

Capital Fire Mutual Aid System

(CFMAS)

November 20, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Waterbury Fire Department, 2nd floor

Meeting was in person and virtual

CFMAS members present

J. Aldsworth (P), D. Knott, K Cushman, J. Miner, J. Matthew, P. Cerutti (1st VP), G. Dillon, S. Dillon, S. Pratt, J. Cambell, D. Randall, T. Martin, C. Baker, J. Young, E. Metivier, M Gervia, J. Koonz, J. Quinn, M. Sutton, W. Schartz, G. Perkins, W. Bothfeld, B. Morse, J. Staab

CFMAS members On-line

Guests

Sid Pollock (VEM), Tiana Smith (GMP), Mike Burke (GMP) and Carrie McCool (Capital Dispatch)

District 1 Berlin, Middlesex, Montpelier, Northfield, Roxbury

District 2 Bolton, Moretown, Stowe, Waitsfield, Warren, Waterbury

District 3 Cabot, East Montpelier, Marshfield, Plainfield, Walden, Woodbury, Worcester

District 5 Groton, Peacham, Ryegate, Topsham

District 6 Barre City, Barre Town, Chelsea

I. Meeting to order – 19:07

II. Roll Call by Town (P=Present, Blank=Not Present,)

Barre City	P	Groton	P	Plainfield	P	Washington	
Barre Town	P	Marshfield	P	Roxbury	P	Walden	
Berlin	P	Middlesex	P	Ryegate	P	Waterbury	P
Bolton	P	Montpelier	P	Stowe		Williamstown	
Cabot	P	Moretown	P	Topsham		Woodbury	P
Chelsea		Northfield		Waitsfield	P	Worcester	P
E. Montpelier	P	Peacham		Warren	P		

III. Addition or deletions to the agenda – J Aldsworth would like to add Sid Pollock VEM updates.

IV. Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) (<https://vem.vermont.gov/>) update –

Sid Pollock (Sidney.pollock@vermont.gov) (802-760-9190) thanked everyone for their hard work this past year, and spoke on training opportunities through VEM (<https://vem.vermont.gov/training>). The Regional Coordinators at VEM has doubled in ranks. This means that Sid will be going from covering 5 counties to 2 (Washington & Orange), making him more effective and available. He is hoping to sit down with every town in his region, look for an email in January. An on-line Spring Flood Seminar is coming up Thursday, February 13th 12–1pm. National Weather Service will have a presentation on what they are going to be forecasting on

the spring flood outlook. On January 24th, a series of prerecorded Spring Flood presentations will be posted on the Vermont Emergency Management You Tube channel and their website (<https://vem.vermont.gov/>). These videos will provide information that assists local officials in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from seasonal flooding.

Videos will include presentations from: *(taken from VEM website)*

- National Weather Service
- Agency of Transportation District Maintenance and Fleet Division
- Agency of Natural Resources/Department of Environmental Conservation Rivers Program
- Division of Fire Safety – including Urban Search & Rescue and State HAZMAT Team
- Vermont National Guard/Vermont Military Department
- Regional Planning Commissions
- Vermont Emergency Management (Preparedness, Response, Recovery & Mitigation)

J. Aldsworth will forward the invite to VEM's Spring Flood Seminar to the group. For more information on upcoming trainings and seminars see the VEM Newsletter (<https://vem.vermont.gov/contact-us/newsletter>). VEM maintains a number of email list, and if you are not on their email list you can sign up by visiting their email-list page (<https://vem.vermont.gov/email-lists>) The VEM Newsletter would be most valuable. The Newsletter will list upcoming trainings, grant opportunities and more.

J. Aldsworth –

Requested Sally Dillon and the rest of the kitchen staff to come out to be recognized for the meal they put on for the CFMA group. After an applause from the satisfied full stomach CFMA assembly, a motion was made by J Staab to payout \$250.00 to Waterbury Fire Department towards the cost of the meal, seconded by W. Schartz. With no discussion the motion passed.

V. Public comments – None

- J. Aldsworth recognized
 - i. Chief Mike Gervia of Bolton Fire Department
 - ii. Chief Clarence Baker & crew of Roxbury Fire Department
 - iii. Chief Johnnathen Matthew of Plainfield Fire Department
 - iv. Carrie McCool for Capital Dispatch

VI. Introduction of Guest speaker – Greem Mountain Power (GMP) *Not ready, so CFMA continued regular business*

VII. Approval of Meeting Mintes for 9/18/2024 – W. Bothfeld made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2024, meeting, seconded by J. Campbell. With no discussion the motion passed.

VIII. Approval of Treasurer report – S. Bagg presented the treasurers report. Capital payments for year 2 was considerably higher than first projected. CFMA's current CD will mature in the spring. The Capital saving account will be placed in the CD once it matures this spring for the terms that are best for CFMA. Motion was made by G. Dillon to accept the treasurers report as presented, seconded by P. Cerutti. With no discussion the motion passed.

