

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM
Fire Service Advisory Committee on Education and Training
March 3, 2022 (Virtual) Meeting Minutes
Approved 8/30/22

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Austad, WI Soc of Emerg Services Instructors	Jack Running, WI State Fire Chiefs Assn.
Christopher Garrison, WI State Fire Chiefs Assn.	Karl Sandry, WTCS District Coordinators
Timothy Haas, Wisconsin Emergency Management	Angela White, WTCS
Chris Klahn, WI State Fire Fighters Association	Brian Bending, WI Fire Inspector's Assn.
Justin Pluess, PFFW	

STAFF PRESENT

Shari Jacobson, WTCS	Denise Perkins, WTCS	Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, WTCS
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GUESTS PRESENT

Joe Knitter, State Rep	Rob Balsamo, BTC	Kris Wubben, SWTC
Mark Schwartz, CVTC	Barb Jascor, MPTC	John Sorenson, FVTC
Jonathon Ladwig, NWTC	Greg West, WCTC	Bill Rice, State Rep
Chad Powell, MATC-Madison	Tim Halbur, Northwood Tech	Cynthia Estrup, NWTC
Dan Conrad, NTC	Travis Jones, Milw Fire Academy	Courtney Hull, WCTC
Tom Plevak, MATC-Milw	Aaron Paul, State Rep	Rick Anderson, MSTC
Nate Melby, State Rep	Blake Deiber, WTC	Ray Lemke, NATC
Pete Silva, State Rep	Dawn Way, MATC-Madison	Gerald Van Ert, State Rep

Open meeting statement was read by Angela White.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. via Teams. Members and guest introductions were made.

REVIEW AND APPROVE September 2, 2021, MEETING MINUTES

September 2, 2021, meeting minutes were referenced. Motion by Jim Austad to accept the minutes as attached, seconded by Jack Running. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Service Software

50K was approved in the state budget for the current fiscal year to get the fire service testing software program running. QuestionMark, NetExam, and Acadis were the three software companies reviewed.

We are working our way through the Department of Administration contract process. We will be making an announcement as soon as we are able to sign the contract.

Fire Team Meetings

Monthly team meetings with the fire service coordinators have been held since the beginning of the pandemic. This has been a great way for technical college fire coordinators and WTCS Office staff to touch base. With the continuous contact, we do not see a need to have WTCS Fire Service System-Called meetings at this time. Anyone wanting to join the monthly meeting or have items for discussion, please contact Angela.

NFA courses were a topic at our meeting this week. FVTC is hosting Leadership in Supervision: Frameworks to Success – April 30-May 1, 2022; and WTC is hosting Shaping the Future – April 23-24, 2022. If you have anyone interested in taking these courses, please reach out to those coordinators.

COURSE AND CURRICULUM

Angela gave an overview of certification/accreditation levels currently being offered by the WTCS.

- FESI I and II have been updated – Karl Sandry gave an overview of the FESI II course that was piloted and offered at the WI Society of Fire and Emergency Services Instructor Conference in February. It was a great experience as the Committee was able to attend and teach the Pilot offering. The students came from diverse backgrounds

and provided excellent feedback. Jim Austad echoed Karl's comments. The Committee will meet next week to make a few minor adjustments.

- TRA – Chief Garrison gave an overview of the first course Entry-Level Technical Rescue course that was offered at the WI Society of Fire and Emergency Services Instructor Conference, as well. The course went really well and the Committee received very positive feedback. There were students from all over the state in the class. Chief Garrison offered to go anywhere in the state to offer this class to fire department members. Chief Garrison thanked everyone that worked to bring this course to fruition. Angie asked Tom Plevak and Karl Sandry if they had any thoughts as attendees. Tom Plevak said the class was a huge success and the hospitality at MPTC was second to none. The presenters were amazing and represented their fire departments and college districts as true professionals. Karl said it was a well-thought-out course, and all of the presenters did a great job. Mark Schwartz asked when this could be offered at the colleges. Angela announced that there will be a Committee debrief next week and then all information will be released to the colleges. She encouraged using members of the Committee to present the class. Angela also announced that TRA student completion will be entered in the WTCS Look-up System.
- Fire Officer – Curriculum Committee has recently been formed. It is a 5-person Committee, and we will begin work on updating the curriculum.
- Hazmat Tech – Waiting for approval of grant funds for equipment. Angela asked Tim Haas for any updates. Tim stated that he has a call into the finance office and should have some clarity by next week.
- NFPA is grouping together Standards. Angela gave an overview of NFPA Standard Cycle Updates. Info is available at www.nfpa.org/errs
- Fire Investigator pending update
- Hazmat Ops will be updated 2023
- LFI – Angela is doing a final review and it should be released soon.
- Other questions?

