

**WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM**  
**Fire Service Advisory Committee on Education and Training**  
**March 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes**  
**Approved 9/12/24**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chad Powell, PFFW	Brian Bending, WI Fire Inspector's Assn.
Karl Sandry, WTCS District Coordinators	Jeff Krisik, WI State Fire Fighters' Assn.
David Yakowenko, WI Society of Fire Service Instructors	Jeremy Hansen, WI State Fire Chief's Assn.
Tim Haas, WEM	

**STAFF PRESENT**

Ward Lyon, WTCS	Shari Jacobson, WTCS	Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, WTCS
Denise Perkins, WTCS		

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Rob Balsamo, BTC	James Zeich, Milw Fire Academy	Jonathon Ladwig, NWTC
Rick Anderson, MSTC	Angie White, Madison College	Cynde Larsen, SWTC
Aaron Paul, MPTC	Tom Plevak, MATC-Milw	
Blake Deiber, WTC	Paul Ripp, Madison College	
Cindy Estrup, NWTC	Jon Byrd, State Rep	
Jack Running, State Rep	Alyssa Cahoon, MATC-Milw	

Open meeting statement was read by Ward Lyon.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. Members and guest introductions were made.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE SEPTEMBER 27, 2023, MEETING MINUTES**

Karl Sandry made a motion to approve the September 27, 2023, minutes, and Jeremy Hansen seconded.

**ONLINE TESTING**

Denise Perkins gave a brief overview of the new Acadis Online testing process. Madison College and Mid-State Technical College have been piloting all certification testing online. WTCS is working to streamline the process.

Chrystal Seeley-Schreck informed the group that the WTCS has transitioned from the Online Look-up System to Acadis where students can manage their own certification(s). The WTCS Office has "sunset" the Look-Up System; and as of March 1, 2024, certifications are now processed in Acadis. Fire fighters in the system can print/email their certifications in Acadis.

Jeremy Hansen indicated that as a chief the Look-Up System is handy but students managing their own certificates will work as well. Jeremy said this will be only a minor inconvenience. Jeremy Hansen thought the new system would be a great change!

David Yakowenko indicated that he uses the Look-Up System and does not want to see it go away.

**COURSE AND CURRICULA**

Ward reported that a committee is currently reviewing and updating the new curriculum. We are making sure the Correlation Sheets and Exam Administration Handbook are consistent. Please email if you have any concerns or suggestions.

## **GRANTS**

2022 AFG – Colleges still submitting reimbursements. \$476,445.99 in federal resources awarded.

2023 AFG – Application was sent in and awaiting approval from FEMA. \$458,862.24 in federal resources applied for.

NFA 2024-25 Course Call opened March 1<sup>st</sup> and closes March 31<sup>st</sup>. We receive 9 courses per year and offer them to WSFCA, WSFA, WFIA, WSESI, and WI Technical Colleges. If we do not select all 9 courses by March 31<sup>st</sup>, there will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> enrollment period in September.

2023-2024 WEM HMO/HMT – The total grant award for Hazardous Materials Operations is \$80,000 and we received \$9,000 for Hazardous Materials Technician students.

## **POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

Ward has been receiving questions about some of the Policy and Procedures language. WTCS will be reviewing policies and addressing them in the future. Please email Ward directly if you have any suggestions or questions.

## **COURSE STATISTICS**

Ward provided a “Dual Credit” handout with statistics in reference to HS students for review. Please contact him if you want further information.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

PFFW – No updates.

Coords – No updates.

Chiefs – No updates.

Inspectors – No updates.

Instructors – Just completed the Conference in February and looking forward to offering 2 classes next year.

## **EDUCATION DIRECTOR UPDATES**

Ward started January 2 and has been onboarding. He has been attending Fire Certification Practical Exams to learn the process. He hopes to visit each college/fire coordinator this year. He has been meeting with Fire Coordinators as well as State Reps. Ward is learning WTCS Course Approval. He attended the Wisconsin Society of Fire Service Instructors’ Conference last month and will be attending the Wisconsin State Fire Fighters’ this month. Ward will attend FDIC for NAFTD and the IFSAC Conference in Oklahoma. Please follow up and send any invitations for events you would like to have him attend.

The WTCS has been approached to bring back Wisconsin Weekend in 2025. This is a great training event, and we hope to work together with all fire organizations to make this happen.

David Yakowenko asked when the LFI and LFI-IC will be rolled out. Ward will work on this and get back to the Committee. David would like to see this rolled out at their February 2025 Conference.

## **ADJOURN**

Chad Powell made a motion to adjourn the Committee Meeting, and Karl Sandry seconded the motion. The Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.