



Central Vermont Regional Emergency Management Committee

Meeting Summary

February 14, 2024

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting convened at 5:04 pm.

Adjustments to the agenda: none

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

A motion was made to accept the August and November minutes by Jeff Campbell and was 2nd by Stefan Pratt. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Presenter: *Julie Benedict, State Exercise Administrator*

Julie presented the results of the after-action survey and what Vermont Emergency Management learned and what they want to improve on. They want to divide the briefings for EMDs from public. The slide deck will be attached to these minutes. Plan to increase WebEOC training for local liaison and making improvements to the site as well. They are trying to be able to manage information by town. They would like to transition from response to recovery quicker but that was a political call. Stefan advocated for a direct line for EMDs to the SEOC. Julie spoke to the fact that the SEOC number was shared with the public at every press conference and VEM would like to not do that in the future. This broadcasting of the SEOC phone number was chosen above VEM staff. The State would like to simplify the process but has to follow FEMA rules. The use of 211 data was discussed and explained that it wasn't intended for this use and data was problematic. EMDs spoke to poor communication about damages to homes and buyouts and would like better communication from the state about damages in their town, Julie spoke to blue sky outreach such as town meeting day from EMDs as well. The committee spoke to the need to call in outside resources to not burnout VEM staff. Betty in Calais spoke to 211 not working for AT&T customers. Corrine spoke to people believing that by calling 211 people believe they are being taken care of and greater messaging to contact your EMD or town clerk to track information.

There was a discussion about shelters and need for more local shelters. Thinking of access during an event and Julie spoke to Red Cross coordination and material that can help. Jeff spoke to the Red Cross class on how to find or locate a shelter.

Clear messaging on permit needs and idea upfront of visits to damaged households.

Julie discussed the WAZE app for local road closures. <https://www.waze.com/partnerhub/user-lobby/lobby?redirect=%252Fpartnerhub%252F> . Fred spoke to the new EMD handbook and thought it is great to allow EMD a great reference for this work.

LEPC meeting update:

Group met last month did an overview of Hazmat team call response volume for 2023 was up about 300%. Next meeting in April in Norwich. They are going to start moving the meeting around the state. Still looking for representatives from many state organizations but will be a slow process.

Public Works Mutual Aid:

Keith spoke to the document for mutual aid that will be shared out to EMDs with the minutes. This is to be signed by selectboards and hosted by CVRPC which allows towns to access mutual aid from other towns within the region. If anyone wants assistance with discussing with their selectboards please contact Keith.

Discussion: Work priorities and meeting topic ideas

Keith asked if for the next meeting we wanted to proceed with Green Mountain Power presenter. The group agreed with this. Keith also mentioned that for a future meeting the group completing an Integrated preparedness plan for the group to create a road map for training for the next 3 years. Which can give the group focus on what direction to pursue.

VEM Updates-Sid Pollock spoke about the eclipse planning estimating from 50 -200k for the day. They are most concerned with the day trip people since they can be tracked. They expect a large impact on infrastructure and transportation. Any coordination at the municipal level going through VLCT. Please list any events you are aware of please list them on the https://plan.vermontvacation.com/users/sign_up calendar. This will allow the State to deploy resources as appropriate. Some schools are closing early that day to avoid traffic issues. The State is worried that the I-89/91 corridor may become a parking lot. So far Harwood and Montpelier/Roxbury will be dismissing early. There is concern about it being mud season and stuck cars. Sid highly encouraged members to watch the VLCT webinars.

Trainings

PIO training-2/16 3 hrs virtual course on LMS

8 Hr EMD course-3/8 in person and virtual in Londonderry

G0191 in Bristol from 4/10 8am-4pm in person only

VTAlert manager training 4/17 1-2:30 pm virtual on LMS

HSEEP- 2 8hr classes 4/17-18 8am-4:30

ICS-300 8/20-22 8-4:30 in Waterbury in person (rare course)

Please sign up for VEM email lists if you haven't already <https://vem.vermont.gov/email-lists>

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

The meeting ended at 6:32 pm.

Voting Attendees:

<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Kirsten Savage, 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	Justin Campbell, EMD	<input type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Jackie Higgins, Manager
<input type="checkbox"/>	Will Scharwz	<input type="checkbox"/>	William Graham
<input type="checkbox"/> Middlesex	Peter Hood	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	John Gordon, EMD
<input 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		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cortney Guyette		

Others Present: Keith Cubbon (CVRPC), Sid Pollock, Julie Benedict-VEM, Jake Aho- Calais EM team, and Corinne Cooper-Berlin EM team.