

**WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM**  
**Fire Service Advisory Committee on Education and Training**

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**September 1, 2016**

**Approved 9/7/2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

*Jeremy Hansen, WTCS District Coordinators  
Michael Romas, WI State Fire Chiefs Association  
Lance Langer, Madison Fire Department  
Jim Austadt, WI Soc of Emerg Services Instructors  
Mike DeGarmo, Professional Fire Fighters of WI*

*Jeff Pollard, WI Fire Inspectors Assn.  
Jack Running, WI State Fire Chiefs Assn.  
John Schwengel, Milwaukee Fire Department  
Peter Silva, WTCS Office  
Paul Cooke, WI Emergency Management*

**Staff**

Shari Jacobson, WTCS  
Denise Perkins, WTCS

**GUESTS**

Rick Anderson, MSTC  
Robert Balsamo, BTC  
Dana Baumgartner, NATC  
John Flannery, NWTC  
Tim Haas, WEM

Karl Sandry, WTCS  
Red Van Ert, CVTC  
Tom Vandenack, NWTC  
Kris Wubben, SWTC  
Courtney Carson, WCTC

Open meeting statement was read by Peter Silva.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

New committee member and guest introductions were made.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE MARCH 3, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

The March 3, 2016 meeting minutes were approved.

**BI-ANNUAL ELECTION OF CO-CHAIRPERSON**

Jack Running will be the new co-chair.

**AFG AWARD UPDATE**

Six full sets of SCBA were purchased for each district out of the last grant.

We were denied grant funds for the current year but will be submitting for the next one. Pete will contact the districts to get a complete "wish list."

### **BUDGET UPDATES**

Pete gave a detailed report on the 2 Percent funding distribution as well as the grant monies from WEM distributed to the colleges for Hazardous Materials Operations course. Pete also discussed a handout explaining fire departments served and enrollments supported by 2 Percent Dues.

Jim Zylstra, Vice President, WTCS, provided a handout detailing the Operations budget.

### **SUBMITTED LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT COURSE**

Pete discussed the TIME Coalition letter and the recommendation for inclusion in the Entry Level course. Michael Romas asked what was going to be taken out if we include this 4-hour course. Jack Running said it is an excellent course, but there is nothing we can take out; we really need to add hours. Lance Langer thought it belonged in an Officer class not Fire Fighter I. John Schwengel said this should be more of a supplemental class.

Pete talked about a survey sent out several years ago asking fire fighters what was important to them. He plans to survey them again when we revisit the curriculum in 2018.

Mike DeGarmo agreed that we need more hours.

John Schwengel said we need to support this training within the departments.

Red Van Ert said CVTC is hosting this course right now and having a hard time getting enrollments.

Pete will draft a letter to the Coalition and provide a copy to the Committee.

### **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Fire Inspector, Driver/Operator-Pumper, Aerial, Fire Officer I and II, and Hazardous Materials Operations have all been worked on in the last year.

D/O-Pumper and Aerial were ready to go this past summer.

There will be a Fire Officer II Train-the-Trainer this fall for implementation in the spring. Both Fire Officer I and II are 40 hours now with no Entry-Level.

Hazardous Materials Operations course still being updated. This course will be ready to go in spring, as well. The course will remain at 16 hours.

### **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE**

NFA Wisconsin Weekend is scheduled October 8-9, 2016. Pete strongly encouraged all of the new coordinators to take advantage of this wonderful training opportunity. Pete will teach the pre-conference delivery Friday, October 7, *Stress Free First Aid for Fire and EMS*. There are 4 NFA courses being delivered with 30 in each class. A handout with the courses being offered was provided.

Pete explained that in addition to the NFA Weekend, there are several other courses sponsored by us but offered by several in-state organizations and/or districts.

Pete also explained the annual 20K grant to deliver 2-Day Off-Campus courses administered by the WTCS Office. These courses can be delivered anytime throughout the year by the districts.

### **EDUCATION DIRECTOR TRAVEL AND PRESENTATIONS**

Pete gave a brief update about his travel and presentations around the state since March.

### **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY COMMITTEE ON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN SHORTAGES UPDATE**

This Committee was put together by Senator Nass. There are representatives from various fire departments and EMS services around the state.

This advisory committee has been discussing increasing the minimum hours of training to the standard 96 hours with certification remaining optional at the end. A subcommittee was formed to continue the discussion throughout the state. The overwhelming response was that it was time to increase. However, there are still pockets in the state that are not supportive and that could be where this Study Committee came from. This Study Committee was formed to look at recruitment and retention of volunteers in rural areas.

Many complaints had to do with local issues that should/could have been handled by respective technical college districts. Rural areas indicated that classes are canceled when there is not enough department members enrolled. Broadband was another issue.

System President, Morna Foy, testified on Tuesday.

Pete felt that after the hearing, the Legislative Committee has no intention of reducing the training hours for Fire, but he has second thoughts about trying to increase hours at this time. Pete asked the group what they thought.

Jack Running suggested that instead of increasing hours, we increase coverage. For instance, start offering more online, hybrid courses. We have to look at alternative delivery.

Jeremy Hansen indicated that his district has to have 12 enrolled to run a class and this can be difficult. He has issues with department members not willing to travel even 10 miles for training. Jeremy still believes that we need to stand together and get the required training hours increased to 96.

The Study Committee does want to see an increase of "on-line" delivery of courses around the state.

Pete also indicated that the Study Committee may be looking at EMS hours and they could see a reduction in those hours.

Courtney Carson, WCTC, suggested a running list of all of the things we are NOT teaching because of the time constraints.

Pete indicated that he would send out the notice for the next Study Committee Meeting as soon as he had it.

**ADJOURN**

Meeting was adjourned.