

Addison County Regional Emergency Management Committee

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

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes

14 February 2024, 12:00pm

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

12:00 Call to Order

12:03 Approval of November 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Erik Eriksen, Second by Paul Vaczy-
Passed unanimously by voice vote

Beate Ankjean-Jensen asked about planning for the April 8 Full Solar Eclipse, especially large events and traffic (especially afterwards)

Harry Schoppmann provided information from VEM
Including a Large Event planning template (on
VEM's LEMP Annex webpage

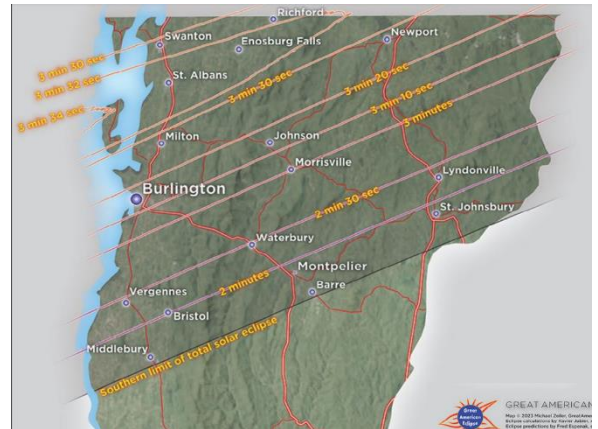
(<https://vem.vermont.gov/document/large-event-planning-annex>)

Additional Information from H. Schoppman is posted on REMC webpage by minutes.

VLCT has an [Eclipse Planning Check-In Recordings and Resources](#) page

VLCT's [Eclipse Planning Check-Ins](#) started on January 25. They are only open to VLCT members – municipal officials from local governments.

A. L'Roe said he would provide additional eclipse planning information and try to set up a county-wide discussion.



12:05 Isaac Danuloff, VT Department of Health Environmental health specialist–

Soon to be released Heat & Houselessness storytelling project

Last year, Dept of Health conducted a Cooling Sites Inventory and they are reaching out to towns and EMDs to update it. Map is embedded in this webpage:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/climatehot-weather>

Also working to expand Resilience Hubs and resource centers, more broadly

Currently identifying places and organizations providing climate-related support, e.g. for food, clothing, N95 masks, water purification supplies, etc.

They will be surveying about organizations' capacities and needs

Contact info: isaac.danuloff@vermont.gov, 802-863-7484

12:20 Craig Zondag, Lemon Fair Insect Control District (LFICD) Field Coordinator/Biologist

LFICD website: <https://www.lficd.org/>

C. Zondag presented an overview of what the LFICD does, what the current state of mosquito control efforts and research are, and what is needed going forward.

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAA F&M) does Vector Surveillance and Analysis in conjunction with the Department of Health.

LFICD does Nuisance surveillance and conducts Mosquito abatement practices through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or [Integrated Mosquito Management](#) (IMM). The goal is to knock down mosquitoes as larvae before they emerge as adults using larvicide. There are only 2 Insect Control districts in the entire state- the other is the Otter Creek Watershed district (OCW) for the towns of Salisbury, Leicester, Goshen, Brandon, Pittsford, and Proctor (<https://ocwicd.com/>)

LFICD is made up of 3 towns; Bridport, Cornwall and Weybridge with each of the towns contributing \$6,000 annually. VAA F&M contributes \$70,000 each to the LFICD and the OCW. This amount has not changed in 13 years.

C. Zondag is the only employee of the LFICD. He hires and trains two college interns for the summer (June through August) as both field and lab technicians and to assist with larviciding activity.

LFICD was formed to focus on floodplain mosquitoes and mosquitoes in the Lemon Fair River and Cornwall Swamp: Surveillance of the Lemon Fair River includes about 800-900 treatable acres. The Cornwall Swamp is currently mapped to treat up to 400 acres.

There is also a complaint line from residents- most complaints come from those that don't live on or near the Lemon Fair River nor the Cornwall Swamp. LFICD will conduct a site visit to a private property and may set up a CDC Light Trap to assess what mosquito species seem to be the issue, then offer recommendations to the property owner as to what they might do to reduce the presence of mosquitoes on their property.

TIMING is everything! (for larvicide treatment) Not all mosquitoes hatch at the same time so effective treatment requires vigilance in noting and surveillance trying to put a treatment scenario together

The LFICD contracts a helicopter service (based out of out of North Fork, Long Island) to conduct aerial larvicide. This is very expensive. The LFICD budget only allows for one (sometimes 2) of these treatments annually. To bring them in and justify the cost, need at least 800+ acres to treat, but mosquito hatches are a moving target (e.g. only 2-5 acres in one location, 30 in another)

TREATMENT AND BMP'S GOING FORWARD:

There are products capable of treating mosquito larvae for 30 or more days at a time. (i.e. Dunks)

Mechanical drone technology: A drone has been created that is capable of a 40 lb. payload capacity and capable of treating upwards of 200 acres a day. Having access to this would help "stamp out fires" in real time and stay on top of unsynchronized hatches. This technology is being used in as many as 17 states for mosquito control, weed control and other agricultural purposes that reduce soil compaction by tractors. There are a couple challenges:

- a. Currently, there is no one to our knowledge in all of New England utilizing this technology.
- b. Requires an FAA license to operate and if being used for mosquito abatement practices require a State Pesticide Applicators Certification.

