



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) 567-3174 Fax:(978) 567-3155



MATTHEW BELSITO
CHAIRMAN

IAIN MCGREGOR
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL**
May 21, 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, May 21, 2024, at 3:00 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	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Iain McGregor, Vice Chair	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Deputy Chief Kelly Manning	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Jason Saunders	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Mark McCabe	Regional Technical Rescue Team
Maribel Fournier (Designee)	Deputy State Fire Marshal
Susan Terrey	Deputy Secretary for EOPSS

Absent from the meeting were the following Commission members:

Jon Davine	State Fire Marshal
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DFS Employees in Attendance:

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

Other Attendees

Shawn Simmons	Region 1
Francis Otting	Region 2
Paul Morrison	Region 2
Jon Martin	Region 3
Jesse Phelps	Region 4

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 3:03 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 April 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chair McGregor made a motion to accept the minutes from April 17, 2024, seconded by Mark McCabe. A unanimous roll call vote was completed, no further discussion.

3. **Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence**

Some correspondence between Paul Betti to Jason Saunders, Chairman Belsito and Vice Chair McGregor regarding the restarting of the equipment subcommittee.

4. **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Equipment – Jason Saunders reported that the subcommittee has been rebuilt and that the scheduled meeting will occur on June 10th.
- b. Membership – Deputy Chief Manning gave the update from a very long meeting that happened on May 8th. The activation flyer was discussed, and it is well wrapped up and ready for the council. The team is going to continue work on the 2nd half of the flyer targeting dispatchers. The next topic was a lengthy discussion around team size and reducing the budget. Team size was talked about and that it may be a different size per region. Further discussion was covered in the budget discussion in old business.
- c. Training – joint meeting with membership, Iain McGregor added one additional comment that the training subcommittee is still working on building out the training hours. They are adding specifics like JPR's, annual and biannual requirements.
- d. Policy/SOG – Chief Belsito indicated that they had their regularly scheduled meeting on May 15th. Discussion was around what policies still must be written. The June meeting is scheduled.
- e. Mobex – the subcommittee is still on hold.

5. **Regional Reports**

- a. Region 1 – Mark McCabe reported the following details for each County team. Plymouth County had no call outs but did dive training in a static body of water, annual training with the harbor masters as well as rope training. Norfolk County had no call outs and is focusing on tower rescue training and refresher. Barnstable County had 1 call out for a car into a building and completed training on slope evacuation. Bristol County had 0 call outs but did training on ropes. Dukes County had no call outs and is planning training in late May.
- b. Region 2 – Paul Morrison reported that joint dive training was conducted as well as rope rescue and high angle. Francis Otting reported that Somerville ran a city wide pick off drill simulating a stuck window washer.
- c. Region 3 – Jon Martin reported that D7 had a call out for a horse rescue, the horse was a mile out into the woods. Training was done on tower rescue. Next month's training will be on horse rescue with D7 & D8. Region 3 conducted a team meeting last week, moving forward Jon will be updates from the other 2 districts.
- d. Region 4 – Jason Saunders stated they had a multi-faceted drill, where they did some collapse work, trained on newly donated equipment and the Paratech gantry system. They also did work on the confined space prop that resides at the local 98 facility. June training will be on water rescue. Working with a large animal vet to set up a class.

- e. Region 5 – Iain McGregor reported that they did last month’s training on an L shaped trench. This coming month will be in Wakefield at the ravine where they will build a high line system. 0 call outs and still holding at 49 members.

6. **Old Business**

- a. Budget discussion

Paul Betti shared the budget on the screen, it is currently \$4.7M for 80 members in each region with 110 hours of scheduled training. Stipends are fixed per the senate bill that was proposed. Chief Weir gave some input to Paul Betti of some other things to look at, that data is still being analyzed. DFS management also gave some suggestions. Seriously looking into having different regional team sizes based on call volume and geographical area. Iain McGregor added to the discussion stating that our regions are not the same size and that we should seriously look at this or adjust the region size. Team size must support the larger response models like a structural collapse. Deputy Fournier said there is no set budget number, but she needs help with data to help build the story of the budget. This helps us justify to EOPSS analyst why we need this budgeted amount. Chairman Belsito stated that we should vote on the budget in June, he also stated that we have been asking for help with team size. Deputy Manning stated that there was a lot of passionate conversation from the Region 3 meeting, that we need to emphasize that the team needs to be sized appropriately to do rescue missions and not just a body recovery. Jason Saunders stated that region 4 is 2700 square miles, and with a roster of 60+ members they could struggle to respond with adequate members in a timely manner. The training/membership subcommittee will be focusing on bringing some solid numbers into the June council meeting.

7. **New Business**

- a. Equipment subcommittee

Jason Saunders gave an update that the subcommittee is ready. Jason emphasized the need to focus on team typing. Paul Betti will be scheduling a meeting with Jason Saunders, Iain McGregor and Chief Belsito to talk about the mission. Paul Betti shared that we also need to focus on D4H category and kinds, what assets will come to the state and what would need to be purchased through capital. Chairman Belsito shared that this team has been on hiatus since February 2023 and that Jason Saunders volunteered to chair this team. Paul Betti announced who is part of the new equipment subcommittee. Neil Tuepker will still represent region 1, new member from region 2 which is Mike Moran, new member from region 3 which is chief Rob Rogowski, new member Jesse Phelps who took Jason Saunder’s spot in region 4 and Jon Burt is still representing region 5. The scheduled meeting will be June 10th, Paul Betti will be adding to everyone’s calendar.

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

9. **Future Agenda Items**

10. **Determination of future meeting date**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 10:00am virtually.

Mark McCabe made a motion to adjourn, Deputy Marshal Fournier seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:49pm.