Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

.

Central Vermont Regional Emergency Management Committee

Meeting Summary

August 12, 2026

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting opened at 5:01 pm.

A quorum of voting members was present.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Public Comment

Steve Whitaker requested that the committee include a discussion of the State Public Safety Communications Task Force and its proposed statewide radio communications initiative and Capital Fire Mutual Aid System Pilot program on a future meeting agenda.
Key concerns included:

- The proposed statewide VHF radio system and upgrades to existing UHF tower infrastructure.
- Additional communication towers proposed for Central Vermont.
- The absence of clearly documented funding, maintenance, operational responsibilities, and frequency planning.
- The need for engineering review and improved integration with LTE broadband technology.
- Potential communications gaps in areas where broadband coverage is limited or unavailable.

The committee was encouraged to review the proposal before it advances further through the legislative process.

A quorum of voting members was present.

Staff Announcements

Flood Mitigation Assistance Funding

- A current funding cycle is available through the Flood Mitigation Assistance program.
- Funding primarily supports communities undertaking mitigation projects for repetitive-loss properties participating in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Municipalities were encouraged to consider this opportunity for properties with recurring flood damage.

Keith reported that he had presented to the State Public Safety Communications Task Force regarding a proposed pilot project involving Central Vermont and Capital Fire Mutual Aid. He offered to provide a more

detailed presentation at the next committee meeting. The Chair expressed interest in scheduling this presentation.

Minutes: A motion was made to adopt the August minutes. The motion was made by Stefan Pratt with Eric Metivier as 2nd voting commenced and motion passed.

Presentation: Vermont 511 and Waze Applications

Presenters:

- Ian Kilburn – Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT), Transportation Management Center
- Michael Dente – Digital Services Agency and Waze Multi-State Manager

Vermont Transportation Management Center and 511

Ian Kilburn provided an overview of the Transportation Management Center (TMC), which serves as the Agency of Transportation's 24-hour information and coordination hub.

The TMC primarily monitors mobility incidents on Vermont's state roadway network, including interstates, state highways, and designated Class 1 town highways.

The center receives information from multiple sources, including:

- State Police and other public safety agencies.
- Roadway cameras and monitoring stations.
- Connected vehicle and mobile device data.
- Reports from emergency response and dispatch centers.

The TMC disseminates roadway information through the Vermont 511 website, social media, and electronic message boards.

Vermont 511 capabilities include:

- Reporting roadway incidents, closures, and construction activities.
- Providing updates when road conditions change.
- Displaying camera images and electronic message board information.
- Allowing users to subscribe to notifications by roadway, geographic area, incident type, and time of day.
- Ian emphasized the importance of timely and accurate reporting from emergency dispatch centers. Information regarding the location, nature, and extent of roadway closures allows the TMC to provide accurate traveler information.
- The 511 system also integrates with Waze and Google Maps, allowing reported closures to be transmitted quickly to navigation applications and helping drivers avoid affected roadways.

- The information is also integrated into the DMV's electronic permitting system to help identify roadway restrictions that may affect oversized loads and construction-related transportation.

Waze for Cities and Emergency Management Applications

Michael Dente presented an overview of Waze and its capabilities for local municipalities and emergency management agencies.

He explained that Waze uses crowdsourced information and a network of volunteer map editors to provide detailed, frequently updated roadway information.

The Waze for Cities program allows eligible municipalities and agencies to:

- Enter planned and emergency road closures.
- Report accidents, roadway hazards, and construction.
- Identify special events and traffic impacts.
- Provide advance notifications to drivers approaching affected areas.
- Support emergency evacuation and disaster response activities.

Michael discussed the importance of Waze during major emergencies, particularly flooding events, when numerous local road closures must be communicated quickly.

He also described the Waze Volunteer Emergency Operations Center (VEOC), which mobilizes volunteer editors from multiple states to assist with large-scale emergencies, including hurricanes, wildfires, and flooding.

The presentation highlighted opportunities for municipalities to use Waze to improve local roadway information and coordinate public notifications.

Q & A

Committee members discussed the challenges associated with entering road closures into Waze, particularly during active emergency incidents.

Stefan Pratt asked whether municipal users could enter closures outside their originally designated service areas, especially when fire departments provide mutual aid across municipal boundaries.

