

Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC)

Meeting Summary for
Wednesday, May 25, 2022 – 5:30 pm
Rutland Regional Planning Commission – Large Conference Room

Microsoft Teams Meeting Log-in Information:

[Join on your computer or mobile app](#)

Call in (audio only): 802-440-1368, Phone ID: 562 922 472#

Meeting Attendees: See Attached

I. **Introductions**

The meeting convened at 5:30 pm with a welcome and voting member roll call. A quorum of voting members was not present, so non-binding decisions were made by consensus for this meeting.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

It was agreed by consensus of the voting members present that the agenda be approved.

III. **Approval of March 30, 2022 Minutes**

It was agreed by consensus of the voting members present that the minutes of the March 30, 2022 meeting be approved.

IV. **REMC Organizational Tasks**

- a. Annual Appointments
 - i. VEM Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (THIRA and SPR)
 - ii. VEM Integrated Preparedness Workshop (IPPW)

Jan Sotirakis asked if there was anyone interested in being appointed for the THIRA and SPR. Emily Harris, from Vermont Emergency Management (VEM), explained that the position involves a one-day in-person meeting. VEM does not know the date or location yet but estimates the meeting will be in late summer or fall. For the IPPW, Emily explained that there would be no obligation for the position until early next year for the next workshop. No appointments were made at this time. Jan stated that if anyone had interest in either position, they should reach out to Steffanie Bourque (sbourque@rutlandrpc.org).

V. **REMC Regional Plan – Final Draft**

Jan Sotirakis wanted to thank everyone on behalf of Steffanie Bourque for their comments that helped with the plan development. Jan read the purpose of the plan and explained that the plan is not to reinvent the existing mutual aid plans; the purpose

is to document where each town and the county is at in terms of mutual aid agreements and how regional coordination could occur in a widespread disaster.

Jan Sotirakis explained that Steffanie Bourque needed to submit the plan to VEM on June 1st. Bill Lovett commented by stating that he thought this plan is a great working document with a good format and he recommended that Steffanie submits the plan. Michael Ramsey also stated that he thought the plan was excellent and that it is a great resource for new EMDs to learn about how the Rutland Region operates. Jan Sotirakis stated that she thought Steffanie Bourque did an incredible job of pulling the document together and that the document will be an important resource for new EMDs in the future. There was consensus by the voting members present that Steffanie submit the plan with any minor comments received after this meeting to VEM around June 1st.

VI. Regional Dispatch Working Group – Guest Speaker, Bob Schlachter

Bob Schlachter, from Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid, explained the history of dispatch services in the Rutland Region. Bob spoke about the status of the new regional dispatch that is in the works. At this point, there are two possible locations for the new dispatch in the Rutland Region: the Rutland City Police Department or the Rutland County Sheriff's Office. The group anticipates having six or seven consoles for dispatchers to use in the new location. A few of these consoles will be installed temporarily. Bob noted that there was systemic instability with the current systems, call volume has increased, and that there is a higher workload for current dispatchers than there was in the past, especially after other dispatch positions were eliminated.

Jan Sotirakis asked Bob who is on the working group. Bob stated that himself, Peter Mantello, Ed Dumas, Dale Kerby, Aaron Kerby, Jim Finger and Ted Washburn were on the working group. Michael Ramsey stated that he requested their town's 911 coordinator to keep up to date on the progress of the working group. Janet Morey asked Bob if his plan was together yet. Bob answered that the group hopes to have a proposal together later this year. Terry Williams asked if there was any thought of privatizing the regional dispatch. Bob stated that they are looking into it. Martin Wasserman thought it would be important for Bob to mention to the working group about the idea of dispatchers repeating what is being said by fire or police chiefs so that other units in the area can hear what their chiefs are saying even if their radios are out of range. Bob stated that the working group is looking into getting the radio towers repeaterized.

VII. Announcements

Bauer Neisner, from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC), reminded everyone about the Virtual Tabletop Exercise being hosted at the RRPC on June 9th from 12pm-4pm. The scenario is using the use of a vehicle as a weapon. Anyone interested in participating should email Steffanie Bourque no later than June 6th.

Emily Harris, from VEM, reminded everyone that there is a lot of Hazard Mitigation funding available. The funding also covers cost-benefit analyses. Anyone interested in the funding should reach out to Stephanie Smith at VEM. Emily also promoted the Local Emergency Management Director virtual course taking place on June 21st and 22nd from 12:30pm-4:30pm.

