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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, October 8, 2024 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

Paul Pronco

Deputy Director of Special Operations, Paul Betti

Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.

Region 5

DFS

Training Subcommittee:

Iain McGregor, Chair

Mark McCabe

Steven Chandler

Professional Firefighters of Mass

Region 1

Region 4

Absent at the meeting were the following members:

Membership Subcommittee:

Shawn Simmons

Francis Otting

Pat Sullivan

Robert Pensivy

Region 1

Region 2

Region 3

Region 4

Training Subcommittee:

Paul Morrison

Tom Rinoldo

John Weir

Region 2

Region 3

Region 5

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Kelly Manning opened the meeting at approximately 1:05 p.m.

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

Director Betti made motion, second by Chandler. All in favor after roll call vote.

3. Discuss tech rescue sub-committee correspondence

No correspondence for either training or membership.

4. Old Business

- a. Review Training Sub-Committee specific of training requirements: Chandler
Chandler reports that he does not have this ready to present today. He states that he will have it for the next meeting and will try to send it out for review prior to next meeting. Director Betti does ask specifically about swift water and the minimum amount of hours that would add to training requirements. Chandler reports that it would likely add approximately 6-8 hours of requirements to meet minimum standards. Betti reports that he is asking to make sure that he has factored the a realistic number into the budget as a placeholder for training requirements; right now 88 hours is factored in.
Other discussion: Betti reports that 88 hours is a good round number to have eleven, 8 hour drills. It may be challenging to have a 9 or 10 hour long drill day. Manning mentions that hazmat can cap out at 96 hours, with 88 at a minimum. Fenway was a good selling point to corroborate the number of training hours that are being asked for.
McGregor mentions that Chandler has already put together training specific requirements for rope. He will email and put it out in the sharepoint.
- b. Training hours based on specific training requirements – incorporated with item A.
- c. Membership road map moving forward with standing up teams – will discuss during new business.

5. New Business

- a. Training document plan / integration with D4H
We should start discussing what the plan is for utilizing D4H at the subcommittee level; build parameters for putting existing teams into software. Director Betti states that he has had discussion with his management and they have reported that we cannot move forward with this until the bill is passed. McGregor reports that he would like to have this put on the agenda of the next meeting of TRCC; he states that not permitting the implementation of this now seems different than what was originally discussed. Getting the software in place would really help streamline the EMAC requests, particularly from a salary and equipment standpoint.
There was also discussion on financials regarding financial support from DFS for EMAC requests.
- b. Membership application form/scoring

The group is looking at the Western Mass Form and an excel spreadsheet created by Director Betti to assist with scoring for steering committees; neither of these forms have been approved yet. A third document based on the Western Mass document is also out there that was tailored with DFS logos. Manning had a few comments regarding adding some data points that were captured on the excel sheet that were not yet in the PDF document for a prospective candidate to fill out (i.e. career versus call, years on the fire department, etc.)

Discussion of a personal statement from the candidate versus the application being scored objectively. Discussion of putting hazmat tech, paramedic, and medical specialist to training questionnaire. Paul Pronco stated that he had discussed about having so many medic slots per team and this would likely be the only situation he thought where

a medic should get preference. McCabe stated he thought that would be good just to understand what exactly the candidate is looking for, but the candidate statement wouldn't be part of the scoring. As for hazmat tech, he felt that if there was a question of the need for hazmat, the IC could request a Tier 1. Discussion of omitting medical specialist because they likely would not have that training without first having membership to the team, per McCabe.

Western Mass document shows a column for the candidate to indicate whether they are trained or certified. Generally speaking, Proboard was not going to be required. It was also discussed as to whether the application should be tailored to each region depending on hazards in that region. Betti also reports that he feels that a metric that should be recorded is how many years of membership that you may have to a county or district team. We would want to keep the pages that have chief and union sign off, similar to hazmat.

We talked about where the applications should be sent to, discussion of whether DFS should forward them to the appropriate steering committees – especially because steering committee members change often. Director Betti to check with Stephanie Demarco regarding how hazmat does it. Stephanie replied to Betti's request for information about this during the meeting and reported that she collects applications and forwards them to the steering committees if the candidate meets the requirements for team membership. If not, she files the application.

The group discussed other minimums such as water and structural collapse on the document. We would add water and structural collapse to the "green list" on the Western Mass Form. [The green list is a list of required courses – each candidate must have at least one discipline on the green list]. Discussion on minimum numbers of technicians with competencies in certain areas. McCabe mentions ensuring that whatever we choose, we do not bottleneck the steering committees.

Recap – work on streamlining membership form to have something for group to look at next meeting.

6. Any matters not reasonably anticipated

None.

7. Tasks and Assignments

- a. Chandler with NFPA matrix
- b. Director Betti to work on excel sheet; Manning will work on PDF membership form.

8. Future Agenda Items

None at this time. Manning will send an email to the group prior to setting next meeting's agenda.

9. Determination of future meeting dates

November 12, 2024 at 1 pm.