

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM
Fire Service Advisory Committee on Education and Training
March 2, 2023 (Virtual) Meeting Minutes
Approved 9/27/23

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Austad, WI Soc of Emerg Services Instructors	Brian Bending, WI Fire Inspector's Assn.
Karl Sandry, WTCS District Coordinators	Angela White, WTCS
Justin Pluess, Professional Fire Fighter's Assn.	Jeremy Hansen, WI State Fire Chief's Assn.
Chris Klahn, WI State Fire Fighter's Assn.	

STAFF PRESENT

Shari Jacobson, WTCS	Denise Perkins, WTCS
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GUESTS PRESENT

Karen Hoglund, Northwood Tech	Mark Karp, NATC	Dan Roeglin, Northwood Tech
Tom Plevak, MATC-Milw	Barb Jascor, MPTC	Rick Anderson, MSTC
Blake Deiber, WTC	Dawn Way, MATC-Mad	Jen Roman, MATC-Mad
Mark Schwartz, CVTC	Greg West, WCTC	Tom Vandenack, State Rep
Jonathon Ladwig, NWTC	Travis Jones, Milw Fire Academy	Courtney Hull, WCTC
Shawn Dillingham, MSTC	Rob Balsamo, BTC	Cindy Estrup, NWTC
Rob Schmidt, LTC	Eric Anderson, CVTC	

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 AUGUST 30, 2022, MEETING MINUTES

August 30, 2022, meeting minutes were referenced. Motion by Blake Deiber to accept the minutes as attached, seconded by Jeremy Hansen. Motion carried.

FIRE SERVICE SOFTWARE UPDATE

Acadis Software was purchased to move certification testing online. We have been working on getting person records, testing records, exam banks, etc., online. We are close to starting "pilot" testing. Angie has reached out to a couple of colleges to participate. We will be transitioning soon.

Each student will have their own account (in Acadis) and will be able to log into their record to review training history, print certificates, etc.

Tom Plevak asked about IFSAC numbers and name changes. The IFSAC number will remain the same for those already issued and there will be a procedure for making a name change.

COURSE AND CURRICULUM

Fire Officer Curriculum Committee has wrapped up and Angie is finalizing.

Jeremy Hansen asked if folks have seen the Bill proposal being circulated about Fire Officer. Angie shared the bill and explained what is being proposed but informed the group that this is only in the beginning stages.

Angie indicated that the Curriculum Committee was trying to strike a balance for volunteer/paid/combo fire officers when updating the recent curriculum. Our obligation in running an accredited certification program is to follow and test the standard.

We will see if the Bill gains momentum.

Dan Roeglin said he still has people ask for the old Entry-Level Fire Officer class at Northwood Tech.

Blake Deiber expressed his concern about the Bill. He does not want this Bill to force the creation of 2 different Fire Officer programs in Wisconsin. Blake asked that Advisory Committee members and alternates receive a copy of the proposed Bill in order to make a decision about whether they want to endorse or give an opposing opinion.

Justin Pluess said it sounds like the majority does not see value in this Bill. He suggested that the Advisory Committee go on record opposing the Bill. Chris Klahn asked that the Advisory Committee review the bill before voting on it. Angie will send the Bill language out for review and schedule an additional meeting to discuss further. Justin Pluess made a motion for members to review and meet again to discuss.

Angie reported that Hazardous Materials Technician (HMT) curriculum is now available. Any college that has equipment or can borrow the equipment can host the class. It is grant funded. Reimbursement is \$250/student, and it is a 50-hour course.

Upcoming course updates include Fire Inspector, Hazardous Materials Operations (HMO), and Fire Investigator. Angie is waiting for textbooks to be published for Fire Inspector before beginning Committee work. She will send an email out to recruit for committee membership as soon as the textbooks are out.

Angie's intent is to have a HMO certification outside of FFI making it a stand-alone certification.

Jim Austad asked about Live Fire Instructor and Live Fire Instructor-In Charge. Angie has a meeting with the committee as well as DSPS staff to discuss before moving forward. Dan Roeglin verified Jones and Bartlett would be used for the curriculum.

GRANTS UPDATES

2021 AFG – Awarded in August and executing now - \$499,982.60

2022 AFG – Applied for Equipment (\$290,295) and PPE (\$279,570)

NFA Course Call (9 courses) - information will be coming out in the next few days.

NFA 20K will be split between FESI I courses (to be held through Nicolet, WCTC, and MSTC) There are 3 sections with 61 students. If the FESI I students complete certification within the 2 year time limit, they will be paid for through the grant. The other 10K will fund NFA 2-Day Deliveries.

The Hazardous Materials Operations (WEM) grant was reduced (\$75,000), and there is a limited amount of grant funds for HMT (\$25,000). We are hoping to transfer leftover funds from HMT to pay for HMO students. Blake Deiber asked if there would be adequate funding for HMO students next year. Angie explained that this is a 3-year cycle, so it will likely be the same next year. She is having conversations with WEM about how we can cover this.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES UPDATE

The Letter of Equivalency (LOE) Policy ended December 31, 2022. There is no longer an opportunity to apply for and receive a LOE. The Advanced Standing Policy has taken its place.

EDUCATION DIRECTOR UPDATES

IFSAC reaccreditation site review is scheduled for June. A team of peers representing IFSAC will be here to evaluate our program/testing for reaccreditation.

Angie informed the Committee that she has taken on extra duties with EMS until a new Education Director is hired.

We continue to have monthly Fire Service Team meetings with WTCS District Fire Coordinators.

Angie is working with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to have fire fighters reimbursed veterans through the GI Bill.

Angie announced that the Stress First Aid course was recently updated and will be piloted in WI through WCTC. Any instructors in the course will be able to instruct. More details to follow.

NFFF will be hosting 4 courses in Madison March 24-25, 2023. The courses being offered are Courage to be Safe, LAACK, Leadership so Everyone Goes Home, and Attributes of Leading. These are train-the-trainer courses for Wisconsin instructors. She will forward information to everyone after the meeting.

COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE/PROPOSED PROJECTS/RESEARCH

Angie asked if there were any items for discussion?

ADJOURN

Angela adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.