



Central Vermont Regional Emergency Management Committee

Meeting Summary

August 9, 2023

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting convened at 5:04 pm.

Adjustment to the agenda: There will be no LEPC meeting update on tonight's agenda

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

Bylaws of the organization. Quorum was set to 8 voting positions. Stefan made a motion to accept the bylaws with the new updated quorum. Jeff Campbell 2nd the motion. Motion was voted on and passed with no dissent.

Voting in officers:

Chair: Stefan Pratt was nominated by Jeff Campbell and 2nd by Fred Messier, no one else was nominated.

Vice-Chair: Michael Bard was nominated by Stefan Pratt and 2nd by Eric Metivier, no one else was nominated. Michael was not at the meeting so this is dependent upon his acceptance of the role.

LEPC representative-Stefan Pratt was nominated by Peter Carbee and Jeff Campbell 2nd -Stefan rescinded the nomination. Jeff Campbell was nominated by Stefan Pratt and 2nd by Eric Metivier. No one else was nominated.

IPPW-Peter Carbee was nominated by Stefan Pratt and 2nd by Eric Metivier, no one else was nominated.

The officers as stands were accepted.

Regional Plan:

Keith Cubbon gave a short overview of the regional plan for the REMC and described it like it is a regional LEMP and that it is to be updated each year and submitted to VEM by June 1st. There were some minor updates to be made to the voting members and email contacts. A motion was made by Stefan to accept the regional plan with the corrections that had been mentioned. Peter Carbee 2nd the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.

Meeting Summaries:

Since all previous meetings didn't reach quorum they are summaries or informal minutes. Stefan made a motion to accept all previous minutes/summaries Jeff Campbell 2nd the motion. Motion was voted on and passed.

Discussion: July flooding event roundtable

Water testing availability was brought up- Evelyn spoke to this about VDH having water test kits available for homes and well sites that were in the inundation areas. VDH is unaware of how long these will be available but will be continuing to offer them for the foreseeable future. Will send information to Keith for REMC dissemination.

Michael Billingsley-Plainfield EMD-Mentioned changes in river course and stream bed height increase due to sediment. Town is interested in having river engineer perform analysis, also discussing debris catchers such as are on Gunner's brook in Barre City. The messaging with Marshfield dam was an issue for the town and scared many. This was due to a new employee at GMP who mistook normal procedure as emergency spillway being opened. Michael brought up Front Porch Forum messaging on debris removal and the need to retract wrong information. Also brought up homelessness and how to reach this population. Keith mentioned that CVRPC intends to ask VEM about during local liaison process to contact pre-approved organizations that are working with homeless populations. Also spoke to Jail Branch and Upper Winooski bed height being raised due to debris from both Hands Mill Dam and Sawmill Dam failure.

Michael mentioned upcoming 8/10/2023 forum for farm damages in Plainfield, Cabot, and Marshfield. He mentioned that the town may have interest in looking into dam removal of dam in town.

Stefan mentioned need to reach homeless populations and having trouble accessing sites they had been camping at. Multiple members mentioned tourists, and others passing through region caught up with no where to go and often sleeping in cars. Calais opened Maple corners community center for people to stay in since county road was one of the only roads open but that you could get anywhere from it. The group thought that preplanned locations for traffic and sheltering would be more ideal when closing the interstate. Many semitrucks ended up being parked along 100B which would be stuck and possibly problematic if the Mad River had flooded as well. Seven semis crossed over Roxbury gap also due to the closure of the interstate. The group thought that traffic should be stopped further away in some safe location in such an event.

Stefan asked about funding to build a shelter or convert a structure. Moretown has no municipal, church, schools that aren't in the floodplain or would be cut off during flooding. Keith spoke to Hazard Mitigation Grants being available and we may be able to pursue something for the town.

Peter Carbee spoke about the Hands Mill Dam and that ANR river engineers had stated that the dam had impounded 2700 yds of sediment and that 2/3 of it had been washed downstream.

REMC Overview, Initial Work Ideas

MOU agreements between towns for coordination in disaster response of town road crews and equipment. Keith stated that CVRPC already had some template type documents that he had shared with multiple towns and could coordinate working on building this out for all towns in the region.

The group consensus was very impressed with VEM's overall response especially with the size of the disaster and their limited staff.

Discussed upcoming meeting topics-Mitigation plans, VEM funding-Michael mentioned the work of the Plainfield hazard mitigation committee-that had just received funding for the Brook Road bridge replacement. Calais-emergency management was mentioned as recently securing ham radios and operators for communicating during power outages. Jeff Campbell mentioned that Warren had purchased Starlink satellite phones for disaster communications. It was mentioned that during the disaster that Capital Fire Mutual Aid lost use of almost all their towers due to flooding of equipment that was in the basement in Montpelier.

Buyouts-In Plainfield a homeowner had lost 12 ft of their back yard due to the fluvial erosion and would like more information about this process. Keith mentioned that the same person that Stephanie Smith who is the coordinator of VEM funding also runs the buyout program.

Red Cross Shelter training-on how and where to set up a shelter (finding a shelter) many communities could use this training but Jeff C. spoke to it being a hard training to get.

WebEOC training-People who used it liked the access but would like some tweaks to help make it more user friendly. It was also mentioned that the EMDs would like a hotline to the SEOC. Michael spoke to the possibility of using the LEMP information to have a recognized list of phone numbers that would allow phone call to staff. Trying to cut out individuals not on town work from calling in.

Stefan-recommended the preset spending limits for EMDs on the LEMPs and the importance of this.

Stefan-Messaging on flooding and staying off the roads and multiple people discussed individuals driving through barricades and around traffic cones.

VEM Updates-no VEM staff were able to be in attendance due to disaster response

The 2023 Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference will be held September 20th-21st, 2023 at Burke Mountain Hotel & Conference Center in East Burke, VT, with limited virtual options. Sessions will begin at 9:00am and the day will end by 4:15 each day. Registration and agenda will be released in about a month.

There was a discussion of the important training opportunities and networking at this conference.

Jeff Campbell asked if there is a ICS-402 training coming up. Keith was unaware of any scheduled.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

August 2023

ICS-100 Intro.- incident command 8/29/23 St. Johnsbury

G0191- ICS EOC interface 9/7/23 Grand Isle

MGT-417 Crisis Management for School-based incidents 9/11-12/23 Missisquoi Valley School

Jeff Campbell spoke of the Vermont Emergency Management Association meeting on Monday 8/14 at 7pm. It will be a virtual meeting with a presentation on the use of Artificial intelligence in Emergency Management.

Join: <https://meet.google.com/ojx-uuaq-wcw>

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

The meeting ended at 6:23 pm.

Voting Attendees:

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



Cortney Guyette

Others Present: Keith Cubbon (CVRPC), Evelyn O'hara-Short VDH.