



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

RUTLAND REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (REMC)

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026, 5:30 PM

Rutland Regional Planning Commission – Microsoft Teams

I. **Voting Member Roll Call**

Chair Peter Mantello convened the meeting at 5:30 PM and conducted the voting member roll call. A quorum of voting members was present.

II. **Approve March 18, 2026, Meeting Agenda**

Todd Fenton made the motion to accept the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Jack Perry. No further discussion. Motion approved.

III. **Approve December 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Bill Jones presented the following revisions:

- Item V.(a.): The last sentence should end with a period, not a colon
- Item VI. (a.(i.)): Replace “Michael” in the first sentence with “Chair”
- Item VI. (a.(ii.)): Redact “Bob” from the first sentence
- Item VI. (a.(iv.)): Redact “Bob” from third sentence
- Item VIII.: The meeting adjourned time should read “6:29 PM”

Bill Lovett made the motion to accept the December 17, 2025, meeting minutes as amended. Second, by Perry. A brief discussion ensued to clarify for the Chair the date of the meeting minutes being amended. Motion approved.

IV. **Open to the Public**

There was no one from the public in attendance.

V. **REMC Representative Reports**

- a. Statewide Local Emergency Planning Commission (**LEPC**) Rep, Bob Morlino

Morlino reported that the Statewide LEPC had its first meeting of the year on January 13, 2026), with 71 attendees. Most of the attendees, or at least 50 to 60 of them are from Industry within Vermont. Chief McLaughlin from the Hazmat team went over notable releases. Normally he goes over notable releases and exercises. We had no large releases.

Fuel oil spill in Arlington, a fuel oil truck rolled over.

A box truck in paint went off the highway into the river in Hartland.



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Rutland had a chemical room flood.

A mail truck explosion was reported in South Burlington. It was a dog repellent that blew off in the back of the mail truck. One of the other rather unusual calls was at UVM Medical Center called a suspected anthrax on a person. So, the hazmat team went to check out the soil that the hospital took off just to make sure there was no anthrax and there was none detected. There are exercises that are planned with industry. So, we'll do an exercise with Beta Technologies and Perigo Nutritional's. We have one scheduled for Central Vermont Solid Waste District, one at Ben and Jerry's, and another one at Mac Molding in Arlington. So those are already scheduled. They'll probably be one or two more.

We had a presentation by CISA, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and they gave a presentation on protective security. There is a program called the Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Program. And what they do is they'll go out to industry, and they will do an analysis of your infrastructure protection, not only cyber, but even physical protection. And they'll give you some ideas on things that you might want to change or upgrade. So that's available to industry, and I think it's probably available to municipal governments as well. So of course it's free. It's the feds come in and they check on your physical and cybersecurity.

It was a very interesting presentation.

The hazmat team is going around the state as we do every year doing training for firefighters, hazmat training. There was training at in Whiting and Ferrisburgh, Stratton, Vermont, Manchester, Vermont, Newport, Woodstock, Alburgh, Barry City, Cambridge, Shelburne, Warren, Wells River, and Grand Isle.

And we have others that are scheduled coming up, but that's those were the fire departments that were trained, did training with us between our meeting, our last meeting and this meeting we probably trained I would guess probably 300 to 400 firefighters in that I didn't.

The next meeting will be April 21st 10 to 12 at the Norwich Fire Department and virtual. Anybody in the room or on this meeting is welcome to attend, send me an e-mail and I'll send you the link when we send the invitation out, which will probably go out next week.

Any Questions.

Loree Zeif stated that I would just like to say that my husband is a volunteer firefighter in Arlington, and he was so impressed with the way you dealt with the oil truck. He was there all day and was so impressed and he tells me that very little oil was in the waterway.

Bob stated that it was all on Arlington Fire Department. They did a fantastic job before we arrived. I was on the scene first because I live and I was deeply impressed.



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Mike Jones commented on recovering the cost associated with Hazmat response in Vermont and Bill Lovett echoed this both Mike and Bill thanked the Hazmat team for all their efforts.

Chair Mantello thanked Morlino for his outstanding report.

- b. Threat Hazard Identification & Assessment/Stakeholders Preparedness Report (**THIRA/SPR**) Rep, Peter Mantello

Bill Jones sent a survey, and the information was collected and sent back.

