



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR

THOMAS A. TURCO, III
SECRETARY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Department of Fire Services
Massachusetts Technical Rescue
Coordinating Council
P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road
Stow, Massachusetts 01775
(978) 567-3150 Fax:(978) 567-3155



CHIEF KEVIN NORD
CHAIRMAN

IAIN MCGREGOR
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL
September 16, 2020
APPROVED**

The Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council held a meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. via teleconference at 1-866-916-2030 pass code 7460297# per Governor Charles D. Baker’s Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, s.20 signed and dated March 12, 2020.

Present at the meeting were the following Council members:

Chief Kevin Nord	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Iain McGregor	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe	Undersecretary for Homeland Security, EOPSS
Peter Ostroskey, State Fire Marshal	Department of Fire Services
Chief Michael Mansfield	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Peter Jerusik	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.

Absent at the meeting were the following Commission members:

NONE

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

Korina Senior, Program Coordinator

Special Operations
Hazardous Materials Response and
Special Operations

Other Attendees

Samantha Phillips, Director
Agency

Mass. Emergency Management

Russell Lewis

Northeast Region

Mark McCabe

Southeast Region

Ryan McGovern

Metro-Boston Region

Gary Fletcher

Central Region

Matt Belsito

Central Region

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Chief Kevin Nord, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 2:02 p.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 January 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chief Mansfield made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the previous meeting held on January 28, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. MacGregor. Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was approved by unanimous roll call vote of the Council.

Chief Mansfield asks the question: Why is this meeting being held via teleconference and not video conference? Answer: Can host the meeting either way. DFS just received limited licenses at DFS for WebEx. Going forward we can host meetings on a different platform if that is the request of the council.

Correspondence

1. Santiago Lasa has sent a letter resigning from the Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council.
2. Western MA Chief Council email sent to Chair Nord.
Send out as informational to the Council.

3. Old Business

- a. **Review, discuss, and potential vote of agreed upon Vision and Mission Statement language.**

Move on to old business part b since the vision and mission statement were voted on last meeting.

b. **Discuss Surveys distributed to District Team Leaders.**

Chairman Nord requests the documents should all be sent to Korina and cc Chair Nord and David DiGregorio. Discussion: Some information went to different people. The survey information that went out is everything we have received. The equipment information was received in a variety of formats.

Korina Senior discusses the excel document containing the survey listed by region as provided by the districts. Subtotal by regions and total throughout the state. Chairman Nord states it appears there are some areas that are missing information. He requests the regions send their survey data in for the next meeting. DiGregorio states this is a living document and will be changing as members change from the groups. Chairman Nord asks Mark McCabe of Region 1 to see if it is complete. Plymouth and Dukes County is missing. Region 2, Mr. Ryan McGovern states he is satisfied with the data for region 2. Region 5, no data is shown for any of their information. Chairman Nord asks region 5 to please resend data to Korina? Central MA District 7 and 14 are missing. David DiGregorio states he and Korina received an email that we will be getting information but did not receive an email with the information to share with the Council. Chairman Nord asks the central region to reach out to districts 7 and 14 to send their data to Korina for next meeting. Western Tech Rescue data looks up to date give or take a person or two.

c. **Review, discuss, and potential vote the borders of the Regions.**

Chief Mansfield discusses the work of the map, moves made to brand UASI and better align the districts. Mr. DiGregorio goes into specifics of the proposed moves in the map boundaries to include the UASI group: Boston, Chelsea, Somerville, Everett, Revere, Chelsea, Brookline, Winthrop, and Quincy. The Southeast region will absorb: Wellesley, Dedham, Needham, Middleton, Braintree, and Weymouth. The Northeast region will absorb: Newton, Weston, Waltham, Watertown, Belmont, Arlington, Wakefield, Lexington, Medford, Malden, Melrose, Saugus, Lynn, Stoneham, Winchester, Woburn, Burlington, and Reading. This dovetails with the next business of the steering committee. Mansfield make motion to approve the five regions as shown in the latest mapping dated 09-2020. Iain McGregor seconded the motion.

The council clarifies, once the Council votes the new recommendation will be sent to the Secretary to adopt the regions. No further discussion. Vote was unanimous by roll call.

d. **Discussion/Vote on Regional Steering Committees member qualifications, and duties/responsibilities.**

This information comes from the steering committee discussions in the past few meetings. Mr. DiGregorio reads the proposed steering committee verbatim:

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. 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.

