

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM
Fire Service Advisory Committee on Education and Training
March 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Approved 9/4/25

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jason Roberts, WI Fire Inspector's Assn.	Ken Asselin, 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.
Matt Knewendorf, State Fire Fighters' Assn.	

STAFF PRESENT

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

GUESTS PRESENT

Rob Balsamo, BTC	Shawn Dillingham, MSTC	Bryson Cruise, NTC
Jack Running, State Rep	James Flanagan, WSFSI	Mark Karp, NATC
Moirra Lafayette, BTC	Mark Schwartz, CVTC	Jody Douglas, CVTC
Brent Olson, NTC	Jason Goeldner, NATC	Jonathon Ladwig, NWTC
Ray Lemke, NATC	James Ziech, MFA	Matt Davies, WEM
Cindy Estrup, NWTC	Tom Vandenack, State Rep	Angie White, MATC-4
Andrew Baus, MPTC	Rick Anderson, MSTC	Blake Deiber, WTC
Jason Lister, GTC	Karen Hoglund, NOTC	Kurt Zellmann, MATC-9
Robin Rupp, GTC	Courtney Hull, WCTC	

The 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 introductions were made.

REVIEW AND APPROVE SEPTEMBER 12, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

Jeremy Hanson made a motion to approve the September 12, 2024, minutes, and Karl Sandry seconded.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Certification Age Requirement – 16 years of age requirement for each certification level will be updated in the WTCS FST Policy and Procedures Manual. The WTCS Office has historically only certified candidates that are 16, however, it was not in WTCS FSET Policy and Procedures Manual.

Fire and Emergency Services Instructor (FESI) Renewals – WTCS FST have heard from many departments and college districts regarding the FESI Renewal requirement. Most would like to see FESI be non-expiring like all other certifications. Ward further explained that it would be left up to the AHJ as far as hiring. Karl Sandry said this would certainly make things easier for technical college coordinators. Chris Garrison added that having the AHJ monitor instructors is a great idea. Jeremy Hansen representing the chiefs said his organization has no opinion on this, however, he fundamentally disagrees with the proposed Policy. Jeremy believes removing the renewal requirement will reduce the qualifications of instructors training the new generation of fire fighters. Jeremy believes requiring teaching/training/professional development renewal hours give consistency throughout the state. David Yakowenko said the Society Board discussed at length and all agree that there should be some type of renewal process for FESI. The Society is willing to help create professional development opportunities to assist with this. Jeff Krisik said the WI State Firefighter's Assn. discussed at their recent convention, and they believe FESI renewal should remain in place with possibly reduced hours required. Chris Garrison added that he is on board with reducing the renewal hours.

Retaking 36 Hours vs. 96 hours for certification if failed written/practical attempt– After much feedback, WTCS FST is considering requiring students to only retake the 36-hour course to begin the certification process after failing the written or practical 3 times. Students would be informed that the certification exam is based on the standard and the entire 96-hour program, however, they would only be required to take the 36-hour course. The district could dictate the requirement 36 or 96 hours, whichever format they offer. Jeremy Hansen asked how this would work if districts are allowed to dictate this? Jeremy stated that we would lose consistency across the state if we allow districts this flexibility, and students will ultimately district shop. If we only require 36 hours for a 96-hour course, how will students be successful?

It was clarified that 2 percent dues will only reimburse college(s) for a student (taking the same course) once per year.

Ward asked if there was any further feedback from Advisory. No further discussion. Ward encouraged folks to complete the survey he previously sent out.

Denise Perkins reported the WTCS FST staff have been working on making sure there is clear and consistent language throughout the Policy Manual.

ONLINE TESTING

WTCS FST staff are working on getting retests in Acadis. Previously, the plan was to retest on paper if a student started on paper. We are currently working on this and hope to move completely online for testing!

Acadis has perfected the look-up option in the Acadis Portal which mirrors the WTCS Legacy Look-Up system and has solved many issues. Student certifications may now be looked up by last name or certification number.

WTCS FSET Staff recently participated in an Acadis Webinar with other states about our experience.

