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MATTHEW BELSITO

CHAIRMAN

IAIN MCGREGOR

VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL**

April 24, 2026

Approved

The Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council held a meeting in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A § 20 on Friday, April 24, 2026, at 2:00 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
Jason Saunders
Jon Davine
Susan Terrey

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

Absent from the meeting were the following Council members:

Deputy Chief Kelly Manning
Mark McCabe

Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Regional Technical Rescue Team

DFS Employees in Attendance:

Maribel Fournier
Glenn Rooney
Tim Gallagher
Paul Betti
Kerry Marcotte

Deputy State Fire Marshal
Legal Counsel to the Board
Director HazMat & Special Operations
Deputy Director Special Operations
Admin to HazMat & Special Operations

Other Attendees:

Neil Tuepker
Corey Pimental
Francis Otting
Mike Lydon
Sean White
Dave Randolph
Shawn Green
Seth Colby
Daryl Springman
RJ Pensivy
Dan Kelleher

Region 1
Region 1
Region 2
Region 2
Region 2
Region 2
Region 3
Region 3
Region 4
Region 4
Region 5

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 2:05 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 past Meeting Minutes

Marshal Davine made a motion to accept the minutes from March 30, 2026, seconded by Vice Chair McGregor, no further discussion.

3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence

Marshal Davine shared an email with Chair Belsito and Paul Betti about a thank you to the Region 4 team from a citizen that was rescued in Stockbridge at Laura's Tower.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Equipment – Jason Saunders stated that the team met on April 1st. Discussion around scrubbing the equipment list to remove dive and police assets from the list. Comparing our team to HazMat, they have equipment managers and truck managers. There may be a chance to consolidate positions depending on where the equipment is located. In some of the larger regions that may not be possible due to the number of vehicles.
- b. Membership – Paul Betti delivered Deputy Mannings report from the meeting on April 14th. Work is continuing on writing the job descriptions for team director, assistant team director, training coordinator and assistant training coordinator. Last few tweaks happening to align the verbiage. The main changes were to make the positions appointed by the steering committee versus elections. When done these documents will go to the SOG subcommittee for proper formatting. Next meeting is scheduled for May 27th.
- c. Training – Vice Chair McGregor explained that they completed the training matrix. It will list the required training annually with some optional training that would be done as fill-ins. Next step is to send to SOG subcommittee for review.
- d. Policy/SOG – Chair Belsito shared that the team met this morning before the council meeting. The team is awaiting the 4 documents from membership. The team has also agreed to start reviewing the Conops document.
- e. MOBEX – Vice Chair McGregor explained that he will be scheduling a budget meeting with DFS.

5. Regional Reports

- a. Region 1 – no report
- b. Region 2 – Francis Otting reported that Boston completed trench rescue and protestor extrication training. They also mobilized 3 extrication teams for the Boston marathon. For call outs they had multiple elevator runs and two jumpers from buildings. Somerville did billboard rappelling as well as shoring a car into a building.
- c. Region 3 – Shawn Green reported that D14 did Confined Space training in Marlboro. They simulated a call with 3 people trapped in a vault 3 levels down. They had to set up air monitoring and operate the whole

time on breathing air. The unique design forced them to use different style lowering and hauling systems.

- d. Region 4 – Daryl Springman stated that the team did rope rescue training at Six Flags in Agawam. The weather cut the drill short, but they did get to some evolutions on different rides. They sponsored 2 external classes paid for by HLS. A 4-day water technician class for 12 members, and a 3-day boat operator class for 12 members. They had 1 call out for a individual with an open fracture stuck in a gorge on the Granville/Southwick line. For EMAC deployment the western mass chiefs have formed a small committee to investigate this. Concern is financial ramifications and whether they should even move forward without the legislation being passed.
- e. Region 5 – Vice Chair McGregor stated that they did tower training on a cell tower in Saugus. This drill was spread across 3 days as they could only get so many people on a tower at one time. Still working with HLS as the funding used for backfill & overtime must now be funded at 100% per EOPSS decision. This means there is no longer enough funding to cover all their drills for the year. Working with county chiefs to determine how this will play out if the HLS funding only covers half of the drills. For now, there are no drills scheduled for May & June. They had no call outs and were still holding at 49 active members.
- f. MA TF1 – no report

6. **Old Business**

a. Legislation update

Glenn Rooney stated that there was no change as both bills still sit in Ways and Means.

b. Review of Steering & Subcommittee membership

Paul Betti updated everyone on the status of the steering committees. Region 2 Francis Otting submitted a change to add PJ Halloran to the equipment subcommittee; PJ is replacing Mike Moran. All subcommittees now have representation from all regions. For regional steering committees, Region 2 submitted 2 changes. Chief Joe Minehan replaced Chief Mike Moran and PJ Halloran replaced Mike Lee. Region 3 changes are still pending, as Chief Smith will move into Chief Sullivan's position and then Chief Smith will vacate the technician at large slot. Then a technician from D7, D8 or D14 would have to fill that open slot. There is one issue that must be fixed in Region 5 in that a technician at large spot is now being held by an officer that was promoted, we also need confirmation on all other slots.

7. **New Business**

a. Input for annual report

Paul Betti asked for input on the annual report that he will present at next month's council meeting. Open for input on anything that someone feels should be in the report. Chair Belsito shared that he would like a statement about the accepted language change for the bill that came from FCAM and PFFM.

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

Chair Belsito brought up that he would like to revisit the budget for the team. Another year has gone by and pay rates have increased. Paul Betti added that the membership subcommittee has been revisiting the positions and the stipends needed so that would also increase the overall budget.

Mike Lydon brought up the dive component for the upcoming MATRS event in

September. Mike is looking for assistance from all regions to find members of the dive teams that may be interested in helping plan the event.

Paul Betti shared that the medical specialist class is happening next week at MA TF 1 in Beverly. There are members from Region 2, 3 & 4 in attendance, plus some council members that will be attending the night ops portion on 4/30.

Paul Betti shared that on May 8th there is the New England Rescue Collaborative (NERC) lab happening in Manchester NH. This is being run by PJ Halloran, he extended the invite to all members of the council.

Vice Chair McGregor shared that the next MATRS quarterly meeting is on May 7th 10:00-14:00 in Melrose.

9. Future Agenda Items

10. Determination of future meeting date

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2025, at 11:00 am held virtually.

Marshal Davine made a motion to adjourn; Vice Chair McGregor seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:44 pm.