



Central Vermont Regional Emergency Management Committee

Meeting Summary

November 8, 2023

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting convened at 5:02 pm.

Adjustments to the agenda: none

A quorum of voting members was present. All members in attendance introduced themselves and the community they represent.

Presenter: **Stephanie Smith** State Hazard Mitigation Officer

Presenting on Hazard Mitigation funding available and potential projects.

FEMA-Hazard Mitigation Grant Program-additional allocation for the state post disaster will be ~45 million -property buyouts, mitigation opportunities such as floodproofing and floodplain reconnection projects

FEMA-Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities-2 million yearly this is primarily scoping and funding Local Hazard Mitigation Plans

Flood Resilient Communities Fund-State funding ~3 million left can be used for projects FEMA will not fund the state has fewer restrictions on this money.

Willing to discuss with any selectboard who is interested in buyouts or mitigation plans

The state is trying to help with buyouts and hoping to manage them from the flood. This ideally will make it easier for towns. Made the point that most people contacting their office have homes in unsafe locations for anyone to reside at. Buyouts are currently being funded at 100% while funding lasts.

Can check community reports for if your town's LHMP is current. This allows for our higher state public assistance.

Stephanie asked if anyone had any projects to discuss. Stefan asked about Lover's Lane in Moretown, a road that has partially slid into the Winooski. If they could update an old bridge that has been abandoned and then abandon the road. Stephanie provided that this would be a good candidate for a BRIC scoping project.

Jeff Campbell asked about tree removal from a waterway. Stephanie asked if this was a new problem that Public Assistance could cover. Jeff- No it is an ongoing issue of trees in a waterway that then is causing erosion that is undermining a stream bank causing a problem for a residential parcel and home. ANR has advised them that the woody debris can be removed but not the root ball.

Stephanie mentioned that there are two types of flooding inundation and erosional. Generally can't pay for slope stabilization for residential properties.

Keith asked if building relocating can be paid for. Stephanie spoke to FEMA willing to relocate a building by moving but not willing to tear down and rebuild. Discussed fire station buyouts but not to build a new structure.

Keith asked if there are any questions related to the landslides from this event. Stephanie mentioned that the state is doing buyouts from July 8th prices for these structures. Usually these are houses at the top, this time there are buyouts of houses hit by landslides.

Bylaws quorum update:

Keith Cubbon gave a short explanation that the quorum set by the group at the last meeting was actually off by 1 from rounding down. Need to adjust the number to 9 for the members to meet the 20% minimum that was set forth by the legislature. Stefan made a motion to raise the quorum to 9 Jeff C. 2nd the motion. Vote passed unanimously.

LEPC meeting update:

Discussed bylaws, presentation on Lithium Ion batteries and Tier 2 reports. Hazmat chief wasn't available. Emily discussed that the data for Tier 2 reports has reached a solution. You can contact Sid for more information if necessary. Mapping of Tier 2 locations hasn't been solved yet, still working on ESRI licenses. A staff person should be on board by the next LEPC meeting and will hopefully be able to move much of this along. Short discussion on Lithium ion batteries and advised any fire department to attend training since they are increasingly in the public sphere. Still no good guidance on what to do with batteries post fire for how to dispose of.

Public Works Mutual Aid:

Keith spoke to the document for mutual aid that was shared for town use during the flood response. But CVRPC in coordination with the REMC is looking at hosting a document that ideally all towns within the region can sign on to allowing public works mutual aid. This would be a standing document to allow towns within the region to be able to call on neighboring towns for assistance in the case of a disaster that affects part of the region. This way you may be able to pull resources from areas that weren't affected. Stefan spoke to having CVRPC reach out to selectboards and city councils to ask for acceptance of this. Keith provided that yes, we could write a letter from CVRPC and the REMC to send out to the region. He also said he would be willing to meet with selectboards to discuss if they were interested. Emily advised it would be good to have a link to FEMA equipment rates in the document. Keith replied that he would make sure that was included.

Discussion: Work priorities and meeting topic ideas

Emily spoke to that VEM could support an Integrated Preparedness Plan for trainings or exercises that could be held or needed within the region. Sid would be able to help or assist with this.

Green Mountain Power- Tiana Smith Head of electrification and sustainability to talk about problems

And problem areas for utility infrastructure and power.

Someone to speak to School Safety Plans- Agency of education, Emily spoke to the Vermont school safety center and that Sunni Erickson of VEM could speak to this.

Stefan-asked how is the REMC funded. Emily spoke about the LEPCs and how they were funded. That VEM pays the RPCs to provide administration for this. There isn't a standing pot of money. A fiscal agent would have to be decided on but the group could apply for grants. He asked about a letter of support, there was a request from Capital Fire Mutual Aid (CFMA) for help from CVRPC to help find funding. Betty asked if there is any information about the CFMA communications project.

Chittenden County RPC has a funding page:

[Funding Opportunities Archive - CCRPC \(ccrpcvt.org\)](https://ccrpcvt.org/Funding-Opportunities-Archive)

If anyone is looking for any grant funding.

Emily spoke to a Chittenden county REMC working on a communications project. As they have had trouble communicating between fire and police.

Bruce put in the chat about a training on shelter fundamentals. Can take it online if you register with red cross. But due to deployments of staff to Maine it will be limited.

If the group RSVPs VEM can provide food for meetings would just have to have a registration numbers for 3 days in advance. Asked the virtual members, multiple people responded yes.

