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VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE  
COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**December 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, December 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:

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:

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

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
Jeff Winn	Director of Hazardous Materials Response
Paul Betti	Deputy Director of Special Operations

**Other Attendees**

Mark McCabe	Region 1
Neil Tuepker	Region 1
Rob O'Brien	Region 1
Paul Morrison	Region 2
Jon Martin	Region 3
RJ Pensivy	Region 4
Daryl Springman	Region 4

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

**1. Meeting Opening and Introductions**

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 10:09 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 November 27, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Iain McGregor made a request to edit the minutes regarding missed item on the budget discussion. Motion made by Iain McGregor to allow Paul Betti to make edits and save. Deputy Secretary Terrey seconded the motion, unanimous roll call vote was completed. No further discussion.

**3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence**

Chief Belsito received correspondence from FCAM executive board regarding the MOBEX that was then forwarded to Paul Betti. This is an existing agenda item under old business.

**4. Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Equipment – nothing to report
- b. Policy/SOG – Chief Belsito indicated that the team met on 12/12. They will be pushing some items back to the other subcommittees for some work. This correspondence will come from Paul Betti.
- c. Training – none, joint meeting with membership happening in January
- d. Membership – nothing to report
- e. Mobex – Iain McGregor indicated that their meeting was postponed until 1/9.

**5. Regional Reports**

- a. Region 1 – Rob O'Brien indicated that there was a large animal rescue in Plymouth County. Mark McCabe will be sending out an AAR on the well incident in Avon.
- b. Region 2 – Paul Morrison stated that training is in progress. Boston & Quincy fire got together to do advanced RIT training; they utilized a lot of rope skills.
- c. Region 3 – Jon Martin reported that D7 was activated for the town of Spencer for a person that collapsed in a sewer, local responders were able to retrieve him. No training for the month of December.
- d. Region 4 – Daryl Springman stated that they had joint training with the city of Springfield on Confined Space. Onboarding some new members. During the month they had 2 call outs. The first event was for a recovery at Mt Tom around a 175' cliff. The second call was at Mt Sugarloaf for a person that slid off the trail to the edge of a cliff. They also battled several water problems post rainstorms.
- e. Region 5 – Rick Nelson reported that they took the month of December off from training. No activations since last meeting. Onboarding some new members.

**6. Old Business**

- a. Update on MOBEX funding  
Chief Belsito received communication from executive board of FCAM regarding the MOBEX. Their position was that the MOBEX should not be done at this time and that funding is not available. Team discussion about Homeland Security region funding and that it is still happening in all the regions. Region 3 has been getting all their requests approved. Region 4 had one equipment request deferred, no backfill, and overtime. Region 1 has cut all backfill and

overtime. Marshal Davine commented that once state tech rescue comes under DFS then the homeland security wouldn't support the teams. Iain McGregor commented that we have not asked for anyone to fund the MOBEX at this time. Deputy Terrey commented that due to lack of legislation, that we have no way to distribute any funding. Maribel Fournier stated that she wouldn't allow any money to be spent because we need a plan to justify to our oversight agency. Maribel's suggestion was for the subcommittees to continue working to prepare for the state transition. Team size and training requirements have all been voted on, but it still must be justified to the oversight agency. Maribel Fournier volunteered to sit down with Paul Betti, Chief Belsito, and Iain McGregor. Rick Nelson had a question on if a roadmap had been laid out already. Paul Betti commented that the items that need to be worked right away is budget, tiered matrix, team size and team typing. Jason Saunders stated that the subcommittees are ready to work, they just need the list of things to do. Chief Belsito stated that we are still making progress and that the legislation will come. Maribel Fournier asked Iain McGregor who would be participating in the MOBEX. Each region would be allowed to send up to 80 members. Maribel asked if everyone that would attend meet all the state training requirements. Jason Saunders commented that there are some small differences between regional team requirements versus the state team requirements. Marshal Davine asked for all SOG's and team rosters for each region with their training/certifications. SOG's are listed on the Sharepoint, the training matrix is also on the Sharepoint but it does need to be updated. Each regional director to send their team rosters to Paul Betti and he will pull the training report. Paul Betti to send out the template of how he wants the data formatted. Paul Morrison asked Jason Saunders if there was an active member on the membership subcommittee, the answer was Francis Otting. Paul Morrison's concern was that region 2 members may not all have the required training and that they don't really have a roster yet. Paul Betti showed the training matrix on the annual requirements, the application document shows the initial training requirements to join the state team. Marshal Davine asked if the state team will be made up of only fulltime paid firefighters, Chief Belsito answered no. The Marshal suggested at looking at 111F if using members from volunteer and call departments. Iain McGregor stated that the application document has a lot of these requirements in it.

