation and need for guidance, Attorney Rourke suggests that this matter be tabled until next meeting until staff can determine membership, terms and duties for next meeting.

Chairman Nord withdraws motion and matter is tabled until next meeting.

4. New Business

Chairman Nord requested that Mr. DiGregorio explain a diagram that was passed out to members earlier in the meeting (see attached). Below the red line, is currently how Technical Rescue incidents are handled with personnel and equipment and whether it is a local incident or county incident. On the diagram, above the red line is where the Council should be once the program is set up.

We need to get to where these teams, what the makeup of the team, what is a regional team, what is its purpose; this is where the Council will determine where each of these regional teams fits into each system. The Council should be concerned with funding the 5 regional state teams and to determining the membership of those teams. The Council should determine the qualifications, types of personnel, etc. to determine what the state team will be. Our concern is determining the makeup of the state teams above the red line.

5. Any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

Item tabled.

6. Future agenda items.

Item tabled.

7. **Determination of Future Meeting Dates**

The determination of the next meeting of the Council was tabled, as Chairman Nord and Mr. Jerusik indicated that they would be unavailable to meet on the next preliminary date of Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

Chairman Nord made a Motion to table the remainder of the agenda items (4(a) and (b), 5 and 6) until February or future hearing date. Motion seconded by Mr. McGregor. Motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Council. Meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.