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Coordinating Council

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MATTHEW BELSITO
CHAIRMAN

IAIN MCGREGOR
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL**

April 17, 2024

Approved

The Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council held a virtual meeting in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A § 20 on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. and open to the public virtually through Microsoft Teams videoconference.

Present at the meeting were the following Council members:

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chair
Iain McGregor, Vice Chair
Deputy Chief Kelly Manning
Jason Saunders
Jon Davine
Susan Terrey

Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
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State Fire Marshal
Deputy Secretary for EOPSS

Absent from the meeting were the following Commission members:

DFS Employees in Attendance:

Glenn Rooney
Maribel Fournier
David Clemons
Jeff Winn
Paul Betti

Legal Counsel to the Board
Deputy State Fire Marshal
Director of Operations
Director of Hazardous Materials Response
Deputy Director of Special Operations

Other Attendees

Mark McCabe
Francis Otting
Jon Martin
Daryl Springman
Chief Sirios

Region 1
Region 2
Region 3
Region 4
Region 4

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 1:03 p.m. The Chair introduced himself, followed by the introductions of the Council members, Department of Fire Services' employees, and public members in attendance.

2. **Approval of March 27, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Deputy Secretary Terrey made a motion to accept the minutes from March 27, 2024, seconded by Iain McGregor. A unanimous roll call vote was completed, no further discussion.

3. **Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence**

Some correspondence between Iain McGregor and Paul Betti regarding call response data. Also, some additional correspondence between Paul Betti and the regional team directors regarding new member selection for the equipment subcommittee.

4. **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Equipment – nothing to report
- b. Policy/SOG – Chief Belsito indicated that they will be meeting next month
- c. Training – Iain McGregor stated that the team discussed the activation flyer. They decided to hold off on building out the flowchart till more information is received. Next joint meeting will be on 5/8/24
- d. Membership – see above
- e. Mobex – Iain McGregor indicated that the meeting was postponed to 6/18/24

5. **Regional Reports**

- a. Region 1 – Mark McCabe reported the following details for each County team. Plymouth County had no call outs but did rope training. Norfolk County had no call outs will be completing water rescue training. Barnstable County had 0 call outs and didn't conduct any training. Bristol County had 1 call for large animal rescue and completed medical specialist training. Dukes County did complete rope refresher training but had no call outs this month.
- b. Region 2 – Francis Otting reported that Quincy did training with their dive team. Boston Special Operations continued their normal training. Somerville hosted 2 joint drills with Cambridge. The first one was a person stuck in trash compactor. The second drill was a worker trapped in a construction zone below grade.
- c. Region 3 – Jon Martin reported that D7 did oral & practical interviews for medical specialists, they had 8 candidates. The team completed highline training. One call out for a person stuck in tree, cancelled enroute.
- d. Region 4 – Daryl Springman stated that they had conducted trench rescue update training based on skills from members trained at MUSAR. Training with MSP Sert team on forced extraction. Successful with Homeland security, tentatively approved for 2 vehicles, equipment and additional training.
- e. Region 5 – Iain McGregor reported that they will be doing a trench rescue drill using an L shaped trench. 8 members did FFE standby for the marathon for NEMLEC.

6. **Old Business**

- a. Budget discussion

Paul Betti discussed the current budget that is a tweaked version of the original draft budget shown by Iain McGregor. This budget has region 2 budget costs removed. All the DFS required object codes were added in to incorporate full-time staff, equipment, supplies, and vehicle maintenance. The budget as it stands right now would be \$4.77M annually. We also reviewed the initial spreadsheet that Iain McGregor assembled which is the cost breakdown of funding needed to pay the 4 regional teams for stipend, training and call response based of 80 members on each team. The training hours were adjusted to 95 hours as an average, this came

in at \$3.99M which is embedded in the overall budget of \$4.77M. Maribel Fournier stated that this is a good start but would need further scrutiny before proceeding. Paul Betti then shared the call response data collected by Iain McGregor from all regions from 2017 to 2023. The numbers were 297 total calls, which comes to 4.2 calls per team per year. Based on the call types we analyzed, it showed that the mean for team members is 14.9 members per call. This is a work in progress as we still have 1 team with data outstanding as this does impact the budget calculations if the data suggests a team size change.

7. **New Business**

Equipment subcommittee rebuilding

Paul Betti shared the information regarding the rebuilding of the equipment subcommittee. Jason Saunders volunteered to take the chair position vacated when Chief Mansfield left the council. Chief Belsito contacted all other members of the subcommittee to see if they would continue with this team. Chief Smith can't continue as the rep for region 3 so Chief Belsito is working with Chief Sullivan to get a new rep. Daryl Springman got us a new rep for region 4 in Jesse Phelps. Eric Pepper is working on a replacement rep for region 5. This team has been on hiatus for over a year, but a lot of work is outstanding.

8. **Any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair**

9. **Future Agenda Items**

10. **Determination of future meeting date**

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 3:00pm virtually. This was pulled in by a day due to FCAM conflict on 5/22.

Fire Marshal Davine made a motion to adjourn, Deputy Secretary Terrey seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:39pm.