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IAIN MCGREGOR  
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE**  
**Joint Membership and Training Subcommittees**

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, May 27, 2025 at 11:00 a.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  
Paul Pronco

Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.  
Region 2  
Region 5

**Training Subcommittee:**

Iain McGregor, Chair  
Mark McCabe  
Deputy Director of Special Operations, Paul Betti

Professional Firefighters of Mass  
Region 1  
DFS

**Absent** at the meeting were the following members:

**Membership Subcommittee:**

Shawn Simmons  
Pat Sullivan  
Robert Pensivy

Region 1  
Region 3  
Region 4

**Training Subcommittee:**

Paul Morrison  
Tom Rinoldo  
Steven Chandler

Region 2  
Region 3  
Region 4

John Weir

Region 5

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

Kelly Manning opened the meeting at approximately 11:05.

## **2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting – January 21, 2025**

Betti made motion to approve, seconded by McCabe. All in favor.

## **3. Discuss tech rescue sub-committee correspondence**

None.

## **4. Old Business**

### **a. NFPA Matrix Document/Training Hours Breakdown**

- Betti shared the training hours breakdown on the screen, which accounted for **80 hours** rather than the expected **88 hours**. McGregor explained that the additional hours come from miscellaneous categories such as region-specific training, FFE, tower rescue, large animal rescue, etc. He then shared an updated matrix that included these categories.
- The group discussed making water rescue training descriptions neater. Otting emphasized the importance of including these items in the matrix so they can be factored into budgets and training plans. While these miscellaneous categories may total more than 88 hours in a given year, McGregor noted that not all are covered annually—some are ongoing training for members already trained in those disciplines.
- McGregor will send the updated document to confirm everyone is comfortable with the listed hours and descriptions. He noted that some skills may overlap with other categories or concepts covered throughout the year.
- Betti asked about JPRs for these skills, and McGregor said he will finalize the wording first, then add matching JPRs. He will also check whether FFE is covered under NFPA 1006.
- The group also discussed whether “motorized watercraft” and “moving water” should be separate categories, noting that some regions may not need these as primary training areas.

### **b. Review membership application status**

- The membership application is scheduled to go to a vote at the next full council meeting. Betti presented the draft scoring tool and opened discussion on its use:
  - Should DFS staff input each applicant’s information to generate a score, or should the applicant complete the tool themselves? This is a question of who handles data entry.
- Otting asked how often a candidate would need to reapply.
- Manning asked if Paul has sufficient staff to manage data input.
  - Betti noted that data entry could be overwhelming during the initial stages of team launches.
  - Manning suggested using Excel spreadsheets within the application process (similar to grant applications) to reduce the burden on DFS staff.
  - Betti expressed openness to having applicants fill out the tool, with limits on how fields can be completed.

## **Other Discussion Points:**

- Applications should not be submitted from Region 2.
- Applicants would have a defined timeframe for review.
- Review of the data entry tabs to ensure accuracy.
- Betti explained efforts to "make the math work" by scoring applicants based on geographic location and proximity to vehicle assets.
  - McCabe stated that member location relative to equipment hubs is not critical, since departments can provide support in moving assets.
  - Betti agreed to remove this factor from the score sheet.
- Goal is to combine the application and scoring tool so applicants complete one form, with scoring calculated behind the scenes to reduce repetitive data entry.

#### **Training Validation:**

- Discussion on whether candidates should submit certificates or if reviewers should verify via the LMS system.
- Consideration for out-of-state training: Otting suggested applicants provide an attestation that all information is factual.

#### **Scoring Adjustments:**

- Weir asked how scores would account for submission timing and openings available.
- Manning noted that relying solely on a mathematical formula may be problematic; the steering committee may need to manually adjust based on each region's specific needs.

#### **5. New Business**

None.

#### **6. Any matters not reasonably anticipated**

None.

#### **7. Tasks and Assignments**

- Manning/McGregor to continue to work with Betti on scoring tool.
- McGregor to finalize NFPA Matrix document.
- Betti to send out scoring tool to group.

#### **8. Future Agenda Items**

- Finalize NFPA Matrix Document
- Review draft scoring tool.

#### **9. Determination of future meeting dates**

June 24, 2025 at 1pm.

Motion made by McCabe to adjourn, second by Pronco. Meeting adjourned 11:46.