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MATTHEW BELSITO
CHAIRMAN

IAIN MCGREGOR
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL
December 18, 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, December 18, 2024, 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
Deputy Chief Kelly Manning
Iain McGregor, Vice Chair
Jason Saunders
Mark McCabe
Susan Terrey
Maribel Fournier (designee)

Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Regional Technical Rescue Team
Deputy Secretary for EOPSS
Deputy State Fire Marshal

Absent from the meeting were the following Council members:

Jon Davine
State Fire Marshal

DFS Employees in Attendance:

David Clemons
Glenn Rooney
Rachel Perlman
Jeff Winn
Paul Betti

Director of Operations
Legal Counsel to the Board
Deputy Legal Counsel to the Board
Director of HazMat & Spec Ops
Deputy Director of Special Operations

Other Attendees

Neil Tuepker
Paul Morrison
Mike Lee
Shawn Donovan
Mike Moran

Region 1
Region 2
Region 2
Region 2
Region 2

Administrative Services • Division of Fire Safety
Hazardous Materials Response • Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

Francis Otting
Jon Martin
Daryl Springman

Region 2
Region 3
Region 4

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 2:03 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 November 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Deputy Chief Manning made a motion to accept the minutes from November 20, 2024, seconded by Mark McCabe. A unanimous roll call vote was completed, no further discussion.

3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence

None

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Equipment – Jason Saunders reported that he has received 82 equipment surveys that he posted into the SharePoint. Paul Betti started putting the responses into an excel spreadsheet so data can be reviewed. After this work is done, the team will move onto water assets.
- b. Membership – Deputy Chief Manning reported that they had light attendance at their 12/17 meeting. They will delay voting on the member application till the 1/21 meeting. Paul Betti started updating the application scoring matrix based on the application changes.
- c. Training – Vice Chair McGregor indicated that he couldn't attend the last meeting but that the team is still working to finalize the training matrix. Water skills were added to the matrix, but it needs to be cleaned up.
- d. Policy/SOG – Chair Belsito indicated that the team met on 12/11. Jon Martin is writing up 4 SOG's for the council's review. Organizational structure, code of conduct, regional team management and uniform standards, these will be finalized in January.
- e. MOBEX – still on hiatus

5. Regional Reports

- a. Region 1 – Mark McCabe reported on the activities of the 5 county teams. Dukes completed a dive standby and training for divers in the water. Plymouth had a Confined Space rescue of a dog in Middleborough, as well as completing a cutting & dive drill. Barnstable had a vehicle into a building that needing shoring, they also completed a rope drill. Bristol completed a Structural Collapse drill on breaching & breaking. Norfolk completed a Confined Space drill.
- b. Region 2 – Paul Morrison stated that at the end of November they got funding to send 20 members to FEMA in Beverly for technical search specialist class. Boston had 10 responses since last month, 3 entrapments, 1 person under car, 1 person with their foot stuck under a dumpster, 1 for a car into a marsh, and 4 high angle responses. Somerville joint training on victim rescue from a billboard where the victim had to be lowered diagonally. MBTA drill where they practiced victim packaging and removal. Call out for a vehicle into a building needing shoring to remove victim. Cambridge had 4 water rescue incidents, 1 was

surface rescue of victim and civilian rescuer, 2 were unfounded and the last one was surface body recovery. January training will be on ice rescue as well as dive training at the training tank at MSP.

- c. Region 3 – Jon Martin indicated that they had 3 call outs, 2 for horse rescues and 1 for a vehicle into a house. Confined Space training was completed in D7, a 2nd drill is being delayed till January due to weather. The dive team has completed requalification.
- d. Region 4 – Daryl Springman stated they had a leadership meeting last week. They had 2 call outs, 1 for a rope rescue at a cliff and the 2nd for a large animal rescue. Building out an equipment list for next year.
- e. Region 5 – Iain McGregor reports that they are doing a rope drill during the meeting. Drill was focused on rope requalification. They put into service their 3rd vehicle that is a used box truck. Team acquired some large animal rescue gear that was a donation from a woman in Essex County. They will do a refresher drill in February on large animal rescue. Doing a scheduled Confined Space drill in January with Woburn fire. 0 call outs for the month.

6. Old Business

- a. Legislative update

Iain McGregor stated that both bills are on the official docket, they have till 12/31 to pass them. If it goes into 2025, they both would have to be refiled. The small bill just needs to come to the floor, the large bill just needs to get through all the committees.

7. New Business

- a. Membership application approval

The membership subcommittee asked for additional time to finish the application and allow some more of their members to review it before sending it to the council.

8. Any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

Iain McGregor discussed that MATRS will be having an event on Thursday 1/23 from 6-10pm at firefighter's hall in Brockton. Josh Shanley will be presenting on emerging hazards, climate change, flooding, dam failures and wildland fires. MATRS is also creating a dive subcommittee led by Mike Lydon.

9. Future Agenda Items

10. Determination of future meeting date

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 1:00 pm virtually.

Iain McGregor made a motion to adjourn, Deputy Marshal Fournier seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:36 pm.