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MATTHEW BELSITO
CHAIRMAN

IAIN MCGREGOR
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL**

July 24, 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, July 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. and open to the public virtually through Microsoft Teams videoconference.

Present at the meeting were the following Council members:

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chair
Deputy Chief Kelly Manning
Iain McGregor, Vice Chair
Jason Saunders
Mark McCabe
Jon Davine

Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Regional Technical Rescue Team
State Fire Marshal

Absent from the meeting were the following Council members:

Susan Terrey

Deputy Secretary for EOPSS

DFS Employees in Attendance:

Maribel Fournier (Designee)
Glenn Rooney
Rachel Perlman
David Clemons
Paul Betti

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

Other Attendees

Neil Tuepker
Francis Otting
Paul Morrison
Michael Moran
Michael Lydon
Shawn Donovan

Region 1
Region 2
Region 2
Region 2
Region 2
Region 2

Bob Bottary	Region 2
Tom Rinoldo	Region 3
Jon Martin	Region 3
RJ Pensivy	Region 4
Alan Sirios	Region 4

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 10:03 a.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 June 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Jason Saunders made a motion to accept the minutes from June 26, 2024, seconded by Mark McCabe. A unanimous roll call vote was completed, no further discussion.

3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence

Some correspondence between Paul Betti and Mike Moran from Boston regarding Region 2 budget, see new business.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Equipment – Jason Saunders reported that they had the team met on July 15th. The main topic was reviewing the vehicle survey, this was displayed on the screen. The survey was tailored to get an assessment of the 5 regions for boats, trucks and trailers. For boats, is it used for swift, surface or dive. Who hosts the vehicles, is the vehicle multipurpose and is it stored inside or outside. Questions on what the primary mission is, is it for confined space, structural, trench, swift water, rope or large animal. Distribution will be through regional reps as well as team leadership. The team is asking for the survey to be returned by October 1st.
- b. Membership – Deputy Chief Manning reported that the next scheduled joint meeting is August 27th.
- c. Training – same as above, Vice Chair McGregor added that they are still working on the NFPA training matrix.
- d. Policy/SOG – Chair Belsito indicated that they had no meeting in July due to vacations, next scheduled meeting is August 20th.
- e. Mobex – the subcommittee is still on hiatus.

5. Regional Reports

- a. Region 1 – Mark McCabe reported the following details for each County team. Plymouth County had dive training, a shoring drill and high angle recovery training as well as a call out for dive standby to support a triathlon in Cohasset. Norfolk County responded to Canton for an individual in the rafters at a basketball court, training completed on rope and skill stations for new devices they received. Barnstable County had 3 call outs for a missing person, they also completed their monthly training. Bristol County had 1 call out for large animal rescue in Swansea, they also completed a team training exercise. Dukes County had no update.
- b. Region 2 – Paul Morrison reported minimal training was done due to vacations. Focus was put on preparation for the 4th of July events on the Charles River, marine and dive assets were assigned. Boston had a call out for an emotionally disturbed jumper above the O'Neil tunnel that they assisted with ropes.

- c. Region 3 – Jon Martin reported D7 training is paused for month of July, they will be doing shoring training in August. D14 had 2 large animal rescues, 1 in Sterling and 1 in Holden that was canceled while enroute, training also paused for month of July.
- d. Region 4 – Chief Sirios stated they that regular monthly training occurred. In August they will be partnering with local ski patrol, and in September there will be a multi discipline drill. 12 members will be attending a swift water class. Acquisition of high-water vehicle is ongoing.
- e. Region 5 – Vice Chair McGregor reported that they had no activations, monthly training next week will focus on equipment familiarization & maintenance drill. September drill will be search for missing person. Team membership still at 50 members.

6. **Old Business**

- a. MATRS event on 9/12

Vice Chair McGregor gave an update on this event where MATRS partnered with Boston Fire for this training event at Fenway Park. Registration is live, so far teams have been submitted from Boston, UASI, Northeast and Western Mass. Chair Belsito stated that Region 3 names will be submitted today. The details are that each team will be made up of 12 people. Working on building out details of VIP viewing of the event. There is also an event in Newton on 9/11 with an evening dinner and a guest speaker that is open to all. Details of what each teams needs will be sent to all team leaders. Shawn Donovan spoke to that Fenway will hold to 100 people max, will need names in advance and need to sign hold harmless. The stations will be rope based, Boston Fire will be testing out the stations in 2 weeks. This event is happening during a Fenway Park concert move in day. Currently 3 stations so 2 teams will be working together. Boston Sparks A10 will be there providing food. Parking will be close to the park, staging of equipment can be done in advance if needed.

7. **New Business**

- a. FY24 annual report review and approval

Paul Betti shared the report on the screen and then highlighted report details that he put together based on old meeting minutes as well as conversations with the Chair & Vice Chair. Report includes details on personnel movement, subcommittee status, adding water rescue to response scope, training requirements, activation flyer, Agawam training event last year and Boston event this year, call data analysis and initial budget with modified team size. Plans for the council are waiting for legislative approval. Glenn Rooney stated that it is an annual requirement to be sent to the secretary of EOPSS as well as the clerks of the house & senate per Chapter 29 section 2 DDDDD. In the future it will require reporting on funds distribution. Jason Saunders made a motion to accept report as written, this was seconded Deputy Chief Manning. A unanimous roll call vote was completed, no further discussion.

- b. Legislation status

Chair Belsito was asking Paul Betti for an update, Paul deferred to Vice Chair McGregor to update the team on the status. The large bill (\$1596) and small bill (\$2535) are still in committee. The large bill at ways & means, the small bill is at senate rules committee. The process is Senate vote and then to the House, and then to governor for signature.

- c. Region 2 budget

Chair Belsito asked Paul Betti if he wanted to discuss the Region 2 budget question. Mike Moran contacted Paul Betti about Region 2 budget not having any \$ under call response so how would reimbursement be handled if Region 2 went to mutual aid for another region. Vice

Chair McGregor said we must create policies and procedures for this. Paul Betti to research internally to DFS on how compensation would be handled. Paul Betti will bring what he finds back to the council.

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

9. **Future Agenda Items**

10. **Determination of future meeting date**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 10:00am virtually.

Deputy Chief Manning made a motion to adjourn, Mark McCabe seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:46am.