



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

RUTLAND REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (REMC)

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 moved 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. Seconded 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. Chief Patrick McLaughlin from the HAZMAT team went over notable releases in the state, including a fuel oil truck rollover in Arlington, a box paint truck crashing into the river in Hartland, a chemical room flood in Rutland, and a mail truck explosion in South Burlington. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) also gave a presentation on its Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Program, which involves site visits to analyze and recommend upgrades to physical and cybersecurity. Exercises scheduled for the near future include Beta Technologies, Perrigo

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RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Nutritionals, Ben and Jerry's, Central Vermont Solid Waste District, and Mac Molding in Arlington. The next LEPC meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2026, at the Norwich Fire Department.

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

Mantello stated that Bill Jones had received the annual survey and used previous information to submit responses for Bennington and Rutland Counties. As a reminder, the THIRA/SPR compiles information annually on current capabilities and gaps in the region's response to threats/hazards. The four high-priority core capabilities identified in the THIRA/SPR include physical protective measures, supply chain integrity, security, fatality management services, and critical transportation, specifically for debris clearing.

- c. Integrated Planning and Preparedness Workshop (**IPPW**) Rep, Judy Frazier

Frazier was absent. Bill Jones indicated she had accepted an invitation to the June 3, 2026 IPPW, which will be hosted via Microsoft Teams, and will report back at the following REMC meeting. As a reminder, the IPPW is an annual workshop for State agencies (primarily) to outline the plans, training, and exercises needed or planned for the next three years.

VI. **REMC Organizational Tasks**

- a. Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement

- i. Annual Review of Municipal Membership: Bill Jones will be reaching out to the Region's municipalities to renew their participation in the Rutland Region Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement as part of the annual Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) update. This will include having Towns update their Designated Officials and Resource list, which should be submitted to Maggie O'Brien along with the signature page. Both the LEMP and the Mutual Aid Agreement paperwork are due June 1.
- ii. 2026 Biennial Review: The Biennial Review of the Mutual Aid Agreement is currently postponed due to the lack of Emergency Management Planning Grant (**EMPG**) funding. Bill Jones and Maggie hope to provide an update by the next REMC meeting in June.

VII. **Announcements/Roundtable**

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

Eric Pulver (VDH) recapped the "Southeast sub-region" facilitated discussion held on February 4 with the Towns of Clarendon, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury, Tinmouth, and Wallingford. Mantello asked whether there was a "common denominator" indicating what people struggle with most in an emergency management situation. Pulver stated there were several: communication procedures; resource staging and coordination; formal emergency operations center (EOC) activations and tasks; and the challenge of picking a single role for officials wearing "more than one hat." These key trends

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RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

remained consistent with the previous exercises held in June 2025 with the Northeast Subregion and in October 2025 with the Northwest Subregion. A detailed description of the February 2026 findings is available in the After-Action Report sent on March 12, 2026. Additionally, Maggie O'Brien compiled a summary packet of the key findings from all Facilitated Discussions held thus far and will keep this document up to date as the remaining exercises take place. The Towns of Ira, Middletown Springs, Poultney, and Wells are on deck for the upcoming Southwest Facilitated Discussion on May 6, 2026, at the Poultney Firehouse (55 Firehouse Lane) from 10 AM – 1 PM. This will be followed by the “Southern sub-region” in August 2026 (Pawlet, Danby, Mt. Tabor), and the “Central sub-region” in October 2026 (Mendon, Proctor, Rutland City, Rutland Town, West Rutland).

b. 2026 Local Emergency Management Plan

Bill Jones reminded the Committee that all LEMPS are due on June 1, 2026, and that he will reach out to the Emergency Management Directors (EMDs) for their annual updates.

c. EMPG Program and Funding Update

Bill Jones reported little movement on EMPG with the lack of communication during the partial Federal Government shutdown. He still anticipates VEM will keep its current course.

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

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

Respectfully submitted by Maggie O'Brien, RRPC Emergency Management Planner