- c. Integrated Planning and Preparedness Workshop (**IPPW**) Rep, Judy Frazier
Frazier was absent. Judy has accepted an invitation to the June 3, 2026, IPPW workshop that will be via Microsoft Teams.

VI. **REMC Organizational Tasks**

- a. Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement

- i. Annual Review of Municipal Membership: Maggie and Bill are working on this with more to follow, Mike Jones and Joel Roberts discussed a conversation they had with radio sharing.
- ii. 2026 Biennial Review: Is a work in progress.

VII. **Announcements/Roundtable**

- a. REMC/COAD Update & Southeast Facilitated Discussion Debrief

Eric Pulver reported we had our Southeast sub region meeting that was in Wallingford and we had Wallingford, Clarendon, Tinmouth, Shrewsbury and Mount Holly in attendance, which was fantastic.

Honestly, it was another fantastic subregion meeting. It was a third out of six and I'm just really absolutely, super incredibly jazzed about how well these discussions are going.

And how much I think you know the towns are kind of, you know, hopefully taking out of these discussions with their own action items and the things that we're getting sort of, you know, Bill, Maggie and I, you know, and Jan are getting out of these conversations and sort of being able to do.

After action reports and stuff like that. So I believe Maggie did send out the after action report for our SE sub region here recently and it was a lot of similar things that we were seeing in the 1st 2:00.

And a lot of good stuff came out of that new module three that we kind of added in after our first one with Jan and Chittenden and them. So, I'm not going to go through everything because that would take us an hour and I certainly don't want you to sit here for all of that.



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But I will say there were a lot of things around resources. There were a lot of things around sheltering. You know, those are some of the needs. And I do want to say we did have a shelter fundamental training with the Red Cross a couple of weeks ago. We did have several towns that did go through that training with the Red Cross and the Medical Reserve Corps. So I think there is a lot of interest in this in Rutland County and I think we, you know, are ahead of the game in a lot of ways and I think we're doing some pretty cool, innovative stuff.

But yeah, as you can see there, you know, there's a lot of the standardization of stuff, especially documentation, you know, MO, use, you know, all that kind of, you know, fun stuff there and is now with kind of becoming the tagline for our sub-region meetings, which is that.

Handshakes are not reimbursable by FEMA. So, we just got to get these things written out. And I think that's pretty, you know, one of the more important things that we're kind of finding here. Also, communication and coordination of resources between towns within the sub-region. I think that's another area, you know, communications are always one of the first things that kind of gets to be troublesome during response efforts. And so looking at different ways that we can kind of sort of shore that up and like how can we actually come together and sort of talk about things, a couple of new things that came out of the Southeast sub-region discussion.

Where things like you know looking at how can we set up situational reports or anything like that meetings while we're in response. So, all the towns in the sub-regions are aware of what's going on. So that way they can know if they're sort of neighboring towns if they're.

Good to go, they're OK, they're stable. What kind of resources can they then be able to share out? And then vice versa, what towns might not be stable and what resources they might need. And so, looking at sort of that as a possible thing, you know that sub-region towns can work on as well.

And you know, a lot of the same things that all our towns are kind of dealing with. You know, it's, it's a lot of capacity, it's a lot of bench depth, it's a lot of volunteers, you know, doing stuff. We also found some barriers to.

Sort of radio and sort of non-Internet based communication. So, everyone you know has Facebook's, everyone has town websites, but what are we doing if the Internet's down or power's out and stuff like that? And yeah, and then just sort of staging the resources that is either.

The next one will be in Poultney on May 6, 2026, from 10 am to 1 pm at the Poultney Fire Station. Maggie will send an invite to Poultney, Wells Ira, and Middletown Springs.

b. 2026 Local Emergency Management Plan

Bill reminded all that LEMPS are due June 1, 2026, and he will be reaching out to the EMD's for their updated versions.



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c. EMPG Program and Funding Update

No movement on EMPG with the lack of communication during the partial Federal Government shutdown.

