



MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TERRENCE M. REIDY
SECRETARY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Department of Fire Services
Massachusetts Technical Rescue
Coordinating Council
P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road
Stow, Massachusetts 01775
(978) 567-3150 Fax:(978) 567-3155



IAIN MCGREGOR
CHAIRMAN

MATTHEW BELSITO
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL**
August 23, 2023
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, August 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. and open to the public virtually through Microsoft Teams videoconference.

Present at the meeting were the following Council members:

Iain McGregor, Chair	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Chief Matthew Belsito, Vice chair	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Chief Michael Mansfield	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Jason Saunders	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Jon Davine	State Fire Marshal
Susan Terrey	Deputy Secretary for EOPSS

Absent from the meeting were the following Commission members:

DFS Employees in Attendance:

Rachel Perlman	Deputy Legal Counsel to the Board
David Clemons	Director of Operations
Paul Betti	Deputy Director of Special Operations

Other Attendees

Rob O'Brien	Region 1
Mark McCabe	Region 1
Shawn Simmons	Region 1
Paul Morrison	Region 2
Francis Otting	Region 2
Jon Martin	Region 3
Daryl Springman	Region 4

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Iain McGregor, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 10:05 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 28, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Jason Saunders made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held, Wednesday, June 28, 2023. The motion was seconded by Chief Michael Mansfield. No further discussion. Unanimous roll call vote was completed.

3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence

The only correspondence was from Captain Tiffany Pelrine from MA-ARNG to Chairman Iain McGregor and Paul Betti inviting the team to the CBRN Task Force External Evaluation event at Joint Base Cod on 8/26/23. The invite was sent by Paul Betti to the whole coordinating council as well as all 5 regional steering committees.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Equipment – Chief Mansfield indicated that the template was sent out.
- b. Policy/SOG – Chief Belsito indicated the subcommittee is busy pushing out SOPs to the council. A joint meeting with Policy, Training and Membership has been scheduled for 9/13/23. Agenda will cover the tiered responses, company officer flowchart and dispatch flyer.
- c. Training – had a joint meeting on August 10th with Membership. Iain McGregor discussed the invite from the Policy subcommittee to review the tiered response matrix. The other 2 documents that need to be reviewed around company officer flowchart and dispatch flyer for activation.
- d. Membership – see training above
- e. Mobex – Ian McGregor indicated that there was a meeting on August 22nd. The team went thru the objectives again and discussed the budget in detail. The operational plan was reviewed, it will be 3 operational days with each day being a repeat of the previous but with different teams present. We will be partnering with the National Guard; they will be providing some funding and coordination of the controllers. The budget up the objectives list, broken into smaller working groups. Tentative timeframe of the week of 16th or 23rd of October 2024 at Joint Base Cape Cod. Looking at 3 sites used per day with multiple squads. HazMat component will be integrated into each day. The Guard will be able to provide overnight housing. We will be requesting funding for backfill and OT, external evaluators as well as lunch, current budget around \$400k. Each team will be asked to send 1 player for setup, coordination as well as demobilization.

5. Regional Reports

- a. Region 1 – Mark McCabe reported that summer is slow for training. Activated several times for searches. Entire region was put on alert for Western Mass and Vermont EMAC for flooding. They assembled 2 mission ready type 2 teams.

- Joint training coming up in fall for whole region.
- b. Region 2 – Paul Morrison reported that joint training was happening today with Boston and Cambridge, it was on dive operations. Joint training on rope as well as elevator rescue.
 - c. Region 3 – Jon Martin reported that D7 had a dive team activation for a missing kayaker. Confined Space training happened at Wheelabrator in Millbury. Tower rescue training was completed in Leicester this past Sunday. Unknown status on D8 & D14.
 - d. Region 4 – Daryl Springman stated that many training drills were done over the summer, focusing most on rope. 3 call outs since last meeting, 2 on water and 1 on rope. Upcoming rope challenge happening on 9/21 in Agawam, all teams invited.
 - e. Region 5 – Iain McGregor reported that they responded to 2 team activation in July. 1 was for body retrieval and the 2nd for car into a building. iled their training plan for the fall. Water rescue drill in August in Andover coming up. SCT with National Guard at Camp Curtis Guild in September, trench rescue drill in October in Lynnwood. Captain Pelrine from MA-ARNG reached out to do more joint training with regional teams in future.

6. Old Business

- a. Vacancy on MTRCC
 - Rachel Perlman indicated that we have not heard from the governor’s office as they are backlogged, legal routinely checking in on it.
- b. Budget discussion for D4H/MOBEX
 - Paul Betti gave update on both budget items. Paul was told by his management to add line items for D4H and the MOBEX in DFS FY25 operating budget. For D4H we will request 1 team which will reduce overall budget. Paul was asked to try to find existing \$ in his existing FY24 budget, this is being pursued right now. The funding for the MOBEX changed as Paul was informed that he could not request FY25 budget since the legislation naming DFS as fiduciary has not been done. This is further complicated as not having infrastructure to DFS reimbursements back to the departments. Chairman McGregor informed team that funding will be asked for from Homeland Security grant. Jason Saunders asked how many Homeland Security regions backed out of paying for backfill and overtime, Chairman McGregor stated that 2 regions currently don’t pay. Chairman McGregor asked Deputy Terrey if there was a way that EOPSS could reimburse the departments for the MOBEX. The Deputy indicated that she would have to work with EOPSS and DFS legal and fiscal.
- c. Sharepoint/OneDrive access reminder
 - Chairman McGregor just stated that this was an ongoing reminder about using the Sharepoint/OneDrive. He stated that Paul Betti is in there constantly trying to clean things up. Paul shared his screen with what folders exist with what info is in them.

7. New Business

- a. Discuss concerns from SOG/Policy subcommittee
 - Status of SOG’s submitted to council – Paul Betti showed the matrix of SOG’s submitted to the coordinating council. Paul is doing ongoing research of what was

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approved in old meeting minutes. Paul is also formatting the SOG's to one specific template and assigning approval #'s. When done the approved documents then get uploaded to the Sharepoint approved folder.

- Any SOG's that need to be developed – Chairman McGregor asked the council if there was any SOG's that need to be created, nothing indicated at this time.
- Official definition of State Technical Rescue – Chief Belsito brought up that this was the biggest concern from their team. Team is having trouble proceeding with creation of more SOG's without truly knowing the scope. Team asked to define the types of responses the state team will respond to. Chief Mansfield alluded to that this was talked about in past, support the 4 core responses (Rope, Trench, Confined Space & Structural Collapse). A lot of team discussion about water & dive response. Funding was a topic of concern if something wasn't part of the state response. Request made to bring all regional directors together to discuss their current response criteria, Paul Betti asked to broker a meeting.
- Types of responses to help with document development – Chief Mansfield made a motion to support the 5 disciplines (Rope rescue, Trench rescue, Confined Space rescue, Structural Collapse and Moving water rescue). Chief Belsito seconded the motion, roll call was unanimous.
- Collecting raw data using D4H – Paul Betti noted that the state is pursuing the purchase of D4H. A reference was made to the old data from 2017 – 2021 that was analyzed from MFIRS. Some of these codes don't directly apply to what the state tech rescue system would be responding to. Collecting data in D4H would be beneficial.

8. Any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair - None

9. Future Agenda Items

- a. Look into SOP's not yet approved
- b. MOBEX funding with EOPSS/DFS
- c. Annual Chair/Vice Chair election

10. Determination of future meeting date

The next meeting date will be on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 10:00am in the Boards & Commissions room in Stow.

Chief Belsito made a motion to adjourn, Chief Mansfield seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:29am.