Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

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Central Vermont Regional Emergency Management Committee

Meeting Summary

August 13, 2025

Welcome and Introductions
The meeting convened at 5:03 pm.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

A quorum of voting members was present.

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

Minutes: A motion was made to accept the February meeting minutes. Stefan made a motion to approve February with Jeff 2nd motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to accept the May meeting minutes Stefan made a motion to approve May minutes Stefan made a motion to approve February with Jeff 2nd motion passed unanimously.

Presenter: John Goff, NWS hydrologist

Flood Inundation Mapping System Launch

John, a hydrologist with 25 years of experience in Burlington, presented on the upcoming flood inundation mapping (FIM) system launching next month. He explained that FIM will transform how flood impacts are communicated, enhance flood forecast conveyance, and strengthen public safety efforts. John highlighted the importance of FIM by comparing pre- and post-FIM scenarios, noting that while pre-FIM led to problematic situations during Hurricane Harvey, post-FIM allowed for timely evacuations during Hurricane Ian. He also mentioned that the FIM system would be available to the general public and that a public statement would be issued upon launch.

National Water Model Expansion Plan

The meeting discussed the National Water Model (NWM), a continental-scale hydrologic modeling system enhancing flood forecasting capabilities across the United States. The model, which provides real-time forecast data and hydrologic modeling, is being rolled out in phases, with 10% of the nation tested in October 2023, 30%

in 2024, and 60% in 2025, including the current area. The NWM uses a "hand method" to create synthetic rating curves for non-gauged areas, allowing for high-resolution flood inundation mapping. Limitations of the model include missing bathymetry data and backwater effects, which can lead to overestimation of inundation in some areas.

Types of Film for Flood Modeling

The meeting discussed two types of FIM: static and dynamic. Static film includes the Partner FIM, which is a high-quality simulation available at 200 points nationwide, including 9 sites in Vermont. Dynamic FIM, driven by water models, is activated during high-flow situations. The meeting also covered the Categorical Stage-Based FIM, a static tool comparing flood stages against category levels, which is currently being finalized and will be available at forecast points in the next 1-2 years.

National Flood GIS Viewer Overview

Central explained the functionality of a national GIS viewer that displays flood information. He described both static and dynamic flood mapping features, including the ability to toggle between different flood stage definitions and view 5-day forecast models from the National Water Model and River Forecast Center. The system allows users to visualize flood inundation at specific forecast points, though coverage varies by location, with some areas having more detailed forecasts than others.

Water Model Implementation and Limitations

We discussed the implementation and limitations of the water model and RFC flood forecast tools, highlighting their benefits for areas like Barre that lack traditional gauges. He explained that while these models provide valuable flood forecasts, they have limitations including reliance on precipitation data, hourly latency, and inability to account for small-scale features like beaver dams. John also covered how reservoir operations impact stream flows and described the timeline for using these tools in decision support services, from pre-flood planning through post-flood recovery.

Flood Forecasting Decision Support Tools

The meeting discussed decision support services (DSS) for flood forecasting and public safety. John explained the different tiers of DSS, from basic public access to targeted services for specific events, and integrated high-impact services during major events like Irene. Tools and resources were reviewed, including static and dynamic flood maps, hydrographs, and APIs for GIS integration. John emphasized the importance of two-way communication in DSS and demonstrated how to access and use various visualization tools for flood forecasting and public safety planning.

NWS Flood Mapping Tools Overview

John demonstrated how to access and use various flood mapping tools on the National Weather Service website, including Partner Flood, categorical stage-based flood, and dynamic inundation mapping. They explained how to view hydrographs, flood stages, and impact statements for specific locations like Montpelier and Waterbury. He also showed how to adjust transparency settings and explore different map projections for planning purposes. The tools are currently active, with no significant changes expected until September 2nd.

Vermont Flood Modeling Capabilities

The discussion focused on flood modeling capabilities and data availability for various streams and rivers in Vermont. John explained that while the water model provides 10-meter resolution flood mapping for larger streams like Naismith Brook, it may not capture smaller drainage areas. The model will eventually include dynamic flood forecasting for the Mad River region, though this feature is still being vetted. He clarified that

while they have some control over activating the dynamic flood mapping feature, there are ongoing discussions about the criteria for activation, particularly for localized flooding events.

