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MATTHEW BELSITO
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IAIN MCGREGOR
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL**
November 27, 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 Monday, November 27, 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:

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chief Matthew Belsito, Chair | Fire Chiefs Association of Mass. |
| Iain McGregor, Vice Chair | Professional Fire Fighters 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:

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|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Chief Michael Mansfield | Fire Chiefs Association of Mass. |
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DFS Employees in Attendance:

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| Maribel Fournier | Deputy State Fire Marshal |
| Glenn Rooney | Legal Counsel to the Board |
| Rachel Perlman | Deputy Legal Counsel to the Board |
| David Clemons | Director of Operations |
| Paul Betti | Deputy Director of Special Operations |

Other Attendees

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|-----------------|----------|
| Mark McCabe | Region 1 |
| Shawn Simmons | Region 1 |
| Neil Tuepker | Region 1 |
| Rob O'Brien | Region 1 |
| Richard Arruda | Region 1 |
| Corey Pimental | Region 1 |
| Paul Jacques | Region 1 |
| Daryl Springman | Region 4 |

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 10:02 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 October 25, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Deputy Secretary Terrey made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held, Wednesday, October 25, 2023. The motion was seconded by Iain McGregor. No further discussion. Unanimous roll call vote was completed.

3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence

Paul Betti received correspondence from Ben Podsiadlo at Office of Grants and Research (OGR), asking what team typing we have selected in each region. This is because OGR received an equipment grant request from Region 4. Mr. Podsiadlo was told that no decisions had been made on that but that it would be a future topic at the regional directors meeting that Paul Betti is setting up.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Equipment – nothing to report
- b. Policy/SOG – did not meet in November, the next scheduled meeting is 12/12/23
- c. Training – joint meeting with membership on 11/21/23, Jason Saunders reported that they worked on the activation flyer flowchart. This documents shas been sent to SOG subcommittee. They also discussed breaking down the training requirements for each member
- d. Membership – see Training above
- e. Mobex – Iain McGregor indicated that their meeting was held on 11/21. The working group finalized the objectives in the HSEEP format. They finalized the draft of the exercise plan as well as the budget request. In December all documents will be sent up to the council for review before going to OGR

5. Regional Reports

- a. Region 1 – Mark McCabe indicated that Dukes County was put on standby to support a commercial dive team going into Tisbury water tower. They have been doing training with the personnel they have. Barnstable County did train in October for trench, November on ropes and December they are scheduled to be doing ropes part 2. Working on getting Petzl I'ds, asap's and clutches as well as rope. Norfolk County did a confined space drill in October and a rope drill in November. They had 1 activation to retrieve a deceased person from a well that had been missing. They are also working on getting more equipment like Petzl I'ds, asap's and clutches. Bristol & Plymouth counties had no update
- b. Region 2 – no update
- c. Region 3 – Chief Belsito reported that D7 did trench rescue training, D8 & D14 have been doing ongoing training
- d. Region 4 – Daryl Springman stated that they were activated to Lenox for a missing person search, this included multiple rappels down the rock face. Daryl attended the quarterly statewide SAR meeting. At the beginning of next year, they are planning to look at trench SOP's
- e. Region 5 – Rick Nelson reported that there were no activations since last meeting. For training, 2 months ago they did water rescue in Andover and then

Structural collapse training in Reading as well as some rope and trench rescue training. The biggest problem is trucks to transport their equipment, stuff is starting to age out

6. Old Business

- a. Update on MOBEX funding
Chairman Belsito met with the executive board of FCAM in early November, FCAM is in support of a MOBEX but just not at this time. They would like to see legislation further along as well as see the team structure fall under DFS. Iain McGregor brought up that the MOBEX subcommittee was created in September 2022 per the coordinating council. The MOBEX subcommittee has been meeting actively since February of 2023. Marshal Davine asked where the funding would come from, Iain's comment was to ask for funding from the OGR state share funding. Iain further asked for direction from the council so he could bring it back to his subcommittee. Marshal Davine asked Chairman Belsito to get a response in writing from the FCAM board to see their stance on the MOBEX. Further discussion was had on what are the next steps. Comments from Deputy Marshal Fournier and Glenn Rooney relayed that until legislation passes, DFS and/or the MTRCC is limited. If legislation passes, then the funding can come but we need to put an accurate budget together. Add budget review discussion to the December meeting. The proposal is to work backwards on the budget to provide same service that the regions provide now, then add other services as the budget allows. Iain McGregor and Paul Betti to work to clean up the existing budget.
- b. Update on Tech Rescue legislation
Iain McGregor stated that senate bill 1596, did come out of committee last session and was voted favorably by one chamber. It is still in public safety subcommittee and people have spoken positively on behalf of this bill, so we are hopeful that it passes by end of this session. Senator Timilty then filled senate docket 2755 in September, it is still in committee, and it has not had a hearing yet. This establishes the Special Operation division within DFS as well as changing the coordinating council to an advisory council. The Marshal would then administer the Tech Rescue service fund, also included is a \$5000 stipend.

7. New Business

8. Any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

- a. Paul Betti asked Chairman Belsito if we had heard anything on selection of our 7th member of the coordinating council. Glenn Rooney stated that there are several pending vacancies with the boards & commissions office, and we have not received an update at this time.
- b. Iain McGregor suggested to Chairman Belsito that we write a letter of support of bill 1596 to the public safety subcommittee. Chairman Belsito asked Glenn Rooney if that is acceptable in which we were told yes. Chairman Belsito asked Paul Betti to draft this letter.

9. Future Agenda Items

- a. Update on MOBEX funding pending response from FCAM board
- b. Team typing discussion per the OGR correspondence
- c. Team budget discussion

10. Determination of future meeting date

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 27, 2023, at 10:00am virtually.

Jason Saunders made a motion to adjourn, Iain McGregor seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:22am.