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CHAIRMAN

IAIN MCGREGOR
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL**
September 28, 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 Thursday, September 28, 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:

Iain McGregor, Chair/Vice Chair	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Chief Matthew Belsito, Vice Chair/Chair	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Chief Michael Mansfield	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Jason Saunders	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Jon Davine	State Fire Marshal

Absent from the meeting were the following Commission members:

Susan Terrey	Deputy Secretary for EOPSS
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DES Employees in Attendance:

Glenn Rooney	Legal Counsel to the Board
Rachel Perlman	Deputy Legal Counsel to the Board
Maribel Fournier	Deputy Fire Marshal
David Clemons	Director of Operations
Paul Betti	Deputy Director of Special Operations

Other Attendees

Rob O'Brien	Region 1
Mark McCabe	Region 1
Dave Randolph	Region 2
Jon Martin	Region 3
Alan Sirois	Region 4
Eric Pepper	Region 5

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Iain McGregor, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 10:06 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 August 23, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Chief Mansfield made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held, Wednesday, August 23, 2023. The motion was seconded by Jason Saunders. No further discussion. Unanimous roll call vote was completed.

3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence

No correspondence during this time frame

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Equipment – Chief Mansfield discussed concerns around equipment cataloging and what system we are going to use. Paul Betti discussed that he just did the FY25 DFS budgeting where funds were requested for D4H. Paul Betti and Jim Dennehy met with D4H management/sales on September 27th to ask technical questions on how we would configure the database. D4H is working up a quote for this software. Jason Saunders commented that maybe the subcommittee should start with the categories.
- b. Policy/SOG – Joint meeting with training and membership subcommittees on September 13th. Chief Belsito stated that we they discussed the tiered responses matrix. Chairman McGregor also indicated discussion around quantities of members. Further discussion on policies that are yet to be generated as well as creation of documents for dispatch protocol and guide for fire officers. Chief Belsito referenced the questions from the Region 3 meeting about the vetting process. Paul Betti took the selection & training criteria received from Jason Saunders and put it into Excel to create a scoring matrix that would remove any ambiguity from the selection process that the steering committee could use. Paul sent this matrix to a few regional members to test it out.
- c. Training – see Policy/SOP above
- d. Membership – see Policy/SOP above
- e. Mobex – Chairman McGregor indicated that there was a meeting on September 26th. The team went through the objectives again, the October meeting will be when the objectives will be finalized. They reviewed the draft budget again. We will be partnering with the National Guard; they will be providing funding for supplies, controller staff and doing all the resets. Tentative timeframe is the week of October 21st 2024 at Joint Base Cape Cod. The 21st would be the setup day, 3 days of operational periods and then the 25th for breakdown. Asking to have a funding plan in place by next month. Looking for external evaluators as well as lunch, current budget around \$400k. Squads of 20-25 from each regional team plus participation from the National Guard. Question from Marshal Davine about FCAM support of the MOBEX. Chief Mansfield stated that he and Chief Belsito requested a meeting with FCAM executive board next week to get clarity.

5. Regional Reports

- a. Region 1 – Rob O’Brien indicated that training on wide area search training is happening on October 4th. Norfolk county added some recent team members, focusing on the basics.
- b. Region 2 – Paul Morrison reported this update via email. Training is ongoing at the regional level at the individual department level. 12 members from Region 2 participated in a joint drill at Six Flags New England in Agawam. Many challenges were presented, and we were able to overcome them as a team. Skills were performed using members from different departments. Planning, logistics, command structure, and communications were implemented and practiced in real time. It was extremely beneficial, and we hope that this is the first of many opportunities.
- c. Region 3 – Jon Martin reported that D7 has onboarded 6 new members. Training on Tower Rescue and Confined Space happened in August. Acquired structure this month where they focused on shoring, camera work, and breaching & breaking. Trench training coming up in November. No recent calls.
- d. Region 4 – Chief Sirois stated they had their monthly drill as well as the rope challenge that happened on 9/21 in Agawam. Resources list was assembled for the hurricane Lee. Thanks to Western Mass Homeland Security Council they were able to send 4 members to Michigan for advanced shoring & trenching training. Jason Saunders added that the Six Flags event was an incredible event. The teams tackled things differently, but it was great networking. Paul Betti added that this was an incredible event, thanks to Daryl Springman & the western Mass team for hosting, all the green shirts who were the safety personnel and to Scott Jensen & Mike Caddell who have been trying to make this event happen for over 3 years.
- e. Region 5 – Eric Pepper stated that they had 4 new team members come off probation. They completed their annual water rescue and structural collapse refresher training.

6. Old Business

- a. Look into SOP’s not yet approved
Chairman McGregor asked Paul Betti if he had found any other missing SOP’s. Paul Betti gave an update that that he had only reviewed the minutes back to 2022. This item will remain open as Paul has to go all the way back to 2021.
- b. MOBEX funding update
Chairman McGregor asked if we should ask for funding. Chief Belsito commented to give him and Chief Mansfield a couple days to get answers. The draft budget is \$280,000 for backfill and overtime. Deputy Marshal Fournier commented that the Deputy Secretary Terrey couldn’t attend this meeting and that her and the Marshal will brief her.

7. New Business

- a. Annual Chair/Vice Chair election
Glenn Rooney volunteered to run this process. Chief Mansfield made a motion for Chief Belsito to be Chairman, this was seconded by Iain McGregor. No other nominations, the roll call vote was unanimous. Chief Belsito accepted the nomination.

- b. Jason Saunders made a motion for Iain McGregor to be Vice Chair, this was seconded by Chief Mansfield. No other nominations, the roll call vote was unanimous. Iain McGregor accepted the nomination.

8. Any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair – Chairman Belsito raised concerns regarding recently filed legislation that impacts the Technical Rescue Coordinating Council as well as *An Act Relative to Hazardous Materials Teams (S.1597)* and how he believes S.1597 should be amended to include technical rescue services. Discussion regarding these two pieces of legislation followed by Council members. Chief Sirois suggested that Chairman Belsito additionally raise his concerns with FCAM’s legislative representative.

9. Future Agenda Items - none

10. Determination of future meeting date

The next meeting date will be on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 10:00am in the Boards & Commissions room in Stow.

Chief Mansfield made a motion to adjourn, Jason Saunders seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:16am.