

Addison County Regional Emergency Management Committee

<https://acrpc.org/acrpc-remc/>

MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

8 November 2023, 12:00pm

In Person at ACRPC Office, 14 Seminary St, Middlebury VT

12:00 Call to Order

Brief Introductions and Roll Call conducted

12:03 Approval of August 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Erik Eriksen, Second by Bob Groff- Passed unanimously by voice vote

12:05 Winter Health Outlook- VT Department of Health

John Davy gave an update on COVID-19, flu and other respiratory diseases as we head into winter (see slides at <https://acrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/C19-ACRPC-presentation-20231108.pdf>) COVID hospitalization cases have declined since 2022 and levelled off

A moderate wave is expected this winter (similar to 2020, but lower than 2021 & 2022)

Cold & Flu season is now called “Respiratory Disease Season (for COVID/Flu/RSV)

The upcoming season is expected to be lower than previous years, but with peaks of cases- It’s unknown when peaks will happen, depends on immunization uptake

There have been increases in RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) in the southeast US- there’s usually a couple months lag before it happens in the Northeast. However RSV season in Vermont is expected to be less severe

Recent COVID variants have not been changing much (still a subset of Omicron- which the current vaccines are based on.)

Influenza- Hillary Fannin reported that influenza-like illness is not above baseline activity in Vermont and introduced some surveillance tools.

(see slides at <https://acrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/08Nov2023-Flu-Overview.pdf>)

B. Ankjean-Jensen asked whether wastewater testing was happening in Addison County? J. Davy looked at list of testing sites and said that it isn’t

12:40 REMC logo update- S. Korda will send drafts to the REMC Logo subcommittee for discussion and selection

12:45 Updates and Reminders

- VEM Update (H. Schoppmann)

H. Schoppmann provided updates on upcoming grants

- Statewide LEPC (D. Kuzio)

The VT Fire Academy has developed a very good Lithium-Ion battery fire training,

- Tier ii Hazardous Materials reports- have been provided to the RPC/REMC from the state Dept of Fire Safety

○ **RPC updates** (A. L'Roe)

The RPC applied for and received funding for 3 replacement batteries for early warning Rain Gauges that feed into NOAA/NWS early warning- 2 in Lincoln, 1 in Ripton,

The RPC is working on flood-risk property buyouts in Middlebury and Ripton

A. L'Roe and RPC staff are finishing a couple Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs)- A.L'Roe will send the drafts for Panton and Leicester (along with short executive summaries) in the next few weeks for feedback. The RPC is trying to consolidate some of the historical and recent hazard event and damage information in a regional

A. L'Roe introduced new ACRPC planner, Deron Rixon and reminded REMC members to continue recruiting community members with interest in joining the REMC to attend meetings. We will be reaching out to municipalities following Town Meeting day to update appointed members.

1:00pm Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Erik Eriksen, Seconded by Bob Groff- Passed unanimously by voice vote

Next REMC Meeting- Wednesday, February 14, 2023
Zoom and ACRPC Office

11/8/2023 REMC Meeting Attendees:

Municipal Voting Members

(* = voting member, ** = voting member & proxy)

- * Bob Groff, Panton EMC
- ** Erik Eriksen, Ripton FD & EMC
- * George Gardner, Ferrisburgh FD
- * Valerie Capels, Bristol EMD
- * Peter Coffey, Bristol EMC and FD
- ** Ben Marks, Cornwall EMD
- * Charlene Phelps, Starksboro EMC
- ** Dan Kuzio, Starksboro FD
- ** Paul McMahan, Waltham EMC
- * Ethan West, Goshen EMD & Brandon FD
- * Bill Finger, Lincoln SB

Jason Covey, Middlebury PD

(11 voting members with 4 additional proxies, representing 9 communities)

Also attending.

Beate Ankjear-Jensen, VT Dept of Health
John Davy, VT Dept of Health
Hillary Fannin, VT Dept of Health
Lt. Col. Jason Galipeau, VT National Guard

Harry Schoppmann, Vermont Emergency
Management Regional Coordinator
Andrew L'Roe, ACRPC Emergency
Management Planner