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**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL**

March 27, 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, March 27, 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 (in person)	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Iain McGregor, Vice Chair (virtual)	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Maribel Fournier (designee)	Deputy State Fire Marshal
Assistant Chief Kelly Manning (virtual)	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.

Absent from the meeting were the following Commission members:

Jon Davine	State Fire Marshal
Susan Terrey	Deputy Secretary for EOPSS
Jason Saunders	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.

DFS Employees in Attendance:

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
Francis Otting	Region 2
Mike Lydon	Region 2
Jon Martin	Region 3
RJ Pensivy	Region 4

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

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

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 10:07 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 February 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Iain McGregor made a motion to accept the minutes from February 28, 2024, seconded by Deputy Marshal Fournier. A unanimous roll call vote was completed, no further discussion.

3. **Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence**

None

4. **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Equipment – nothing to report
- b. Policy/SOG – Chief Belsito indicated that they had a brief meeting on 3/14/24. They discussed tiered responses, and that they are awaiting feedback from the membership subcommittee.
- c. Training – Iain McGregor gave update from the meeting on 3/20/24. The updated activation flyer was discussed, this document will be sent to the policy subcommittee. They started the process of breaking out the training hours from the document that was accepted in 2021. They are adding more specific skill competencies for each team.
- d. Membership – joint meeting with Training
- e. Mobex – Chief Belsito stated that this subcommittee is still on hold awaiting state tech rescue moving to DFS.

5. **Regional Reports**

- a. Region 1 – Mark McCabe reported the following details for each County team. Plymouth County had no call outs but did a dive & structural collapse drill. Norfolk County had no call outs but did rope drill simulating a trapped person on fall protection. Barnstable County did a shoring drill and had 2 call outs for wide area search for missing person. Bristol County had no call outs but did training on artificial high direction and tower rescue from a cell tower. Dukes County did not drill or have any call outs this month.
- b. Region 2 – no report
- c. Region 3 – Jon Martin reported that D7 did monthly training on Cal Topo, no activations this month.
- d. Region 4 – RJ Pensivy stated that they had conducted a confined space drill at a mill in their response area. Trench drill coming up in April, where they will review new strategies from members that attended a symposium in Michigan. No responses during the month.
- e. Region 5 – Iain McGregor reported that they had a 2-day moving water training in Andover. All rescue swimmer members must requalify, with skills on moving water strainers, aggressive swim, ferrying, tagged go rescue and boat in water with rope system. No responses this month. Added 3 new members, roster now at 49.

6. **Old Business**

- a. Budget discussion
Iain McGregor discussed the current state of the draft budget. The initial plan is to remove the region 2 budget line item. Region 2 would still have to comply with the state training requirements and keep the same equipment cache. There was a little bit of adjustments for individual position stipends but that has very

little impact. Maribel Fournier stated that if the legislature only approves a smaller budget, we still must pay the member stipend. The agency would then have to ask for a supplemental budget. Iain McGregor stated that there is still some missing data from region 3, we need updated data for 2022 and 2023 from district 8. Paul Betti stated once all data is received, then himself and Iain could tweak the budget based on team responses and team staffing needs.

7. **New Business**

Activation flyer

Iain McGregor talked about the creation of the activation flyer by the membership & training subcommittee. The capabilities listed on the flyer are currently what all regional teams are currently offering. These skills would be covered with the recommended training hours of 110, with the minimum being 80 hours. Mark McCabe commented on the capabilities list, some regions do more specific type of calls than others but that each team does have trained members. Paul Betti suggested using activation level instead of tier levels, so it doesn't conflict with HazMat. Paul Betti discussed the potential of scope creep because of the list of capabilities. Chief Belsito commented that we could start smaller and then add on capabilities over time. Each regional team would maintain the minimum number of personnel trained to each type of capability. The state team would be replacing the County/District teams so we wouldn't want any gap in capabilities not covered. The 110 hours of training allows for additional specialized training to be done on top of the core needs. It may not be used by every member of a team. Maribel Fournier asked a question around specialized training, and if a response would be delayed waiting for a trained individual to respond. Field Force Extrication was used as an example. Iain McGregor stated that every team has this capability now but not every member. Chief Belsito asked Paul Betti to do a poll of all regional directors on how many training hours they do annually.

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

Iain McGregor wanted to state that the Massachusetts Association of Technical Rescue Specialist (MATRS) is having another meeting on April 6th from noon to 5pm at the General Dudley American Legion in Sutton. The keynote speaker is the western mass OSHA investigator.

9. **Future Agenda Items**

10. **Determination of future meeting date**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 1:00pm virtually. This is pulled in by 1 week due to FCAM elections happening on 4/24.

Iain McGregor made a motion to adjourn, Deputy Marshal Fournier seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:10am.