VIII. **Next Meeting – June 17, 2026 @ 5:30 PM**

Lovett made the motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Fenton. No further discussion. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Jones, VEM Regional Coordinator for Bennington-Rutland Counties

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**Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC)
Voting Members 2025-2026 as of 03/18/2026**

Voting Members					
Town	First Name	Last Name	Title	Present	Proxy Given
Benson	Brad	Barrett	EMD-designee		
Benson	Jim	Pritchard	Highway Rep		
Brandon	Seth	Hopkins	EMD	1	Y
Brandon	Tom	Kilpeck	Fire Chief	1	Y
Castleton	Michael	Jones	EMD	1	Y
Castleton	Peter	Mantello	Police Chief	1	Y
Chittenden	Bob	Case	EMD - designee	1	Y
Chittenden	Jan	Sotirakis	Fire Rep	1	Y
Clarendon	Craig	Knapp	EMD - designee		
Clarendon	Matt	Jakubowski	Fire Chief		
Danby	Shelley	Taylor	EMD - designee		
Danby	Tom	Johnston	Fire Rep		
Fair Haven	Jim	Heller	EMD - designee		
Fair Haven	Bill	Humphries	Police Chief		
Hubbardton	Rick	Grabowski	EMD		
Hubbardton	Michael	Wetmore	Fire Rep		
Ira	Bob	Toppin	EMD		
Ira	Dan	Perry	Fire Chief		
Killington	VACANT				
Killington	VACANT				
Mendon	Val	Taylor	EMD-designee		
Mendon	Lema	Carter	Constable		
		Chestnut-			
Middletown Springs	Robin	Tangerman	EMD-designee		
Middletown Springs	Robert	McMahon	Highway Rep		
Mount Holly	Jeff	Chase	EMD		
Mount Holly	Billy	Austin	Fire Rep		
Mount Tabor	VACANT				
Mount Tabor	VACANT				
Pawlet	Bob	Morlino	EMD	1	Y
Pawlet	Jonathan	Weiss	Fire Rep		Y
Pittsford	Tim	Cornell	EMD		
Pittsford	Steve	Shortsleeves	Fire Rep		
Poultney	Paul	Donaldson	EMD		
Poultney	Aaron	Kerber	Fire Chief		
Proctor	Judy	Frazier	EMD		
Proctor	Kevin	Blongy	Fire Rep		
Rutland City	Bill	Lovett	EMD	1	Y
Rutland City	Dan	Gedney	Fire Rep		Y
Rutland Town	Martin	Wasserman	EMD	1	Y
Rutland Town	Bill	Sweet	Fire Rep		Y

**Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC)
Voting Members 2025-2026 as of 03/18/2026**

Town	First Name	Last Name	Title	Present	Proxy Given
Shrewsbury	Aaron	Korzun	EMD		Y
Shrewsbury	Jack	Perry	Fire Rep	1	Y
Sudbury	VACANT				
Sudbury	VACANT				
Tinmouth	Matthew	Patry	EMD-designee		Y
Tinmouth	Ray	Pratt	Fire Rep	1	Y
Wallingford	Jim	Bagnall	EMD		
Wallingford	Bill	Weiss	Rescue Rep		
Wells	Todd	Fenton	Fire Chief	1	Y
Wells	Don	Preuss	EMD-designee		Y
West Haven	Kerry	Ellis	EMD	1	Y
West Haven	Joshua	Wood	Fire Rep	1	Y
West Rutland	Mary Ann	Goulette	EMD		
West Rutland	Michael	Skaza	Fire Chief		

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Non-Voting Members

Organization	First Name	Last Name	Present
Pittsford Emergency Management	Matthew	Trombley	1
Poultney Highway Department	Joel	Roberts	1
Rutland City Police	Matthew	Prouty	1
Rutland Mental Health	Loree	Zeif	1
Rutland Regional Planning Commission	Maggie	O'Brien	1
Vermont Department of Health	Eric	Pulver	1
Vermont Emergency Management	Bill	Jones	1

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TOTAL (with proxies) (Voting Members) **20**

TOTAL (without proxies) (Voting members) **14**

Quorum (≥10) Met? **YES**

**Quorum is 11 per the REMC Bylaws; however, the entire voting membership has not been instated as of 03/18/2026. Quorum has been adjusted for this meeting only to account for these vacancies.