## 7. New Business

- a. Team Typing discussion (from team directors meeting)  
Paul Betti kicked off the discussion by stating that this was a recent topic at the regional team directors meeting. Just a discussion and that we are not looking to vote on anything. All 5 regions are not yet aligned, region 1 seems to be the team that could generate more type 1 teams, the other 4 regions have assorted coverage of the types across the 5 disciplines of response (rope, water, structural, trench & confined space). This will be an ongoing discussion at the regional directors meeting. We need to look at NIMS typing because the disciplines we will respond to. Rob O'Brien agreed that we had a very good discussion at regional directors meeting, and that it would be beneficial to share typing across the state. Mark McCabe stated that we need to look at the NIMS typing and not FEMA for interoperability across the state and regions.
- b. Medical Specialist discussion (from team directors meeting)

Jon Martin started the discussion stating that we discussed at regional directors meeting. At this meeting we were trying to assess each regions capability. Both region 3, 4 & 5 have been working at this for years. Region 3 has asked for funding to send members to train but it costs several thousands of dollars. Mark McCabe stated they have it up and running in region 1 and are more than willing to assist. Chief Belsito asked the Marshal how this would work then the team comes under DFS. Marshal Davine stated that this is in place already for HazMat response. Paul Morrison said in region 2 that Boston EMS provides this service, but they are not sworn firefighters. Jon Martin works for Worcester EMS as a STOP team medic, they don't train with Worcester Fire. Their medical direction comes from UMass hospital, but they are independent contractors. Iain McGregor stated that region 5 covered this by hiring a doctor for their team. Each team member operates under their department's protocols. Rob O'Brien stated that in region 1 Plymouth County that there is drug box at South Shore hospital for the medical specialist. Agreement between South Shore hospital and Plymouth County chiefs. Neil Tuepker from region 1 Barnstable County stated that they can't follow what Plymouth County setup. Any paramedic in Barnstable County can do patient care unless they leave the Cape. Iain McGregor brought up having a statewide medical director, Paul Betti agreed to the need to standardize across the state system and go for state medical control.

c. **K9 capabilities discussion (from team directors meeting)**

Paul Betti stated that this was another topic at the regional directors meeting. Do we feel that we should have K9 capability as part of the state system. The regional teams have some live and cadaver K9's now. Paul referenced what FIU does here at DFS and that there are expenses for food, medical, housing, and proper vehicles to transport the K9's. R1 has access to 2-3 live victim K9's, R2 has access to 1 live and 1 cadaver, R3 has access to 1 live and 1 cadaver, R4 has no K9's and R5 has access to 1 live and 1 cadaver K9. Some of these K9 resources are shared with FEMA TF1. Chief Belsito stated that this needs to be looked at but is lower priority then team type and medical specialist. Paul Betti stated that the way the new business agenda items were arranged is how it is regarding priority. Iain McGregor commented that we do need K9 and medical specialist capability to provide certain types of teams per FEMA/NIMS typing.

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

- a. Paul Betti brought up that the overall budget discussion that was missed from the last meeting minutes. Iain McGregor discussed that we have an initial draft budget. Chief Belsito suggested to email it out and add it to the January meeting as an agenda item going thru it line by line.

**9. Future Agenda Items**

- a. Team budget discussion

**10. Determination of future meeting date**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 10:00am virtually.

Marshal Davine made a motion to adjourn, Iain McGregor seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:40am.