

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM
Fire Service Advisory Committee on Education and Training
September 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Approved 3/13/25

MEMBERS PRESENT

Craig Olson, WI State Fire Chief's Assn.	Jeff Krisik, WI State Fire Fighters' Assn.
Karl Sandry, WTCS District Coordinators	Tim Haas, WEM
David Yakowenko, WI Society of Fire Service Instructors	

STAFF PRESENT

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

GUESTS PRESENT

Rob Balsamo, BTC	Bryson Cruise, NTC	Jeff Steeber, NWTC
Mark Karp, NATC	Angie White, Madison College	Kurt Zellmann, MATC-9
Jody Douglas, CVTC	Mark Schwartz, CVTC	Michelle Hartness, NATC
Blake Deiber, WTC	Jim Flanagan, WSFSI	Matt Davies, WEM
Dawn Way, Madison College	Cindy Estrup, NWTC	Karen Hogle, NOTC
Jack Running, State Rep	Courtney Hull, WCTC	Jon Byrd, State Rep
Ray Lemke, NATC	Rick Anderson, MSTC	Aaron Paul, MPTC
Janell Jones, MATC-9	Justin Kliss, MATC-9	Jason Lister, GTC
Alyssa Cahoun, MATC-9		

Open meeting statement was read by Ward Lyon.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Member and guest introductions were made.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MARCH 7, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

Karl Sandry made a motion to approve the March 7, 2024, meeting minutes, and David Yakowenko seconded.

BYLAW REVIEW/COMMENT

Ward indicated that WTCS will change his title from Education Director to Director within the Bylaws. There were no other comments or recommendations.

ONLINE TESTING UPDATE

Exams (retests) will only be administered on paper if they started on paper.

Fire Inspector should be the only exam administered on paper going forward until the Fire Inspector curriculum is updated.

All certificates are now processed in Acadis and obtained by students in their personal portal account. The WTCS Office has not sent paper certificates since March 1.

Shari Jacobson also reminded everyone that the Fire Service Look-Up System is no longer updated. Fire departments can look up individuals in the new Acadis system.

Aaron Paul, MPTC, asked what to do about students that do not show up for an exam. Exams will remain prepared in the class. District staff should allow access and unlock exams when students are ready to take the exam. Only WTCS Office Staff can depart students from a class.

Karl Sandry ask about retest exams and if Acadis automatically prepares retests for unsuccessful students. Denise Perkins informed the group that the Online Exam Request Form should be completed and sent to the Fire Service email address with the class name and request for a retest examination. This is the same process that has been followed for paper exams.

Courtney ask about some standardization of expectations of administering written exams for local district students when taking classes through other districts (specifically online courses). Courtney would like to have a survey sent out to see which colleges are willing to proctor an exam for their in-district students regardless of where they took the class. Courtney Hull ask whose responsibility it is to request administration of an exam at another college.

Dawn Way, Madison College, indicated that they will not be testing students completing courses out of district.

Chrystal Seeley-Schreck indicated that students should start the conversation when wanting to test within their home district after completing an online course elsewhere. Ward indicated that both Fire Coordinators should be communicating.

COURSE AND CURRICULA UPDATE

(NFPA 1021) Fire Officer I/II – Fire Officer I has been updated, and all documents have been added to the Resource Site. Fire Officer II is still being reviewed by the Committee.

(NFPA 1041) LFI/LFIIC – Correlation sheet has been sent back to the Committee for review. Once complete, it will be submitted to IFSAC for Administrative Review.

(NFPA 470) Hazmat Awareness/Ops/Tech – We requested and were granted an extension from IFSAC until June 30, 2025. The Committee is actively working on the update. The textbooks being used are HMO - Jones and Bartlett Fundamentals of Fire Fighting Skills and Hazardous Materials Response 5th edition and HMT - IFSTA Hazard Material Technician 3rd edition. IFSTA HMT 2nd Edition is no longer available in print and can only be accessed via eBook. We are working on getting copies if needed.

(NFPA 1030) Fire Inspector Update – Getting Committee finalized and ready to go.

(NFPA 1033) Fire Investigator Update – Has been updated and will be made public October 1.

(NFPA 1001) Fire Fighter I/II Update to (NFPA 1010) to be completed with NFPA 470. Coordinators unanimously ask that HMO be kept in FFI. We are still looking at moving HMO to a Practical within the class. This would be a move from the FFI Practical Exam.

GRANTS

FY22 AFG – Period of Performance 06/27/2023 - 06/26/2024. \$476,445.99 in federal resources awarded. Final documents coming in from colleges. Some have requested extensions due to shipping delays. College with price match 15% for a total of \$71,466.90 in non-federal resources.

FY23 AFG - Period of Performance 08/07/2024 - 08/06/2025 \$458,862.24 in federal resources awarded. College with price match 15% for a total of \$68,829.34 in non-federal resources. Acceptance letters will be sent out. Acceptance letters will be sent out soon.

HMEP – Grant submitted. We should hear something soon about the new award. HMO reimbursed at \$100/student and HMT reimbursed at \$250/student. Classes should NOT start until a grant has been awarded.

NFA - Courses have been requested/scheduled for the 24-25 Course Call. Reminder to Organizations to discuss course selections and dates for the 25-26 Course Call that opens March 1, 2025.

SFTS – 2023 ended 08/31/24. The WTCS Office submitted for the new grant, and it was awarded today. 10K for Handoff and 10 for FESI courses. Information to follow.

NFA - Ward working on streamlining process for colleges to offer non-grant funded hand- off courses.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES – Suggested Updates and Review

The WTCS Office is looking at 3 Policy and Procedures priorities.

Addressing clarification language to match IFSAC criteria and other WTCS documents.

Exploring removing FESI Renewals in order to standardize the policies.

Changes to Advanced Standing/Challenge and Reciprocity policy language to make it more consistent. We will provide policy updates to the Committee for input prior to any changes. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

PFFW – Not in attendance.

WEM - No updates.

WFIA – Not in attendance.

WSESI – David Yakowenko ask if the new FESI LFI and FESI IC will be ready for their Conference next year as they were hoping to host these classes. Ward is hoping to have it ready to go and will keep them in the loop.

WSFA - No updates.

WSFCA – No updates.

WTCS Coordinators – No updates.

EDUCATION DIRECTOR UPDATES

Ward again offered to attend any District Fire Advisory meetings. Please reach out.

NAFTD – will continue to send out information that pertains to you. Ward will attend the Conference this month and will pass on any notes.

Ward will not be attending the Fall IFSAC Conference but will go to the Spring Conference. Ward has sent out Degree Assembly membership information to colleges.

Ward continues to have monthly Fire Service Team meeting calls.

Youth Fire Apprenticeship information has been sent out.

Ward has been discussing the HS credit program with DWD. District incentive grants provide up to \$1,000 per recent graduate earning a certification from the approved certifications list. Student completion awards of \$500 per eligible certification are available for students earning specific certifications. Please see the WI DWD website for more information.

Ward reminded all that the WTCS Office is transitioning from Tableau to Power BI. He will continue to send out information about the transition. Tableau will not be available after September 16, 2024.

Our office has officially moved! Our new office location address is:

***4822 Madison Yards Way
5th Floor, North Tower
Madison, Wisconsin. 53705-9100.
PO Box 7874.***

Ward thanked everyone for their advice over the last 9 months. He really appreciates the help from all!

ADJOURN

Karl Sandry made a motion to adjourn the Committee Meeting, and David Yakowenko seconded the motion. The Meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.