Thrive's Emergency Response Coordination

The meeting focused on introducing the Thrive group's emergency preparedness and crisis response efforts in Central Vermont. Joan Marie, chair of the Thrive board, outlined their work to coordinate with healthcare systems, social service providers, and local governments to address community needs during disasters. The group has been mapping emergency response actors and developing templates to streamline information management. They aim to support local emergency managers by providing resources and connecting them with organizations that can assist with individual and household needs. The discussion also touched on the emerging role of community-based volunteer efforts in disaster response, particularly in the Mad River Valley region. The group discussed challenges with the CARES form system, noting that many vulnerable populations, particularly the elderly, are reluctant to fill out forms due to pride, fear of privacy breaches, or difficulty accessing online platforms. They explored potential solutions, including using QR codes for easier form completion, promoting the system during "blue sky" times, and integrating CARES information into medical go-bags and discharge plans. The conversation highlighted the need for better promotion and education about the benefits of the system, as well as collaboration with local organizations like CVMC and Meals on Wheels to improve outreach efforts. This seems like we need to complete more work and coordination with the Thrive partners at a later meeting.

LEPC meeting update:

State approved the Statewide LEPC plan. Increased attendance at meetings. Chief McLaughlin has brought on his assistant to assist in TIER 2 work.

VEM Updates-Sid Pollock spoke about the Stephanie Smith taking the role of deputy director. And now opening for hazard mitigation position.

VEM Conference coming up September 4-5 at Killington. In person still available for local EMDs & EMCs. Virtual options available as well.

Training- Please sign up for the VEM training, funding, and newsletter https://vem.vermont.gov/email-lists

August 2025

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:

Day 1: August 25, 2025, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Day 2: August 26, 2025, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
*Must attend **both** days to receive credit.*
REGISTRATION: via State Learning Management System: https://vermont.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/event/e35883cd-148f-415c-a554-4107b7533679

September 2025

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: Virtual

DATE/TIME: September 15, 16, 17 & 19, 2025, 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

PREREQUISITES: IS-120

REGISTRATION: via State Learning Management System: https://vermont.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/event/42d3f758-b375-4810-bee6-bfb433b0e867

Must attend both days to receive credit.

AWR-213 Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Awareness

This course introduces the six-step THIRA/SPR process which includes identifying threats and hazards that stress a community's capabilities, giving context to those threats and hazards and identifying associated impacts consistent with specific This course will introduce participants to the key terms, policy, guidance, and preparedness efforts required to safeguard the Nation's critical infrastructure. Participants will discuss the risk management framework, describe Federal critical infrastructure security and resilience and information sharing programs, and relate critical infrastructure programs to individual actions. Focus will be placed on local preparedness efforts as they relate to the national approach to critical infrastructure security and resilience, enabling stakeholders to address local planning within a common framework. Informed planning is consistent with accepted emergency management standards as the basis for planning across the mission areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery.

LOCATION: Vermont Intelligence Center- Williston, VT

DATE/TIME: September 16, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION: https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/?MO=mClassRegistration&D=LS&C=AWR213&S=718

For more information on this training please contact Kenneth Deschaine- Vermont Intelligence Center at kenneth.deschaine@vermont.gov or 802-585-4735

MGT-310 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment/Stakeholder Preparedness Review

This course introduces the six-step THIRA/SPR process which includes identifying threats and hazards that stress a community's capabilities, giving context to those threats and hazards and identifying associated impacts consistent with specific factors, identifying community-specific capability targets, assessing current levels of capability in comparison to those targets, identifying capability gaps and subsequent strategies to close those gaps using the POETE (Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training, and Exercises) areas, and assessing and describing the impact of funding sources on building or sustaining capabilities in a community.

LOCATION: Vermont Intelligence Center- Williston, VT

DATE/TIME: September 17-18, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION: https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/?MO=mClassRegistration&D=LS&C=MGT310&S=1604

Must attend both days to receive credit.

For more information on this training please contact Kenneth Deschaine- Vermont Intelligence Center at kenneth.deschaine@vermont.gov or 802-585-4735

ICS 400- Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff
This course provides training for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System (ICS). This course expands upon information covered in ICS 100 through ICS 300 courses, which are prerequisites for the ICS 400 course
LOCATION: CCV at Fairbanks Museum- St. Johnsbury, VT
DATE/TIME: September 23-24, 2024**,** 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day
PREREQUISITES: ICS-100, ICS- 200 and ICS- 300
REGISTRATION: via State Learning Management System: https://vermont.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/event/0ebbf041-d1ae-4ae8-bfd5-6280a68970e4

