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MATTHEW BELSITO
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IAIN MCGREGOR
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL**
June 26, 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, June 26, 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
Iain McGregor, Vice Chair
Jason Saunders
Mark McCabe
Maribel Fournier (Designee)
Susan Terrey

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

Absent from the meeting were the following Council members:

Jon Davine
Deputy Chief Kelly Manning

State Fire Marshal
Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.

DFS Employees in Attendance:

Glenn Rooney
David Clemons
Paul Betti

Legal Counsel to the Board
Director of Operations
Deputy Director of Special Operations

Other Attendees

Rob O'Brien
Neil Tuepker
Paul Morrison
Michael Moran
Michael Lydon
Daryl Springman
Alan Sirios
Victor Berlus

Region 1
Region 1
Region 2
Region 2
Region 2
Region 4
Region 4
Lowell Fire

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 10:03 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 May 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Deputy Secretary Terrey made a motion to accept the minutes from May 21, 2024, seconded by Vice Chair McGregor. A unanimous roll call vote was completed, no further discussion.

3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence

Some correspondence between Paul Betti to Training & Membership subcommittees regarding proposed budget.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Equipment – Jason Saunders reported that they had their re-kickoff meeting on June 10th with 3 out of 5 regions in attendance. The team reviewed the original SUSAR equipment list and had a discussion around team typing. The team also reviewed the equipment subcommittee mission from the CONOPS document. Initial work will be on identifying vehicles in each of the regions, a survey is being built. Some additional conversation about prepping for D4H software.
- b. Membership – Vice Chair McGregor gave the update from the joint meeting with the training subcommittee. The call data and budget reviews were the focus. Team recommendation was to go to 80 members in region 1 & 3, 70 members in region 4 and 50 members in region 5. This was based on call data as well as drive & response time to an incident that has life safety ramifications. Further discussion on need to identify call data that are not immediate life safety risk. better data on calls that involve victim. Team recommended to increase the minimum training hours from 80 to 88. This is because the analysis is still underway on the NFPA standard requirements for each of the 5 main call responses.
- c. Training – see above
- d. Policy/SOG – Chair Belsito indicated that they had no meeting in June, they will be sending out a poll for a July meeting.
- e. Mobex – the subcommittee is still on hiatus.

5. Regional Reports

- a. Region 1 – Mark McCabe reported the following details for each County team. Plymouth County had 1 call out for dive team, responded to Plainville for large animal rescue and had their own large animal rescue. They also did a dive & shoring drill. Norfolk County responded to Plainville for large animal rescue/structural collapse. This was 6-hour event using 3 county teams, a lot of equipment and collaboration amongst the teams. Additional call out for a rope assist for a person that got into a healthcare facility and got stuck in the rafters. They completed tower rescue and rope access training. Barnstable County had 3 call outs for wide area search, 1 for a car into a building and 1 dive team activation for an overturned boat. Bristol County had 1 call out to Plainville for large animal rescue, they also completed water boat training. Dukes County had no call outs and is planning training on doing joint training with Barnstable.
- b. Region 2 – Paul Morrison reported that he had updates from 4 out of the 9 UASI communities. Boston had a call out for scaffolding collapse with injured workers

85 feet up. A deck collapsed with multiple patients on a roof top. A patient with their arm caught in a mixer. Vehicle in the water with driver inside. Training was conducted on high angle with blind shaft, water operations, and advanced RIT with floor collapse. Brookline will be doing a 4-day training course on surface water. They will be doing Tech Rescue Tuesdays where they train with mutual aid companies on rope and Confined Space. Cambridge had an elevator rescue utilizing rope to rescue one patient. Training was done on high rise glass cutting while on rope, breaching & breaking, metal cutting and advanced RIT with rope extrication. Quincy completed dive training and advanced RIT with focus on structural collapse.

- c. Region 3 – Chair Belsito reported ongoing training for dive, swift water and tech rescue teams. Large animal rescue in Mendon. A couple dive team activations in D8. A boat fire in D7, it sank but was raised by the dive team.
- d. Region 4 – Daryl Springman stated they had monthly training on surface & swift water and boat operations. Call out for a water assist and FFE assist to state police. 2 other call outs not involving the whole team for truck into a commercial structure and a carry out assist from a hiking trail.
- e. Region 5 – Vice Chair McGregor reported in June that Ipswich had a large animal rescue that required structural shoring for the vet to be able to enter. Training in Wakefield on search and rescue and ravine rescue. Added 2 more members to bring the total to 50, 5 of them are still on probation. Jon Burt is back to active status from a hiatus. One vehicle was taken out of service because it wasn't safe to be on the road. They received another used vehicle from Burlington.

6. **Old Business**

- a. Budget discussion

Paul Betti shared the new budget options on the screen, this was updated from last month at the request from the Training & Membership subcommittees. A 3rd option was added to the spreadsheet at \$3.93M for 80 members in region 1 & 3, 70 members in region 4 and 50 members in region 5. Training hours set at 88 hours maximum. The budget is to cover stipend, training, call response and all internal DFS expenses. This is about \$186k higher than last month's proposal. Jason Saunders spoke in favor of 88 training hours as region 4 struggles to get all training completed in 80 hours. Vice Chair McGregor spoke in support of the idea that this is a fair budget for both sides that will provide what is needed to absorb the existing teams into the state structure. Mark McCabe also spoke in support of the team size and training hours. Daryl Springman asked about backfill and overtime which is included in spreadsheet on line 21. Deputy Fournier commented that if we get funded at \$3.93M it is outside of the normal operating budget for DFS. If we receive a lower amount, we must still pay the \$5000 stipend per member as that is part of the legislative bill so other things would have to be cut. The Tech Rescue budget can't be supplemented from other DFS line items because it is not assessed. Vice Chair McGregor made a motion to accept the 3rd budget option of \$3.93M, it was seconded by Mark McCabe. All members voted in favor of this budget. Chair Belsito asked what the next step is, Deputy Fournier commented that we still must wait on the legislative bill to pass. Chair Belsito and Deputy Secretary Terrey thanked all those involved in the many hours of work to get this finalized.

7. **New Business**

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

Vice Chair McGregor brought up that MATRS is sponsoring a joint training drill with Boston fire, this event is happening on 9/12 at Fenway Park. There will be a couple of rope rescue

scenarios, and the event will run from 7:30-17:00. There will be an additional event on 9/11 that will be a seminar that is open to all. There will be 6 teams of 12 members, regions should submit their 12 names on the MATRS website by 7/31. There will be a VIP list for spectators to observe as well as additional members working in logistics as safety controllers.

9. Future Agenda Items

10. Determination of future meeting date

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

Jason Saunders made a motion to adjourn, Deputy Secretary Terrey seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:04am.