Karl Sandry commented that the Acadis testing transition has gone smoothly for SWTC with very minor hiccups. Ward reminded that students/proctors should go into the system prior to testing and make sure everything is in order (students in their personal portal accounts and proctors in the class/exam they are administering).

COURSE AND CURRICULA

Ward gave an overview of what each convened committee is currently reviewing/updating or has been completed.

(NFPA 1021) Fire Officer I/II – Done

(NFPA 1041) LFI – Done

(NFPA 1072) Hazmat Awareness/Ops/Tech update to (NFPA 470) – Must be implemented for any class starting after July 1, 2025. New in-class practical exam for HMO certification. Once the course is completed and the student successfully completes the written and practical exam, student(s) will receive certification. Textbook info: Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response, 5TH Edition. HMT hours may increase by 10 hours going from 50-60. Ward will keep everyone updated.

(NFPA 1001) Fire Fighter I/II Update to (NFPA 1010) – Karl Sandry is the Committee Chair. We are hoping to get this completed by July 1.

(NFPA 1031) Fire Inspector Update to (NFPA 1030) – Working on convening a Curriculum Committee. Dennis Meyers will be the Committee Chair. This is to be implemented by 1/1/26. Ward may try to get an extension from IFSAC.

Up next:(NFPA 1010-2024) D/O (implemented by 2027), (NFPA 1020-2025) Instructor & Officer (implemented by 2028), Investigator (NFPA 1033-2030) (implemented by 2030).

Ward asked if there were any questions on the certification course updates? No comments.

Aligned Fire Protection Associate Degree 10-503-2 WIDS Program Review – Working on this!

Registered Apprenticeship/Youth Apprenticeship Update – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) – Currently registered apprenticeship fire programs are Milwaukee Fire Department, City of Madison Fire Department, Chippewa Falls and Marshfield Fire Departments. There are eight departments involved in the Youth Apprenticeship Programs. Wausau Fire Department is looking to have a registered apprenticeship fire program.

Driver/Operator Courses: DOT CDL Waiver/Requirement at our colleges – Ward will create a FAQ document with information for students not affiliated, students affiliated, instructors, apparatus, etc.

Dual Enrollment/Start College Now/38.14 Contract/38.14 Contract Non-Dual Enrollment – Colleges are participating in these programs, which gets high school students trained and certified.

Advanced Training courses through colleges: Meeting the needs of the departments within district. Encourage districts to offer these additional courses.

GRANTS

AFG - 2022 - ends in June.

AFG – 2023 - colleges are procuring items

AFG - 2024 - application under review

HMEP - **Grant monies may only be used until August 31, 2025.**

SFTS: \$20,000 for Fire and Emergency Services Instructor and NFA hand-off courses. Please reach out to Shari and Ward for approval.

NFA Course Call – Assn's should submit courses by March 24.

NFA Handoff Classes – Technical College instructors can deliver. Fire departments may have to pay for them if SFTS grant is unavailable.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

PFFW – Not in attendance.

WEM – No updates

Coords – No updates

Chiefs – Conference scheduled June 19-21 in WI Dells

Inspectors – One day class offered 4/5 through CVTC \$25 per person. Fall conference is scheduled Oct 20-24, 2025, in WI Dells

Instructors – Conference in February 2025 and will “pilot” the new Live-Fire Instructor class.

WSFFA – No updates

FSET DIRECTOR UPDATES

NAFTD- will continue to send out info. One technical college is an affiliate member and two others working on it.

FSRI instructor development program going well with colleges.

DOT-CDL Waiver interpretation

Apprenticeships/RA & YA/rookie books

Ladder station issues-clearing up communication and received feedback

DWD/DPI CTE: FF1/FF2/INSPECTOR/EMR/EMT/YA Course Completion - \$500 per student/\$1000 per district.

Teams' Channel

IFSAC Conference in April

Other IFSAC entity site team visits: Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute in May.

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION Participation

FESHE Webinar with colleges

Shawn Dillingham would like to work on a Reciprocity Policy for Fire and Emergency Services Instructors coming from other states or DOD. He would like to see an avenue for FESI certs over 5 years old.

ADJOURN

Karl Sandry made a motion to adjourn the Committee Meeting, and Jeremy Hansen seconded the motion. The Meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.