MGT-315 Critical Asset Risk Management
Do you fully understand the risk to your facility and know what makes your facility susceptible to risk? Are you prepared to mitigate those risks? The Conducting Risk Assessments to Critical Community Assets course teaches the critical components of risk management and provides participants the basic fundamentals of determining and mitigating risks associated with their critical infrastructure. Through a combination of lecture, facilitated discussion, and group activities, participants will learn how threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences determine risk and are given an opportunity to practice the fundamentals of conducting vulnerability assessments by conducting an on-site site-specific risk assessment of select local facilities. Additionally, they will identify potential mitigation measures associated with their findings and work together to develop and present a risk assessment report.
LOCATION: Vermont Intelligence Center- Williston, VT
DATE/TIME: September 30 & October 1, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION: https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/?MO=mClassRegistration&D=LS&C=MGT315&S=1395
Must attend both days to receive credit.
For more information on this training please contact Kenneth Deschaine- Vermont Intelligence Center at kenneth.deschaine@vermont.gov or 802-585-4735

All LEMPS are in for the region. Also ANR has funding for home impacted or failed wastewater systems.
https://anr.vermont.gov/special-topics/arpa-vermont/funding-install-or-replace-water-or-wastewater-systems

Keith gave a quick update on Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery
Application 1-Capital Fire Mutual Aid tower upgrades
Application 2-Flood Modeling of upper Winooski with partner organizations

Jeff made a motion to close the meeting, Eric seconded. Motion passed.
The meeting ended at 7:01 pm.

Voting Attendees:

☐	Barre City	Keith Cushman, Fire Chief	☐	Northfield	Jeff Schulz, EMD
☐		Joe Aldsworth, EMC	☐		Peter Demasi
☐	Barre Town	Chris Violette, Town Manager/EMD	☐	Orange	Kevin Wilson EMD
☐		Joshua Martineau, Firefighter	☐		Ryan Bresette
☒	Berlin	Bruce Richardson, EMC	☒	Plainfield	Michael Billingsley, EMD

☐		James Pontbriand, EMD	☐		Matthew Johnathan, Fire Chief
☐	Cabot	Jenn Miner, EMD	☐	Roxbury	Lenny Davis, EMD
☐		Michael Hogan	☐		Don Randall
☐	Calais	James Dailey, EMD	☐	Waitsfield	Fred Messer, EMD
☒		Jake Aho, EMC	☐		Howie McCausland, MRVAS
☐	Duxbury	Ian Stewart	☒	Warren	Jeff Campbell, EMD
☐		Patrick Zachary	☐		vacant
☐	East Montpelier	Seth Gardner, EMD/Selectboard Chair	☐	Washington	Peter Carbee, EMD
☐		Toby Talbot	☐		Fred Blanchard
☐	Fayston	Kirsten Savage, EMD	☐	Waterbury	Gary Dillon, Fire Dept.
☐		Jared Young	☐		Tom Leitz
☐	Marshfield	Christopher Whalen, EMD	☐	Williamstown	Jackie Higgins, Manager
☐		Justin Campbell	☐		Marie Graham
☐	Middlesex	Liz Scharf, EMD	☐	Woodbury	John Gordon, EMD
☒		Eric Metivier, Fire Chief	☐		Deb Larose, EMT
☐	Montpelier	Kelly Murphy, Manager	☐	Worcester	Bill Arrand
☐		Derek Libby, Fire Chief	☐		Chris Pollard
☒	Moretown	Stefan Pratt, EMD			
☐		Cortney Shephard			

Others Present: Keith Cubbon (CVRPC), Sid Pollock (VEM), Joan Marie Misek (VDH), Connie Gavin (CVMC), Brielle Sedergren (VDH), Rebecca Baruzzi (Green Mountain United Way), Evelyn Prim (City of Montpelier), Alice Peal (Waitsfield emergency management committee), Cil Relland (Plainfield emergency management assistant)

NWS resources

FIM reference material

- **https://water.noaa.gov - National Water Prediction Service**
- https://viewer.weather.noaa.gov/water - National GIS Viewer
- https://maps.water.noaa.gov/server/rest/services - for REST/API services
- https://maps.water.noaa.gov/image/rest/services - for REST/API services
- https://www.weather.gov/gis/cloudgiswebservices - for Cloud GIS services
- https://www.weather.gov/owp/operations - Go to FIM Section for reference info on a variety of FIM related resources, including how to access FIM via NWPS or the National GIS Viewer URLs at top.

https://zoom.us/clips/share/xJvyb_bUSK2kY9jCNjCZ3w