Michael explained that road closures can be entered by selecting individual roadway segments and identifying the applicable incident or hazard.

He also demonstrated how users can enter road hazards, construction, emergency vehicle activity, and other conditions.

Additional discussion addressed:

- The availability of an open Waze API.
- Opportunities to distribute roadway closure information to emergency response agencies.

- The potential for improved notifications when road segments are blocked.
- The availability of Waze volunteer editors to assist with mapping and roadway updates.

Michael offered to provide additional training and demonstrate the Waze for Cities partner platform.

The committee thanked both presenters for their information and participation.

Presentation: Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District

Presenter: Alex Oles – Assistant General Manager and Operations Manager, Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD)

Alex Oles provided an overview of the district's responsibilities and its role in disaster debris planning and emergency response.

District Overview

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District recently relocated to 300 Granger Road in Berlin.

The district serves 19 member municipalities across Washington, Caledonia, and Orange Counties and operates a year-round household hazardous waste and special recycling facility.

Its primary responsibilities include:

- Legislative advocacy.
- Public education and outreach.
- Programs and services for member municipalities.
- Coordination with state and regional partners.

Alex discussed the Household Hazardous Products Extended Producer Responsibility Law, which provides for free and accessible collection of designated materials.

Disaster Debris Planning

Alex emphasized the importance of advance disaster debris planning to reduce confusion, improve coordination, and support efficient emergency response and recovery operations.

The district is working to meet requirements established through the State of Vermont's five-year Material Management Plan and corresponding Solid Waste Implementation Plans.

The presentation identified three primary types of disaster debris staging areas that municipalities must plan for:

1. Hazardous Materials Staging Areas

- Must be located on publicly owned property.
- Must have impervious surfaces.

- Must be outside designated flood zones.
- May include municipal parking lots and recreation facilities.
- Should provide protection from weather conditions when possible.

2. Municipal Solid Waste and Construction/Demolition Debris

- Must be directed to previously identified, certified, and permitted transfer stations or facilities.
- Temporary or permanent agreements may be established.
- Informal or unpermitted locations are not acceptable.
- Improperly designated locations may jeopardize FEMA reimbursement eligibility.

3. Inert and Vegetative Debris Areas

- Must be identified as permanent locations.
- Intended for materials that can remain onsite until decomposition or final disposition.
- May include vegetative debris, soil, and certain disaster-generated materials.

District Assistance to Municipalities

CVSWMD offered to assist municipalities with:

- Identifying appropriate debris staging locations.
- Coordinating with regional planning commissions.
- Providing hazardous waste collection and pickup services when available.
- Establishing special collection hours at district facilities.
- Understanding FEMA documentation and reimbursement requirements.
- Improving coordination among municipalities and emergency management agencies.

Alex stressed that proper planning and documentation are essential to maintaining eligibility for disaster recovery reimbursement.

He referenced the 2023 flooding events, when some municipal cleanup efforts did not qualify for FEMA reimbursement because established requirements were not followed.

Q & A

Committee members requested a statewide map identifying certified transfer stations. Alex agreed to provide the map through the meeting chat. Universal Recycling Materials Management Map

Alex also encouraged Emergency Management Directors to contact their respective solid waste districts if they had not yet been contacted regarding disaster planning and emergency coordination.

Kim Canarecci provided an additional update on behalf of Vermont Emergency Management (VEM). She explained that the state has pre-procured debris removal contractors who may be activated during significant disasters.

Municipalities experiencing substantial debris issues were encouraged to contact the state through the appropriate emergency management channels. These contractors have already been vetted through the procurement process, which may help municipalities expedite debris removal and pursue reimbursement.

The committee requested that Alex's presentation slides be provided and included with the meeting documentation.

LEPC Update-

Jeff Campbell provided a brief update on the most recent LEPC meeting.

Topics discussed included:

- Bylaw-related matters.
- Collection activities.
- Updates regarding Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) team operations.

No formal presentation was conducted, and no significant additional business was reported.

VEM update-

Sid Pollock provided the following announcements.

Operations Specialist Position

VEM continues recruiting for a new Operations Specialist position.

The position will serve as the daytime watch officer and will also oversee the Vermont Alert program, responsibilities previously handled by Ian Kilburn.