GRANTS

2020 AFG – Completed - supplemental grant for COVID PPE and supplies of over \$100,000.

2020 AFG – Awarded

2021 AFG – Awarded

2022 AFG –

Angela reported that she had visited the new training site at BTC yesterday, and it is truly amazing. Some of the props were purchased through the AFG grant. Please continue to use these funds!

NFA (20K) – Please take advantage so the funding does not go away!

NFA (Course Call) – Fire Investigation: First Responders, March 10-11, 2022, WI State Fire Fighters Assn.; Shaping the Future, April 23-24, 2022, WTC; Leadership in Supervision: Frameworks to Success, April 30-May 1, 2022, FVTC

WEM – Grant funding pays for Hazardous Materials Operations courses and eventually Hazardous Materials Technician. We will be applying for the 2022 grant funds as soon as the grant is open.

Courtney asked if Angela had any updates regarding the DSPS grant. Angela said she thought they intended to make the awards this week and that they had 10 applicants. MATC-Madison, Northwood Tech, MATC-Milw, WCTC, FVTC, and WTC indicated they had all applied but have not heard anything yet.

ACCREDITATION

Angela recently attended the ProBoard Conference and sat down with a board member to review our application. We will be making the needed updates.

ProBoard allows entities to update cert levels on a 2-year cycle and IFSAC is a 3-year cycle. Further, our IFSAC site visit is due summer 2023. We have a meeting scheduled to review all requirements.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

There will be a significant update to the Policy and Procedures Manual coming this fall.

FESI Renewal Information has been updated on our website as well as in the Policy and Procedures Manual. Renewal Requirements were the only changes. Instead of 240 hours of “only” instruction for renewal, we will now accept a minimum of 180 hours of instruction and a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education. There is a list of acceptable hours for instruction and continuing education over the 5-year cycle. There is also a form on our website to document the hours.

Greg West asked about instructional hours teaching outside of the WTCS. Angela said those individuals could fall under “other emergency services courses/sessions.”

Courtney Hull asked that the Precepting could be used for the 30 hours of student teaching. Austad said that if the Precepting is being overseen by a certified instructor, the hours could be used. The form is an option – not required.

EDUCATION DIRECTOR UPDATES

Angela voted in as president of the NAFTD last fall. This is an amazing organization and great networking resource.

Angela had the honor of attending the Truman Fire Forum in San Antonio for 3 days. For those that do not know, President Truman was an advocate for the Fire Service. Newly elected Director Dr. Mora Merrill will make much needed improvements in her new role. It was an amazing experience and Angela looks forward to bringing more information to the group.

COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE/PROPOSED PROJECTS/RESEARCH

Angela made contact with several states at the Truman Fire Forum about creating an MOU with NFFF & FRCE. Do any Committee members have any feedback about our involvement? Jim Austad said it is a good idea and we should be involved in this organization. Blake Deiber agreed that we should be involved. WCTC has included some of the courses already and it is a great idea. Angela will pursue and make sure WI is involved.

WCTC has been doing a lot of research on pass/fail rates of the certification exams. WCTC has noticed that HS students specifically are struggling with the written certification exam. She asked if other districts had any “best practices” to share.

Angela was talking to another state about vocab review on the written exams.

Tom Plevak noted that the HS students are still in high school - juggling sports, homework, and technical college work is a lot for these students.

Chad Powell, MATC-Madison, said their most successful HS students are attending on campus classes.

Jim Austad agreed with Courtney. HS EMT students are being integrated with college students. HS students have to be treated differently as far as due dates, time stamping, etc. FVTC has found that working with students taking the written Fire Fighter I certification exam has been helpful. Further, FVTC does not find out there is a reading/comprehension issue until a student has taken and failed the written exam.

Blake Deiber said WTC has been running an EMR academy for 3 years. FFI and Haz Mat Ops were added last fall. EMR has been very successful, Fire had a 50% pass rate. WTC is considering bringing in college test support staff to work with students.

Chief Jones appreciated the conversation. Milw Fire has an in-house cadet program with students 18-21, and their staff is able to help structure study skills. The Milw Fire Academy success rate for FFI is about 90%. Chief Jones was advised by MATC-9 staff to have adapted testing during FFI to assess reading/comp skills.

Chad Powell said MATC-4 created an entire new program (next Gen) for HS students. Having conversations with students prior to the start of the class has helped pinpoint issues students may have.

Dan Conrad, NTC, said they have had issues primarily with EMS. On the fire side, NTC is very up front about the requirements needed to pass the class. NTC does a round robin and has all students read a portion of the syllabus. This is an easy way to identify any reading comprehension issues in the very beginning.

Angela thanked everyone for the rich discussion.

ADJOURN

Angela adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.