J. Aldsworth –

- Asked for the sake of transparency that the Departments share the treasurer's report with their respective boards. The treasurer will produce an end of the year report that should also be shared.
- The attendance sheet is for the secretary to have an up-to-date list of peoples contact information as well as our transparency as required by the open meeting law.

IX. Introduction of Guest speaker – Greem Mountain Power (GMP) Representative

- Tiana Smith (tiana.smith@greenmountainpower.com) – Gave a brief introduction while Mike was setting up. There was a request for some training on solar panels and battery storage. GMP will be working on getting you the resources related to those subjects. We worked with VT Fire Academy, and they have some good trainings surround those topics. We are here to night to talk about storm readiness. I often send out emails out related to storms. If you are not on the email list and would like to be, please contact me.
- Mike Burke (Shared that the trainings on the VT Fire Academy's website for Energy Storage, Solar and Down Power Line are very good (<https://firesafety.vermont.gov/academy/online-training>) Mike then spoke on emergency preparedness regarding weather (focused on winter weather). More and more storms are wet heavy snowstorms which bring down trees and powerlines. GMP has a seat at the table of the VT EOC. They help in communicating to the crews in the field on where the greatest needs are. Currently GMP has about 5000 customers with battery storage. This can be key to surviving these storms which produce a high volume of power outages. GMP has a list of around 2500 people who have medical issues that require uninterrupted or limited interrupted power. GMP will reach out to these people in front of the storm so they can prepare for a possible power outage. GMP does have some small battery backup units that can be deployed for those individuals that cannot go without continuous power. GMP rely on the local Emergency Management coordinators to communicate the needs of the individuals in their community. GMP is looking to go underground with powerlines where possible. They are also using what they call Spacer Cable. This is a steel reinforced covered wire which can hold small limbs and trees without producing power outages. From 2008 to 2021 VT has averaged 1.4 major storms per year. In the past 2 years they have averaged 5 major storms per year. Mike explains with the increase of major storms, this is why GMP is going underground and updating to Spacer Cable. If you need assistance call GMP's emergency number.

Green Mountain Power's emergency number is (888) 835-4672

J. Aldworth -

Sunrun (solar company) has agreed to provide a Saturday training sometime in February for all first responders. This may be at Alumni Hall. Look for updates.

X. Old Business

- Update / discussion on USDA grant-

Did not make the cut. Joe met with the USDA. They did push through the funding of 5 towers at a cap of \$50,000. It was communicated that that was not going to work. CFMA will be going for a second congressional directed spending request which is due in January, for 3.22 million dollars. J. Aldworth presented a list of 15 towers. The list has been reviewed by Televate. Televate is the state contractor who collected all the data for a statewide communication system and verified by Motorola. As of now, neither Televate nor Motorola have charged for their services. Burlington Communications upgrade the batteries at the sites where needed. S. Bagg brought forward that if this doesn't come together, we may need to go to the towns. Discussion moved to how we communicate this to the respective boards. J. Aldworth stated that it is up to the CFMA members to communicate what is going on to their boards. It is too difficult for a few to go to all the boards and explain this. It was suggested that prerecorded PSA be made which could be delivered and played to each board, that way the message would be consistent across the boards. This needs to be a well scripted message to the boards. Please pass any the questions being asked by your boards to the secretary. Discussion continued; "This may not be the time to do so. Waiting until summer maybe a better time." We will move forward in preparing a PSA for the towns.

XI. New Business

- Meeting Sign-in / Attendance sheet – Addressed earlier by J. Aldworth.
- Set meeting time for regular CFMAS meetings – Meeting start time will be left at 1900.
- Fireground Accountability –

K. Cushman spoke with some of the local chief and fireground accountability came up. Several years ago, there was movement to standardize accountability practices. We have all fallen short, Cushman replied. Maybe it is time to get a better handle on this. Tags where also discussed. A working group was formed to include Chief Libby, Pratt, Cushman, Campbell and Shwartz. They will report back in January.

XII. Reports

- Communications continued
 - i. C. McCool - asks that people use the radio when possible and not the phone, unless it involves sensitive information. There has been calls with messages getting cut out. Unsure why this is happening.

XIII. Good of the Order

- Incident Safety Officer class was discussed. Berlin will host. A poll was taken by town and 14 departments committed to sending people. Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin, Cabot, Middlesex, Montpelier, Moretown, Plainfield, Ryegate, Waitsfield, Warren, Waterbury, Woodbury & Worcester.
- Cabot received an USDA grant for a new fire station.
- P. Cerutti - Lamoille County Rookie School in Morrisville – Starts first Wednesday in February and run through early May. Contact Paul.

XIV. Training / Presentation for January – B. Morse (Reynolds & Sons) Flow Testing & Fit Testing.

XV. Executive session – *Not needed*

XVI. Adjourned – Motion was made to adjourn by P. Cerutti and seconded by J. Campbell. With no discussion the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 20:43