The following specific recommendations are made as to the organization and operation of district steering committees:

1. Each Technical Rescue district will have a steering committee
2. District Steering Committees serve as the communications linkage between the system and local needs through the Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council (MTRCC). Reports, needs, concerns, etc. from the steering committees will be directed to the MTRCC and each will receive information, including meeting minutes, answers and inquiries from the Council. Such does not preclude direct communication between the MTRCC and the steering committee and its members, but will serve as the formal communications channel.
3. The District Technical Rescue Team Coordinators and Training Coordinators serve as voting members of the committee.
4. Each steering committee shall, each year, elect a chair of the committee who shall be a voting member.
5. No committee chair may serve more than two (2) consecutive years as chair.
6. Other positions within the committee may be elected or appointed by the chair as each committee determines.
7. Each district steering committee shall meet no less than once per quarter annually.

Chair Nord requests the mention of district be replaced with region to avoid confusion with the current Tech Rescue Districts. Chief Mansfield makes the motion to accept the proposed formation and governance as read with the amendments made to strike the word district and adding the word region. Motion was seconded by Marshal Ostroskey. Vote was made unanimously. Chief Nord requests we get the notification out to the mailing list. Steve Rourke thinks a letter would be appropriate to add when sending. Wants the letter out next week with responses by October 1st. Marshal thinks October 1st is aggressive. Districts will have to assemble and decide. The region boundaries needs to

be sent in deciding. The Secretary still needs to make approval of the regions. The deadline for the steering committees is agreed to be December 1st. Peter Jerusik requests any communications to the steering committee are also sent to the entire council group in the event there are questions. Legal requests no deliberation be made when the emails are sent out.

e. **Discussion on status and needs of each regional team.**

Creation of Steering committee can come back and report to the council what their needs are for each team. Discussion regarding the letter received by Chief Anderson regarding the services and needs for their regions. Want to make sure the western ma team has long term sustainability. Clarification on operational oversight in form of the council and steering committee. Chair Nord requests to invite teams to the next council meetings to give brief oversight on where they stand and take an active role. Vice Chair mentions letter will let the teams know to appoint Steering Committee members to attend meetings. Marshal provides situational awareness on the status of Mass Task Force 1 has been deployed as a state resource.

4. **New Business**

a. **COVID PPE for Tech Rescue Teams.**

Chief Nord discusses the personal protection equipment for teams to have 72 hours supply for each person in order to meet the demands for working in a COVID environment. DiGregorio was getting kickback from some emails. Southeast has picked theirs up. Others have not. Gear is bundled on pallets by region and ready for pickup. Thank you to Samantha Phillips and the staff on their quick response to obtain the needs.

b. **Discuss council vacancy for the position of Member of Technical Rescue Team on behalf of all Statewide Technical Rescue Regions**

Responses from all the regions have been sent. We are waiting on a reply from the Governor's office appointing the new member.

c. **Strategic steps to move forward**

- **Discuss creation of Standing Subcommittees (Training, Equipment, Credentialing)**
- **Build a budget for future funds to support the Regional Teams with training/equipment**
- **Create and/or Adopt a Statewide Operational Guide**
- **Develop a uniform code of conduct for Team Members.**

Discussion that the creation of subcommittees would be made by the steering committee. Have a member of council on each committee so regions, districts, industries have participation in the subcommittees. Each subcommittee have at least one member of the regions and maybe a member of the council or fire industry. This is something to work offline to develop and bring to the next meeting. Subcommittee matrix to be made and

brought to the next meeting.

d. Discussion on amphibious vehicles.

Opportunity brought to us by the Undersecretary who received the opportunity from the private sector. We are in the process of taking a look at them and their ability in swift water.

5. Any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.

No discussion.

6. Future agenda items.

- Zoom meeting in the future for Western MA Chiefs.
- File Data requested for equipment and teams.
- Subcommittees' documentation.

7. Determination of future meeting date(s).

Begin scheduling meeting 4-6 weeks so we do not lose sight of what is needed for the council meetings. October 21st for the next meeting in the afternoon at 2pm.

Chairman Nord made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Chief Mansfield. Vote was made unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.