VEM Updates-Sid Pollock introduced himself to the group, the new Northeast Regional Coordinator Sidney.pollock@vermont.gov and 802-760-9190 cell. Gave his background in fire and ambulance. Trying to increase the use of VTAlert and you can borrow the VTAlert banner for outreach within your town. Stefan mentioned sending out the VTAlert pamphlet for town meeting report. Howie asked if there was any cost for the HSEEP training, no these are all free. These can be registered for on the LMS system.

Public Information Officer Basics for Locals

LOCATION: Town of Barre Municipal Building, Barre, VT

DATE/TIME: December 11, 2023, 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION: [State Learning Management System](#)

Public Information Officer Basics for Locals

LOCATION: Williston Fire Department, Williston, VT

DATE/TIME: December 12, 2023, 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION: via [State Learning Management System](#)

VT- Alert Manager Training

This training is intended for Town Officials or Non-Profits who use VT-Alert for public and private notifications. This class is required for all people who will be using the program at the manager level. This training can also act as a refresher as needed. The class will be approximately 1.5 hours long and consist of sending live test alerts. A computer and internet connection are required. A second computer monitor is highly suggested as there is a follow along portion to the class

LOCATION: Virtual

DATE/TIME: January 10, 2024, 1:00 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.

REGISTRATION: [State Learning Management System](#)

L0146 Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) course provides a comprehensive overview of exercise design along with practical skill development. Using the same terminology and processes, this course will provide activities that will give participants an opportunity to interact with many of the templates and other materials that are provided by the National Exercise Division to ensure exercises are conducted in a consistent manner. Anyone who will be a member of an exercise design team or fulfill a role in one of the following areas of the exercise design process: design, development, conduct, evaluation or improvement process for exercise. The primary audience for the course is training officers, exercise managers, persons that will utilize the exercise and evaluation system and persons interested in becoming an HSEEP Evaluator for Vermont Emergency Management.

LOCATION: McFarland State Office Building, Barre, VT

DATE/TIME: January 23-24, 2024, 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

PREREQUISITES: IS-120

REGISTRATION: [State Learning Management System](#)

Vermont Local Emergency Management Director Course

This course will familiarize Local Emergency Management Directors (EMD) and Coordinators (EMC) with major roles, responsibilities, and “how to do it” guidance, across all four phases of Emergency Management.

LOCATION: Virtual

DATE/TIME: February 14-15, 2024, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION: via [State Learning Management System](#):

G0191- ICS/EOC Interface- only generally offered 2 times a year and this will be the Northern option

This course provides an opportunity for participants to begin developing an effective interface between the Incident Command System (ICS) and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for their community by applying Incident Command System (ICS) principles. This course reviews ICS and EOC responsibilities and functions and depends heavily on exercises and group discussions to identify interface issues and develop solutions. As part

of the course, these concepts are then applied to exercise situations.

LOCATION: Bristol Fire Department, Bristol, VT

DATE/TIME: April 10, 2024, 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

PREREQUISITES: IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800

REGISTRATION: [State Learning Management System](#)

There was a discussion about moving the next meeting date that is on 2/14/24 and discussed if the EMD course could be held for people to use the conference room before the meeting. It is an 8 hour course and we would need RSVP for food and Keith would check on if the conference room is open.

Stefan made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Jeff 2nd the motion. Voting commenced, motion passed.

The meeting ended at 6:06 pm.

Voting Attendees:

☒ Barre City	Keith Cushman, Fire Chief	☐ Northfield	Jeff Schulz, EMD
☐	Joe Aldsworth, EMC	☐	vacant
☐ Barre Town	Chris Violette, Town Manager/EMD	☐ Orange	Eric Holmgren
☒	Joshua Martineau, Firefighter	☐	Chris LaMonda
☒ Berlin	Bruce Richardson, EMC	☐ Plainfield	Michael Billingsley, EMD
☐	James Pontbriand, EMD	☐	Greg Light, Fire Chief
☐ Cabot	Jenn Miner, EMD	☐ Roxbury	Mike Dickinson
☐	Ruth Goodrich,	☐	Shane Ryan
☐ Calais	Nick Emlen, EMD	☐ Waitsfield	Fred Messer, EMD
☒	Betty Copeland	☒	Howie McCausland, MRVAS
☐ Duxbury	Richard Charland	☒ Warren	Jeff Campbell, EMD
☐	Courtney Guyette	☐	Mark Haviland, MRVAS
☐ East Montpelier	Seth Gardner, EMD/Selectboard Chair	☐ Washington	Fred Blanchard, EMD
☐	Jon Boucher, EMC/Constable	☐	Peter Carbee
☒ Fayston	Kirsten Savage, EMD	☐ Waterbury	Gary Dillon, Fire Dept.
☐	Tripp Johnson, Fire Chief	☐	Mike Bard, EMC
☐ Marshfield	Justin Campbell, EMD	☐ Williamstown	Jackie Higgins, Manager
☐	Will Scharwz	☐	William Graham
☐ Middlesex	Peter Hood	☐ Woodbury	John Gordon, EMD
☐	Eric Metivier, Fire Chief	☐	Deb Larose, EMT
☐ Montpelier	Bill Frasier, Manager	☐ Worcester	Ted Lamb
☐	Robert Gowans, Fire Chief	☐	John Kaeding
☒ Moretown	Stefan Pratt, EMD		
☐	Cortney Guyette		

Others Present: Keith Cubbon (CVRPC), Emily Harris-VEM, Jake Aho- Calais EM team, Brian McWalters-VEM, Clare Ireland-Waitsfield EMC, and Stephanie Smith VEM State Hazard Mitigation Officer.