

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM
Fire Service Advisory Committee on Education and Training
September 3, 2020 (Virtual) Meeting Minutes
Approved 3/4/21

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Austad, WI Soc of Emerg Services Instructors
Christopher Garrison, WI State Fire Chiefs Assn.
Brian Bending, WI Fire Inspectors Assn.
Mike DeGarmo, Professional Fire Fighters of WI

Jack Running, WI State Fire Chiefs Assn.
Karl Sandry, WTCS District Coordinators
Mike Stanley, WI State Fire Chiefs Assn.
Angela White, WTCS

STAFF PRESENT

Shari Jacobson, WTCS

Denise Perkins, WTCS

Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, WTCS

GUESTS PRESENT

Rob Balsamo, BTC

Tom Plevak, MATC-Milw

Blake Deiber, WTC

Ray Lemke, NATC

Russ Spahn, MATC-Milw

Jonathon Ladwig, NWTC

Latisha Spence-Brookens

Lori LaBre, MATC-Milw

Barb Jascor, MPTC

Courtney Carlson Hull, WCTC

Tim Halbur, WITC

Dawn Way, MATC-Madison

Mark Schwartz, CVTC

Rob Schmidt, LTC

Andrew Timm, Milw Fire Dept.

Cassie Taylor, Milw Fire Dept.

Open meeting statement was read by Angela White.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting was called to order at 0932 via Teams. Members and guest introductions were made.

WTCS COMMITMENTS TO PROGRESS

Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Associate Vice President, WTCS Office, was introduced. Chrystal noted as a system we have excelled during this global pandemic. Colleges are up and running for fall semester. Chrystal provided links to access COVID-19 updates for the technical colleges and the WTCS Office. <https://www.wtcsystem.edu/initiatives/covid-19>

Chrystal introduced and gave an overview of the WTCS Commitment to Progress, an initiative to address systemic racism and inequities within our system. She invited all WI Fire Service organizations to partner with us. <https://www.wtcsystem.edu/initiatives/commitment-to-progress>. Chrystal also provided the Systemwide Equity Report for review.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MARCH 12, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2020, meeting minutes were referenced. Motion by Jack Running to accept the minutes as attached, seconded by James Austad. Motion carried.

WTCS FST COURSE AND CURRICULUM UPDATES

- ARFF and ARFF/DO certifications are complete and accredited. Ben Sokol, FVTC, is the Program Director.
- D/O-Pumper and Aerial curriculum was updated over a year ago and seems to be running smoothly.
- Entry-Level Fire Fighter, Fire Fighter I, and Fire Fighter II were ready in January with an implementation date by July 1, 2020. We are still reviewing practical exam evolutions and getting feedback from Coordinators/State Reps. Christopher Garrison noted that he has had concerns from volunteer chiefs about the added information/hours in Entry-Level Fire Fighter, i.e., online ICS courses, etc.
- HazMat Ops curriculum was updated to the new 1072, NFPA 2017 Edition, with an increase to 20 course hours.
- HazMat Tech curriculum committee has been formed but has not yet started working on the curriculum.
- Fire Inspector new edition of the code will be out next year, so we will be looking at that update.
- Emergency Services Instructor (ESI) is currently being updated. Accredited ESI II certification will be added. Live-Fire Instructor In Charge added to the code. The curriculum committee sees the value in adding it. Mike DeGarmo asked for more information. Angela gave the JPRs of the code. Mike asked who will facilitate the first group of instructors.
- Fire Investigator is a new course added this year and was accredited by IFSAC. The course offerings were cancelled but rescheduled for next spring.

- Fire Officer new edition of the code was just published. We will update the course/curriculum early next year.

GRANT UPDATES

- The 2017 AFG is complete. Equipment has been purchased, and colleges reimbursed.
- The 2018 grant is finishing soon. We were given a year extension.
- The 2019 grant awards have begun. Angela is waiting for notification and will inform the committee when heard.
- Supplemental funds added for COVID supplies. Colleges will purchase their own supplies.
- NFA – Nine handoff courses. Course call open.
- Angela informed the Committee that the 20K FEMA grants monies for the hand-off courses has been reinstated (largely due to all state fire training directors writing letters of support) and is available July 2020-July 2021. There was great participation prior to it being discontinued. Angela has encouraged colleges to take advantage of these courses. Monies cover instructor/equipment. Stricter reporting required.
- Hazardous Materials Operations/Technician grant funds were requested this week (\$122,000).
- Angela asked if anyone knew of any monies/grant opportunities available for the purchase of testing software.

ACCREDITATION

IFSAC site visits currently postponed. IFSAC may give extensions. ProBoard application submitted. There are currently no site visits. Angela will report when she has more information.

TECHNICAL RESCUE AWARENESS (TRA)

Chris Garrison asked that the committee consider Technical Rescue Awareness (TRA) course as WI certification. He explained that there is basically no TRA training for most fire departments, and there is a need. The TRA course is a 9-hour basic course addressing trench, confined space, etc. Chris further explained that the TRA course has no practical, and 100-question exam at the end. Angela asked if the TRA course should be a WI certification level or course offering with a completion certificate awarded by the technical college. Mike DeGarmo and Tim Halbur supported a WI certification level for TRA. Chris suggested that TRA should be included in WI Fire Fighter II certification, but it could start as a college course completion and be added with the next curriculum update. Angela suggested finalizing the TRA course, and she will send a survey to all districts/fire organizations. James Austad said that all technical colleges can/will offer completion certs, but WI certifications bring consistency throughout the state.

WTSC FST PROGRAM POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL UPDATES

There will be some minor policy changes made because of the ProBoard application review. Angela will report.

EDUCATION DIRECTOR UPDATES

- The WTCS FSEO State Reps are covering the practical exams. A State Rep meeting is scheduled September 28. Angela asked if anyone had any recommendations for discussion at the meeting.
- The WTCS FSEO have been holding bi-weekly meetings with the fire service technical college coordinators to answer any questions, concerns.

PROPOSED PROJECTS AND RESEARCH (no updates)

ROUND TABLE

Angela welcomed any/all suggestions/comments from all organizations. Mike DeGarmo announced that he has been promoted to Battalion Chief and will be stepping down from the board of the PFFW. A new rep will be appointed to take his place on the committee.

ADJOURN

Angela thanked the committee for all of their support. Meeting was adjourned.