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CHIEF KEVIN NORD
CHAIRMAN

IAIN MCGREGOR
VICE CHAIR

MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE COORDINATING COUNCIL
October 21, 2020
(DRAFT)

The Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council held a meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. via Teams Meeting at Join Microsoft Teams Meeting 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

Deputy Chief O'Brian	Southeast Region
Mark McCabe	Southeast Region
Peter Burke	Southeast Region
Matt Belsito	Central Region

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Chief Kevin Nord, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 2:03 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 September 16, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. McGregor. Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was approved by unanimous roll call vote of the Council.

3. Old Business

a. Discuss surveys distributed to District Team Leaders.

Addition made to the survey to complete Region 1. Chief Mansfield states that Region 6 sent the survey data and will ensure we receive it. Director DiGregorio requests that all the equipment surveys be sent via excel document. Chair Nord is impressed with the skill levels and data submitted.

b. Discussion on status and needs of each regional team.

Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa asks for a timeline of the status. Chair Nord states January is the expected timeline. The teams are running.

It is reminded the applications to the Homeland Security Councils are out in March. The Councils are supposed to be sustaining but not requesting new equipment from the councils. It is important to move as quickly as possible. Funding is coming down in March and we want to prepare for that in 2021.

FEMA funds do not replace or sustain equipment through their funding. Marshal discusses that teams have concerns about sustainment funds because their equipment is expiring and will no longer be of use. This will be discussed under the budget.

c. **Discuss committee guidelines for equipment, training and membership.**

Iain McGregor discusses the three standing committee groups. Equipment, Membership and Training. The committees are designed so one member from each region on the committee, one member from the council, and DFS. Minimum of 7 with a maximum of 11 members for each committee so we can add subject matter experts.

DiGregorio discusses the committees that the Hazmat response teams have.

Iain agrees on a policy committee. The region would have training and region committee members to report back to the council.

DiGregorio starts discussion on membership. It is discussed to keep the teams how they are today for the time being. Teams exist, they have policies, procedures and have been working. Discussion continues to funding for all current member.

Discussion on the how the structure looks and what the organizations are looking for the committee to look like. Currently, FCAM wants to keep the model where it is right now. Undersecretary states we need to talk about the infrastructure of the group so we can request funding for the group. PFFM requests for the Tech Rescue group is to protect the members and make sure that this is sustainable. We need the infrastructure, model and sustainability. We can use Hazmat as a great guide to get the funding allotted to DFS and then distributed to the teams through the council. Discusses the regional committees to determine the standards and process.

Marshal made a motion to conceptually approve the committees, but would need a ratification of the description of the committees. One representative from each region not each sub region. Motion Seconded by Peter Jerusik. Unanimous vote.

d. **Approved Formation and Governance Letter.**

DiGregorio states the word district was replaced with region. The motion was made by Chair Nord to approve the letter with the corrections. Motion seconded by Chief Mansfield.

Discussion on the structure of the committees and request that information get included into the group. We have not adopted the flow chart yet, At least have the formation and map sent out for now.

Vote on letter of governance of the steering committees and a map showing the regions. Unanimous vote.

4. New Business

a. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair.**

Moved to the end of the meeting to allow all current new and old business for this meeting to be under the same chair.

b. Discuss funding the Council.

Attorney Rourke references statute, Tech Rescue is in the department but not under its control. The control is administrative assistance. If the money is put into the trust the council can spend it in accordance with the provisions of the trust.

Discussion on operational side of funding. The only ones we can disburse funds to is municipalities once they are under the grant. Need to identify where the funding is from. Discussion on reimbursement for different scenarios and discussion on the current process.

Chief Mansfield discusses the need for funding when they spoke with Secretary Bennett was $1.5 to $2 million annually.

Discussion on the infrastructure of the Technical Rescue Program. Having the goals and objectives will help determine how to allocate funding. We are going to want to accomplish this before Secretary Turco leaves.

Discussion on the different view of how the Technical Rescue Program will look and the steps to get everyone on board to create a successful program. The majority of the current teams do not want to change. DFS is to act as the fiduciary to the Tech Rescue Council. Several scenarios of funding were questioned. Three areas of funding are needed to replace broken worn equipment, funding for a training facility, and funding for backfill to train. Form committees to help set priorities within regions and have a baseline that everyone is comfortable to start with.

Chief Mansfield discusses the committees and asking the team to submit their information now to have it available when the committees begin.

c. **Discuss response guidelines when responding out of a Teams Region.**

The response guidelines were developed by FCAM as run cards a number of years ago. The guidelines should fall under Fire Mobilization. How the regions back each other up. Roll up to a bigger response. Will need to consider typing process to get specific needs,

The Committees can help with team typing.

The matrix we are agree to the same thing just different verbage. The matrix was shared in the meeting. The region requests funding from the council. Timing is not ready yet to bring the regions together. Request to add this to the November meeting to discuss further. This map shows each region has control of their teams but will go through their Committee members to request funding from the Trust. Rourke this is a coordination council. The whole idea is for the Council at the top to make sure that each team is receiving what is needed as a big picture for all teams. Vast majority of responses there are no changes in regards to responding.

a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

Discussion on nominations. Chief Mansfield made a motion to nominate Chief Nord as Chair.

Peter Jerusik nominate Iain McGregor as Chair.

No second on either party. Iain McGregor nominated the Fire Marshal as Chair. Peter Jerusik seconded the Marshal as Chair. Discussion to have a neutral party because they could not decide. The Marshal declined because he is not sure it is appropriate due to his position on the board. The Marshal seconded both other nominations to continue to discussion.
Chief Mansfield states some work has been done and wants to keep the two current members in their positions as they are now to continue with their continuity.
Iain McGregor declined position of Chair at this point in time.
Unanimous vote for Chief Nord as Chair.

Chief Mansfield nominates Iain McGregor as Vice Chair. Undersecretary Benincasa seconded the nomination. Unanimous vote for Iain McGregor as Vice Chair to the Council.

5. Any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.

No discussion.

6. Future agenda items.

- HART.
- Matrix.
- Subcommittee.

7. Determination of future meeting date(s).

November 18th at 2:00pm and then in another 3 weeks to invite Committee members to the meeting.

Discussion of the COVID PPE.

Chairman Nord made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Marshal Ostroskey. Motion seconded by Chief Mansfield. Vote was made unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:54 p.m.