The application period was scheduled to close November 21, 2026. Members were encouraged to share the employment opportunity with qualified candidates.

Emergency Management Director Training

An eight-hour Emergency Management Director (EMD) course is scheduled for:

- **Dates:** January 13–14, 2027
- **Format:** Virtual
- **Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The course is intended for both new and experienced Emergency Management Directors seeking refresher training.

ICS-300 Training

Two upcoming ICS-300 training opportunities were announced:

First Session

- January 14–16, 2027
- White River Valley Ambulance, Bethel
- 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily

Second Session

- February 9–11, 2027
- Department of Public Safety Barracks, Berlin

Participants must have completed ICS-100 and ICS-200 prerequisites.

ICS-402 Training

Sid is seeking expressions of interest for an ICS-402 course, Introduction to NIMS for Senior Officials.

The training is recommended for:

- Emergency Management Directors.
- Newly elected Select Board members.
- Town clerks.
- Other municipal leadership personnel.

A potential training location has been secured in Newbury. VEM is determining whether sufficient interest exists to proceed with scheduling the course.

Keith Cubbon agreed to contact municipal Select Boards to identify additional interested participants.

Other Business and Announcements

Medical Reserve Corps and Emergency Preparedness Updates

Matthew Ward, Emergency Preparedness Specialist for Washington County, provided an update on Medical Reserve Corps activities.

-Emergency Medical Go-Bags

The program promotes emergency medical go-bags for senior citizens and other vulnerable individuals who may experience unexpected hospital visits.

The initiative helps residents prepare essential personal information and supplies that would be needed during an emergency hospitalization.

The program provides:

- Emergency go-bags.
- Preparation checklists.
- Educational materials.
- Community outreach and informational sessions.

Outreach includes presentations to senior citizens, community organizations, and municipal groups.

The program has also coordinated with EMS districts in Lamoille and Washington Counties.

-Stop the Bleed and Emergency Preparedness Training

Matthew also announced the continued availability of:

- Stop the Bleed presentations.
- Emergency preparedness education.
- Community training sessions.

These services are provided free of charge through the State of Vermont and the Medical Reserve Corps.

Members were encouraged to contact Matthew directly for additional information or to arrange presentations.

Matthew.S.Ward@vermont.gov

Keith Cubbon provided several closing updates:

- He will distribute information from the Waze presentation to committee members.
- Additional Waze for Cities training opportunities will be explored for interested municipalities.
- He will coordinate with Sid Pollock regarding outreach to Select Boards for the ICS-402 training opportunity.
- Members needing Matthew Ward's contact information may contact Keith for assistance.

The committee was encouraged to follow up with presenters and agency representatives as questions arise.

A motion to adjourn was made by Stefan Pratt and seconded by Jeff Campbell. Voted on and motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12pm

Next meeting is currently scheduled for February 10th at 5pm.

Voting Attendees:

☒ Barre City	Keith Cushman, Fire Chief	☐ Northfield	Mary Smith, 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	Matt Bergeron, EMD
☐	James Pontbriand, EMD	☐	Johnathan Matthew, Fire Chief
☒ Cabot	Doug Cooke, 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	☐	Howie McCausland, MRVAS
☒ East Montpelier	Jen Devine, EMD	☐ Washington	Ryan Bresette, EMD
☐	Troy Seckington	☐	Fred Blanchard
☒ Fayston	Kim Canerecci, EMD	☐ Waterbury	Gary Dillon, Fire Dept.
☐	Jared Young	☐	Bill Woodruff
☐ Marshfield	Christopher Whalen, EMD	☐ Williamstown	Larry Hebert, EMD
☐	Justin Campbell	☐	Marie Graham
☐ Middlesex	Colin Marshall, EMC	☐ Woodbury	John Gordon, EMD
☒	Eric Metivier, EMD	☐	Deb Larose, EMT
☐ Montpelier	Kelly Kury, Manager	☐ Worcester	Albert Campbell
☒	Derek Libby, Fire Chief	☐	Chris Pollard
☒ Moretown	Stefan Pratt, EMD		
☐	Cortney Shephard		

Others Present: Keith Cubbon (CVRPC), Matt Ward (VDH-MRC), Stephen Whitaker-public, Alex Oles (CVSWMD), Ian Kilburn (AOT), Michael Dente (DSA and Waze)