VIII. Open to Public

No comments from the public.

IX. Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 28, 2022 @ 5:30 pm

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm. The next meeting of the REMC will be a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, September 28, 2022. Eric Forand, VEM will be briefing us on the Binary Blizzard functional exercise scheduled for the state in 2024. This exercise will be based in southern VT so all towns will be encouraged to participate.

REMC meeting recordings can be viewed at
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCngReaqDYcXwIit75D6ayTw/videos>

**Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC)
Meeting Attendance - May 25, 2022**

Voting Members					
Town	First Name	Last Name	Title	Present	Proxy Given
Benson	Paul	Davoren	EMD		
Benson	Sam	Bartholomew	Fire Rep		
Brandon	David	Atherton	EMD		
Brandon	Tom	Kilpeck	Fire Chief	1	
Castleton	Michael	Jones	EMD	1	
Castleton	Peter	Mantello	Police Chief	1	Y
Chittenden	Jan	Sotirakis	Fire Rep	1	Y
Chittenden	Bob	Case	EMD - designee	1	Y
Clarendon	Matt	Jakubowski	EMD		
Clarendon	TJ	Lacz	Fire Rep		
Danby	Tom	Johnston	Fire Rep		
Danby	Shelley	Taylor	EMD - designee		
Fair Haven	Jim	Heller	EMD-designee		
Fair Haven	Bill	Humphries	Police Chief		
Hubbardton	Rick	Grabowski	Fire Rep		
Hubbardton	Janet	Morey	EMD - designee	1	
Ira	Bob	Toppin	EMD		
Ira					
Killington	Gary	Roth	EMD		
Killington	Thomas	Rock	Fire Rep		
Mendon	Lema	Carter	Police Rep		Y
Mendon	Val	Taylor	EMD-designee	2	Y
Middletown Springs	Herb	Childress	EMD		
Middletown Springs					
Mount Holly	Jeff	Chase	EMD		
Mount Holly	Jon	McCann	Fire Rep		
Mount Tabor	Phil	Lidstone	EMD		
Mount Tabor	Tom	Johnston	Fire Rep		
Pawlet	Jay	Luebke	EMD - designee	1	
Pawlet	Robert	Morlino	Fire Rep	1	
Pittsford	Jason	Davis	EMD		
Pittsford	Tom	Hooker	Fire Rep		
Poultney	Terry	Williams	EMD	1	
Poultney	Aaron	Kerber	Fire Chief	1	
Proctor	Michael	Ramsey	EMD	1	Y
Proctor	Kevin	Blongy	Fire Rep	1	
Rutland City	Bill	Lovett	EMD	1	Y
Rutland City	Dan	Gedney	Fire Rep	1	Y
Rutland Town	Martin	Wasserman	EMD	2	
Rutland Town	Bill	Sweet	Fire Rep		Y
Shrewsbury	Aaron	Korzun	EMD		Y
Shrewsbury	Jack	Perry	Fire Rep	2	
Sudbury	Steve	Sgorbati	EMD		
Sudbury					

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Voting Members					
Town	First Name	Last Name	Title	Present	Proxy Given
Tinmouth	Michael	Fannin	EMD	1	
Tinmouth	Ryan	Deppert	Fire Rep		
Wallingford	Jim	Bagnall	EMD	2	Y
Wallingford	Michael	Hughes	Fire Chief		Y
Wells	Todd	Fenton	Fire Chief		
Wells	Don	Preuss	EMD-designee		
West Haven	Rod	Ethier	EMD		Y
West Haven	Kerry	Ellis	Law Enforcement - designee		Y
West Rutland	Mary Ann	Goulette	EMD		Y
West Rutland	Michael	Skaza	Fire Chief	2	
				25	15

Quorum Requirements: 28 out of 54 present

A quorum is defined as a majority of voting members, including proxies, being present.

Non-Voting Members				
Organization	First Name	Last Name		Present
RMHS	Loree	Zeif		1
VT Department of Health	Abby	Spiegelman		1
RCFMA	Bob	Schlacter		1
RRPC	Bauer	Neisner		1
Department of Corrections	Kyle	Moore		1
VEM	Emily	Harris		1
				6