



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR

TERRENCE M. REIDY
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 MATTHEW BELSITO
CHAIRMAN

IAIN MCGREGOR
VICE CHAIR

MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
Joint Membership and Training Subcommittees
Approved

The Massachusetts Technical Rescue Joint Membership and Training Subcommittees held a virtual meeting in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A sec. 20 on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. and open to the public virtually through Microsoft Teams videoconference.

Present at the meeting were the following members:

Membership Subcommittee:

Deputy Chief Kelly Manning, Chair
Francis Otting
Robert Pensivy

Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Region 2
Region 4

Training Subcommittee:

Iain McGregor, Chair
Paul Morrison
John Weir

Professional Firefighters of Mass
Region 2
Region 5

Deputy Director of Special Operations, Paul Betti

DFS

Absent at the meeting were the following members:

Membership Subcommittee:

Shawn Simmons
Pat Sullivan
Paul Pronco

Region 1
Region 3
Region 5

Training Subcommittee:

Mark McCabe
Tom Rinoldo
Steven Chandler

Region 1
Region 3
Region 4

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Kelly Manning opened the meeting at approximately 13:06.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting – December 27, 2024

Otting made motion to approve, second by Weir. All in favor after roll call vote.

3. Discuss tech rescue sub-committee correspondence

Only correspondence was between Manning and Betti about membership application scoring tool/matrix.

4. Old Business

a. Finalize NFPA Matrix Document

Discussion about making it more action or task-specific. Iain states he utilized NFPA wording from standard; water was added. 8 hours would be the minimum standard for water annually (for members already trained). Some topics or skills are covered over multiple disciplines. Discussion of motorized watercraft versus non-motorized; standard has distinction between the two.

Revisited the intention of the document - Not all teams do training the same way and different number of hours. Will be important to ensure standardization across the board. If we follow the hazmat model, this will ensure that you can visit a different district to get the same or similar drill.

- Betti states will help with budgeting discussion and holding all regions to the same standards
- Weir states it will give a framework for all teams to build into and perhaps will take a period of time to get everyone on the same page. It could be difficult to utilize if it is not flexible enough.
- Otting states we may need a topic called “emerging specialty” to cover topics that make come up such as large animal rescue, tower rescue, FFE, etc. Pensivy states it could be titled “region specific disciplines.” McGregor reports that there are NFPA standards for region specific training topics.

We will see a final version of the matrix for the next meeting. McGregor asks Pensivy to look over water section and come up with a time requirement for motorized versus non-motorized craft operations.

b. Review revised membership application

Betti comments that would would need to change the verbiage “an active member affiliated with a recognized regional technical rescue team” would need to be changed to “regional, district, or county team.”

Betti states he went to Glenn Rooney to confirm the MGL that would be in the membership document. Rooney reported that this is not set in stone yet so an MGL cannot be listed.

Address to submit membership applications will be sent to Deputy Director to be sent to steering committee, per the hazmat model.

Betti has updated scoring matrix with membership training requirements.

McGregor made motion to bring this membership application to the full council meeting in February, second by Weir. All voted in favor of this.

5. New Business

- a. Review draft scoring tool

Betti walked the group through the scoring tool and some of the scoring categories (i.e. years in the fire service, years on a tech rescue team, role on current team rescue team). These changes are in line with the items on the membership application.

There are also scoring features that take into account of number of openings in region, distance away from squad hub, and some other areas that Betti is experimenting with. Weir stated that we need to figure out if there is a benefit to having members spread out in the region or away from the squad hub. Some of these categories may not be applicable. Betti commented that in the case of hazmat, there is some value of having techs spread out throughout district, rather than having multiple members from the same city or town.

Ultimately the goal of the scoring tool is to increase objectivity in review of the applications. Paul Morrison corroborates the importance of having the objectivity in writing. He states that the distance from the hub could be decided with regional leadership and the office at the time of membership review. Betti states this will take pressure off steering committees and also to ensure that there is a similar process followed by all steering committees. Members agreed that there is value in tool in terms of transparency when ranking candidates.

Manning asks Betti to send the scoring tool out for the group to look closely out. Manning asks about there being a minimum score and how often a member on a waiting list needs to resubmit an application. Hazmat uses three years. Manning will add to application that prospective members should resubmit an application every three years.

Put on agenda for next month's meeting to continue to discuss; Betti will send out of all members to play around with.

6. Any matters not reasonably anticipated

None.

7. Tasks and Assignments

- a. Manning will make minor changes to application and send to Chairman Belsito.
- b. Iain to finalize NFPA Matrix document.
- c. Betti to send out scoring tool to group.

8. Future Agenda Items

- a. Finalize NFPA Matrix Document
- b. Review draft scoring tool.

9. Determination of future meeting dates

February 25, 2025 at 1 pm.

Motion made by Otting to adjourn, second by McGregor. Meeting adjourned 14:06.