

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM
Fire Service Advisory Committee on Education and Training
August 30, 2022 (Virtual) Meeting Minutes
Approved 3/2/23

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Austad, WI Soc of Emerg Services Instructors
Christopher Garrison, WI State Fire Chiefs Assn.
Karl Sandry, WTCS District Coordinators

Brian Bending, WI Fire Inspector's Assn.
Matt Davies, WI Emergency Management
Angela White, WTCS

STAFF PRESENT

Shari Jacobson, WTCS

Denise Perkins, WTCS

Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, WTCS

GUESTS PRESENT

Blake Deiber, WTC

Jen Roman, MATC-Madison

Tom Plevak, MATC-Milw

Dan Conrad, NTC

Rob Schmidt, LTC

Jonathon Ladwig, NWTC

Jack Running, State Rep

Mark Schwartz, CVTC

Jessica Cioci, MATC-Madison

Travis Jones, Milw Fire Dept.

Rick Anderson, MSTC

Myra Sandquist Reuter, CVTC

Trent Kohel, Northwood Tech

Tom Vandennack, State Rep

Latisha Spence-Brookens, MPTC

Paul Ripp, Madison Fire Dept.

Tim Halbur, Northwood Tech

Rob Balsamo, BTC

Dawn Way, MATC-Madison

Bethany Julson, Milw Fire Dept.

Eric Anderson, CVTC

Cindy Estrup, NWTC

Courtney Carlson Hull, WCTC

Tim DiBona, Northwood Tech

Shane Heilmann, NTC

John Sorenson, FVTC

Chuck Butler, 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 March 3, 2022, MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2022, meeting minutes were referenced. Motion by Karl Sandry to accept the minutes as attached, seconded by Jim Austad. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Service Software Update

Acadis Software, owned by Vector Solutions, was purchased to transition to online testing. WTCS Staff has been working for the last 5 months to set up. All history (certification database) will be brought into the new product. Students will be able to log into the system and see their transcript and training history as well as print/reprint certifications.

We will be transitioning to online testing for all certifications. Training will occur in October. Training will be available for WTCS Staff, Fire Coordinators, Fire Instructors, Proctors, etc. We will be running several pilot programs this fall.

Tom Plevak asked about exam scores. Angie explained that once the exam is complete, the score will be available to students within about 2 hours. Fire Coordinators will be notified, as well.

Mark Schwartz asked if the SS Forms will eventually go away. Angie explained that they will. Each item from the SS Form will be captured in the product checked off by instructors, coordinators, etc.

There will be significantly more analysis capabilities with this product.

COURSE AND CURRICULUM

- Fire Officer – Curriculum Committee is working to update Fire Officer I/II. There is no definite date on the release; Angie will be sending out communication updates. The WTCS is making the course as relevant as possible.
- Hazmat Tech – We have received approval of grant funds for equipment for Haz Mat Tech. We are waiting for the Training Grant to be published. All equipment grant monies must be reported on first.
- Angie has been asked to add Health and Safety Officer, Incident Safety Officer, Traffic Incident Manager as accredited certifications. Angie asked for guidance from the Committee. Chris Garrison said he would like to see these added, Jim Austad agreed. Blake Deiber asked how this would be paid for. Blake also said that these courses are already offered through the NFA and there is trouble filling them at times. Chris Garrison said that the Committee needs to move this forward no matter the cost. Angie added that in order to offer more certification courses, there will need to be an increase in 2 percent funds. The colleges are only getting a small percentage of the actual cost for holding certification courses as it is. Blake Deiber said the issue is not that it is not needed, but it is a financial issue. Blake also informed the group that the WTCS can't fill classes with the free training, how will we get students when they have to pay for it? Karl Sandry agreed that we need to push these courses and change the attitude of the fire service, but we also need a funding increase. Angie will continue to pursue.
- Successful Course Completion – Angie asked if we need some sort of measurement to see if students are actually grasping the course information. Outside of course participation there is really no measurement. Angie asked if the Committee would support a standard end-of-course exam? Karl asked if it would need to be a written final exam, or could it be a practical examination? He stated that there should be some evaluation of the practical knowledge for some of these courses, for some of the others, there could be a final written exam. Angie asked the Committee if they support the curriculum committees creating an end-of-course exam? Jim Austad said he supports that. Courtney Hull mentioned that this would add hours to the class. Can an exam be done within the existing hours? Also, WCTC does a lot of assessment of students even though it is not a "final" exam.
- Hazardous Materials Operations to be updated soon.

GRANTS UPDATES

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

2020 AFG – Colleges in the process of making their purchases.

2021 AFG – Awarded just 2 weeks ago. We received about \$575K

2022 AFG – The notice of funding has not been made public yet. Angie thought the grant application period would open around the holiday season.

Tom Plevak asked when the 2020 AFG is being closed out. Angie will send the information out to everyone. It looks like it will close Nov 30. If you need an extension, please let her know right away.

NFA – Angie learned that the 20K FEMA grant does not have to fund only NFA Classes. Therefore, she applied for \$10K for NFA classes and the other \$10K for FESI I/II classes. She applied for the grant funds August 3 and has not heard anything. If we are awarded, she will put out some guidelines for how the FESI I/II funds will be disbursed.

2022 Hazardous Materials Operations Grant – The amount that we are eligible to apply for was reduced from 90K to 75K. We will have to watch this funding closely. We have asked that colleges get approval from the WTCS for these classes prior to training, so we know what we are spending.

ANNUAL BYLAW REVIEW

Angie asked if there were any proposed changes. There were no suggested changes.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES UPDATE

Angie shared the new FESI Renewal Policy and requirements for certification/recertification. Tom Plevak asked for clarification of the one-year grace period. Angie confirmed that Instructors now have one year instead of two for recertification.

Angie reminded that the LOE Policy will be sunsetting at the end of the year and replaced by Advanced Standing.

EDUCATION DIRECTOR UPDATES

Angie is President of NAFTD, which is a tremendous resource for our state. If you ever need feedback from any of those members, please reach out to her.

Angie is very involved with the Truman Presidential Forum.

Five-year IFSAC reaccreditation cycle coming up July 2023. Angie will share more information as the time gets closer. Angie is an active IFSAC Board of Governors member.

COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE/PROPOSED PROJECTS/RESEARCH

Angie asked if there were any items for discussion?

Chris Garrison asked Angie to give an update of the Technical Rescue Awareness (TRA) course. Madison and Northwood Tech have offered the TRA course at no cost to students which has been extremely successful and very well received. Garrison reported that there have been 3 successful course offerings. He will be holding another at Sun Prairie Fire Dept., if anyone is interested, please contact him.

Jim Austad said the WI Society of Fire Service Emergency Services Instructors will be offering the Health and Safety Program Manager October 15-16 at FVTC. If you have interested folks, please contact FVTC for more information. Angie reminded everyone that the NFA courses being offered are on the WTCS Fire Service Website.

<https://mywtcs.wtcsystem.edu/fire-service/national-fire-academy-nfa-courses/>

Tom Plevak announced that Russ Spahn has retired from MATC-Milwaukee.

ADJOURN

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