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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, August 19, 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
Paul Pronco

Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Region 2
Region 4
Region 5

Training Subcommittee:

Iain McGregor
Paul Morrison
Tom Rinoldo
John Weir

PFFM
Region 2
Region 3
Region 5

Deputy Director of Special Operations, Paul Betti

DFS

Absent at the meeting were the following members:

Membership Subcommittee:

Shawn Simmons
Pat Sullivan

Region 1
Region 3

Training Subcommittee:

Mark McCabe
Steven Chandler

Region 1
Region 4

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Kelly Manning opened the meeting at approximately 1:03pm.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting – May 27, 2025

Rinaldo made motion to approve, seconded by Otting. All in favor.

3. Discuss tech rescue sub-committee correspondence

Pensivy reports that he just received spreadsheet for training hours from McGregor and he has been working on adding the items for motorized boat ops.

4. Old Business

a. NFPA Matrix Document/Training Hours Breakdown

- Pensivy shared spreadsheet for group to view. Reports he broke training hours up between flat water operations and swift water operations for motorized boats. He reports he is not sure how far things are going to go on the swiftwater side with motorized boats. Two hours of flatwater operations and two for swiftwater, although swiftwater boats may require more. Topics covered include trailering and putting motors on and off (swift and flatwater) and navigating in the water, victim retrieval.
- Betti reports miscellaneous category at 24 hours now – he had not seen this version of the matrix before. Pensivy confirms that this is an additional amount of training on top of the 80 hours. Otting reports that there was a previous discussion regarding taking 8 hours and compensating up to 88 hours annually. Discussion regarding how some of these miscellaneous categories would be incorporated into normal team training and perhaps special stations or parts of the training would be applicable to those members who needed it (Rinaldo gives example of Field Force Extrication).
- Betti asks how we maintain a list of members that are trained in the very specific miscellaneous disciplines. The teams have specific protocols of which members deploy to respond to the specialty roles. Rinaldo reports that this would likely be a requirement of individual team leadership to report the members operating in specialty disciplines to DFS in the future.
- Discussion of Standardization of Training – how to incorporate the same topic across all teams so members can make up topic at a non-team training. Might be more difficult to accomplish this in the tech rescue world as opposed to hazmat, however the teams could work on a system to post or publish their training schedules if make ups were needed. Betti wants to figure out how to track training hours in D4H before we transition.

b. Draft Scoring Tool for membership applications

- Betti shares screen. Goes through some of the revisions he made and went into detail discussion removing a member's residential distance from a hub in the application. McCabe reported at an earlier meeting that this was not as important as initially perceived. This was removed but he left in place number of team openings on regional team and number of members already from that county or district. Manning reports that these metrics may not be as relevant after the teams are initially populated with members. Betti states the intention is to leave these metrics in place for the long term. Generally speaking, the purpose of this tool is to have standardization across all teams. Other tweaks were discussed including streamlining how applicants would select their region/area.
- Clarifying attendance in Operations Level Dive rescue – after much discussion it was decided to not include dive certifications as part of the training scoresheet on the membership application since at this time it is not going to fall under the purview of the regional technical rescue teams.

- Team to review scoring tool at next meeting after changes are made.

5. New Business

None.

6. Any matters not reasonably anticipated

Discussion of what's next for this subcommittee – Betti

- Betti is concerned that steering committee may not be active in all regions. Some questions – is the steering committee list accurate? Are they actually ready to go and do they understand their charter and what their slated to do to help us start up the regional teams? They perhaps have not met due to not feeling like they have work to do yet. They are probably going to need some training in terms of how they use the scoring tool and methods of inputting the data in a consistent manner. Discussion of creation of a job aid and direction for the scoring tool. Discussion of what happens when scores come up the same – what is the tie breaker? An interview? McGregor states that everyone starting this is probably on a team already so steering committee members should have some knowledge of them. Existing teams have probably filtered out those individuals who are not working out.
- Betti mentions other team positions – team leader, training coordinator, equipment/vehicle managers. Discussion that these positions will truly be required to make the teams run and should have parity pay-wise (stipends) to hazmat. Need to start building those definitions and the requirement son how someone would apply for those positions, i.e. job descriptions. Each regional team currently could provide current job descriptions to help with crafting these roles.
- Discussion of maintaining standardization with Region 2 for purposes of deploying and operating together (Morrison).
- Another future agenda item along these lines are Betti's office job positions, similar to hazmat/spec ops to help manage a tech rescue team.

7. Tasks and Assignments

a.

8. Future Agenda Items

- a. Job aid for how to use the scoring matrix
- b. Team positions with job descriptions
- c. Adding Future Stipends
- d. Paul's office positions

9. Determination of future meeting dates

September 23, 2025 at 1 pm.

Motion made by Otting to adjourn, second by Weir. Meeting adjourned 2:31pm.