

# WTCS Fire Service Advisory Committee on Education and Training

## March 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Approved 9/3/26

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Jason Roberts, WI Fire Inspector's Assn.

David Yakowenko, WI Society of Fire Service Instructors

Karl Sandry, WTCS District Coordinators

Matt Knegendorf, State Fire Fighters' Assn.

Jerry Biggart, PFFW

Jeremy Hansen, WI State Fire Chief's Assn.

Matt Davies, WEM

BJ DeMaa, WI State Fire Chief's Assn.

### STAFF PRESENT

Ward Lyon, WTCS

Amanda Mayek, WTCS

Shari Jacobson, WTCS

Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, WTCS

Denise Perkins, WTCS

### GUESTS PRESENT

Blake Deiber, WTC

Gurkirat Toor, BTC

Bryson Cruise, NTC

Jack Running, State FE Rep

Alyssa Cahoun, MATC-Milw

Justin Klis, MATC-Milw

Kurt Zellmann, MATC-Milw

Andrew Baus, MPTC

Ryan Hintz, PFFW

Rick Anderson, MSTC

Rob Schmidt, LTC

Aaron Paul, MPTC

Cindy Estrup, NWTC

Jon Byrd, State FE Rep

Lee Smith, State FE Rep

Tom Nelson, FVTC

Angela White, MATC-Mad

Jeff Krisik, WIAFF

Robin Rupp, GTC

Tom Vandennack, State FE Rep

Ray Lemke, NATC

Mollie Kaebisch, NWTC

Courtney Hull, WCTC

Mark Schwartz, CVTC

Jonathon Ladwig, NWTC

Jason Knecht, WFIA

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 4, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

Matt Davies made a motion to approve September 4, 2025, minutes, and Jerry Biggart seconded.

### BENJAMEN STAHLER FROM DWD TO TALK ABOUT STATE APPRENTICESHIP

Benjamin gave a brief presentation about State Apprenticeships.

There are twenty (20) field reps throughout the state that oversee apprenticeship programs, and there are over 18,000 apprentices.

Wisconsin was the first state to develop an apprenticeship program which began in 1911.

Apprenticeships provide industry with skilled labor. Apprenticeship partnerships include employers, employees, local workforce system, and educational partners.

Apprenticeships are 90% on job training and 10% related instruction/education. They require a binding contractual agreement. Apprentices are paid throughout the apprenticeship with wage progressions dictated by the employer.

Certain apprenticeships may include credit provisions (previous education/occupational experience) and special provisions (i.e., previous fire/EMS certifications, etc.)

All apprenticeship programs must have at least 2000 hours on the job training with a classroom minimum of 144 hours.

Tuition/Books are typically paid by the apprentice.

Apprenticeship programs are a huge benefit to employers and a proven model to bring skilled workers into the workforce.

### ONLINE TESTING UPDATE

There were 4,892 IFSAC certs issued in 2025 and 934 issued thus far in 2026. There are over 50,000 records currently in Acadis.

All testing/retesting is completed in Acadis now.

We are continuing to offer Acadis quarterly meetings with colleges.

Students can now see specific components of missed learning objectives. We are hopeful this will lead to greater student success.

Testing data available! Ward shared great stats with the new HMO exams.

Student records can now be verified by entering a last name in the Acadis Portal.

### **COURSE AND CURRICULA**

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

- **NFPA 1041 Live Fire Instructor:** Completed/Active course with three classes taught so far. J&B Fire and Emergency Services Instructor Principles and Practice, Third Edition.
- **NFPA 1041 LFI IC:** Reviewing and will be submitted to IFSAC for Admin Review. Jones & Bartlett Fire and Emergency Services Instructor Principles and Practice, Third Edition.
- **Hazmat Awareness/Ops/Technician:** Completed/Active course (NFPA 470, 2022 Standard). J&B Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response Fifth Edition.
- **Entry Level/FFI/II:** Completed/Active course (NFPA 1010, 2024 Standard). J&B Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response Fifth Edition.
- **Fire Inspector-** Reviewing and will be submitted for Admin Review to IFSAC. NFPA 1030 Inspector I will combine the NFPA 1031-1, 2, and 3. Fire Inspector: Principles and Practice First Edition. NFPA Code 1 book being updated – no funding to cover this book at this time. Ward looking at a possible grant.
- **Airport FF & D/O ARFF** – Reviewing/Updating to NFPA 1010, 2024 Standard. IFSTA Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting 7<sup>th</sup> edition.
- **Driver/Operator-Pumper/Aerial** – Reviewing/Updating (NFPA 1010-2027 Standard).

### **Up Next:**

- Instructor (NFPA 1020-2028) - Committee to begin this spring.
- Officer (NFPA 1020-2028) – Committee to begin this spring.
- Investigator (NFPA 1033-2030) - Committee to begin this spring.

Aligned WTCS Associate Degree Program Review has been completed.

- Updates to course competencies to more acceptable quantities per course credit
- Added Performance Standards (there were no PS before in the programs)
- Updated all course outcomes summaries to align with WTCS Quality Curriculum Standards
- Credits in courses that remained (or were brought into) the new aligned sequence not changed
- Cross referenced FESHE and NFPA standards for newly aligned courses where applicable and added FESHE course titles as alternative titles in aligned courses (supports local college program accreditation)
- New titles and course numbers for 2 of the new 7 aligned courses

### **GRANTS**

AFG 2022 Closed.

AFG 2023 \$527,691.58 was awarded. Colleges should be closed out by the end of August.

AFG 2024 Applied for \$542,297.60.

AFG 2025 – Waiting for NOFO (government currently shut down)

HMEP (Grant cycle is 11/4/25-09/30/26)

\$66,000 awarded for Hazardous Materials Operations (HMO). Colleges reimbursed \$100 per student.

If funds are exhausted, fire department/student will have to cover the cost of the course. Ward asked if any members had thoughts on finding consistent funding?

State Fire Training System (Grant cycle is 10/1/25-9/30/26). \$20,000 awarded for National Fire Academy Hand-Off classes and Wisconsin Instructor classes.

SAFER – Ward will apply. This grant can only be used for volunteer members per grant guidelines. If awarded, the WTCS may be able to purchase books (NFPA 1 Code Books/J&B Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition). Jerry Biggart questioned the equity if it can only be used for volunteers.

NFA Course Call courses should be coming in March (government currently shut down).

WI Weekend potential date Oct. 2-4, 2026, at Volk Field.

### **POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

Ward had a request to gather data from other states about “expiring” certifications. Seven states responded have expiring certs while 5 respondents do not.

Ward asked the Committee to weigh in on the FESI Renewal topic that has been previously discussed:

PFFW – Like consistency (having all be non-expiring) but have no opinion

WEM – Like consistency – (having all be non-expiring) but would like to see some sort of continuing education.

WFIA – Likes consistency – (having all be non-expiring).

WSESI – Would like to keep the expiration/renewal requirement in place as well as some type of continuing education.

WSFA – Would like to keep the expiration/renewal requirement in place as well as some type of continuing education.

WSFCA – Would like to keep the expiration/renewal requirement in place as well as some type of continuing education.

WTCS Coordinator – Need continuing education requirements.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

|       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PFFW  | Closing the loop on Wisconsin Act 145 Wisconsin Workers Compensation PTSD coverage to include all emergency medical responders (EMRs), emergency medical services (EMS) practitioners, and firefighters whether paid or volunteer. |
| WEM   | WI Weekend planning for October. Tim Haas has retired.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| WTCS  | College Rep – Coordinators continued discussions regarding increasing the Practical Exam Fee.                                                                                                                                      |
| WSFCA | Completed Winter In-service. Summer conference held in Milwaukee this year.                                                                                                                                                        |
| WFIA  | Seminar to be held in Northwest Wisconsin for new Inspectors.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| WSESI | Recent annual Conference with 16 new LFI's going through the class                                                                                                                                                                 |
| WSFFA | Conference next week! We will be hosting a NFA course .                                                                                                                                                                            |

### **FSET DIRECTOR UPDATES**

Recent discussion with DOT State Patrol regarding CDL requirements to clarify with colleges.

Safety group convened (led by LTC) to set college standards for fire training/practical exams.

Participating in Indiana IFSAC Accreditation review next week.

Attending IFSAC Conference in April.

The old WTCS Fire Certification Look-Up System will be removed from our website as of April 1, 2026.

Fire Instructor Resource Site will be password protected on April 1, 2026.

### **ADJOURN**

Karl Sandry made a motion to adjourn the Committee Meeting, and Jerry Biggart seconded the motion. The Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.