A PROBLEM NOT GOING AWAY:

- 1) As we look to the future and shifts in weather patterns, particularly longer wetter seasons, warmer temperatures, mosquitoes are going to continue to become an issue, whether from a nuisance standpoint or from a vector that can spread fatal disease or alter someone's health indefinitely.
- 2) At some point, if the State does not take the reins on this, more local government will need to become engaged and work together to keep residence safe and help maintain the wellness of society...so that people can garden and recreate outside.
- 3) For any given answer I discover in the field or the lab, only more questions arise...with a concluding question, "What resources do I need to address this situation?"

C. Zondag will be giving an additional presentation on **March 14, at 7pm, at Ilsley Library** in conjunction with the Otter Creek Audubon Society with more information about mosquito species and habitats.

There will also be an Open House for the LFICD on **July 20, 10am-3pm in Weybridge**, next to the Congregational Church.

P. Vaczy asked about focus on larvicide. He is a town representative to the OCW ICD and has concerns that they're not doing enough with larvicide treatments.

C. Zondag noted that ideally you want to treat before they become adults and there's not a lot of evidence about the effectiveness of adulticide (spraying) treatments. The BTi he uses has been shown to only affect mosquitoes and black flies, but not any of the predators.

B. Ankjaer-Jensen noted that there may be opportunities for additional education, and best practices, especially around emptying water reservoirs in buckets, tires, etc.

A. L'Roe noted that he would work with C. Zondag on funding opportunities for the LFICD and helping to advertise events.

12:40 REMC logo selection (A. L'Roe)

A sample of potential logos was created by Graphics Designer-Orwell EMD Sandy Korda

A. L'Roe presented the logo selected by the REMC subcommittee-



S. Korda was contracted with EMPG funds from the previous (FY22) funding cycle. The logo now appears on the ACREMC website and will be used on future documents and outreach materials.

12:45 Updates and Reminders

VEM Update (Harry Schoppmann)

VEM has created 2 new documents to assist municipalities with attracting and education EMDs (Those will be posted with minutes on REMC website):

- An **EMD Job Description** (<https://vem.vermont.gov/document/emergency-management-director-job-description>) to advertise the position to their community to identify candidates and attract volunteers
- An **EMD Manual** (<https://vem.vermont.gov/document/emergency-management-director-manual>) to educate new EMDs and refresh current ones about responsibilities

Additional VT-Alert rack cards are available, contact H. Schoppmann for delivery

There are a number of upcoming training opportunities- see posting on REMC website or list at end of agenda. They include:

February 2024

- Public Information Officer Basics for Locals
- State Emergency Operation Center Orientation
- ICS 100- Prep- Introduction to Incident Command
- PER -340: Active Threat Integrated Response Course

March 2024

- Vermont Local Emergency Management Director Course
- MGT -417: Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents for Key Decision Makers

April 2024

- G0191- ICS/EOC Interface
- VT- Alert Manager Training
- L0146 Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP)
- ICS 300- Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents
- L0105- Public Information Basics

A series of recorded [Spring Flood videos](#) have been posted on the VEM YouTube page. (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkV2VZBHKd0_41Q648QX49LpeURmLAC9t) These videos inform local officials about how to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the impacts of the upcoming spring flood season.

Several Funding opportunities are available, including

- State Homeland Security Grant Program (<https://hsu.vermont.gov/homeland-security-unit/funding-opportunities/SHSP>)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (Major funding round): <https://vem.vermont.gov/disaster-based-funding>
- Non-Disaster Based Funding: <https://vem.vermont.gov/non-disaster-based-funding>

Statewide LEPC (Dan Kuzio, AC REMC representative)

The statewide LEPC met in January and set dates for the upcoming year's meetings- April 16 (in Norwich), July 9, and October 22. They are trying to hold them around the state so there is potential for Addison County to host a meeting.

The state HazMat team presented stats and summary of their activities over the last busy year.

Integrated Planning Workshop (Dan Kuzio, AC REMC representative)

Held to create an updated Vermont Integrated Preparedness Plan for 2024-2027.

Part 1: April 3 from 1pm-3pm. Discussion of the Integrated Preparedness Planning process, review the results from the 2023 Stakeholder Preparedness Review and corresponding priority Core Capabilities, and break into working groups in the areas of Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training & Exercising.

After this workshop, we have until **noon on April 18th** to complete workbook listing the Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training & Exercising activities our organization intends to complete in the next 3 years.

Part 2: May 2nd, 1pm-3pm. Review the results from the Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training & Exercising spreadsheets completed by participants and collaboratively schedule events to meet the statewide priorities.

A. L’Roe and D. Kuzio will put together a poll for Fire Depts and towns about training plans/needs to report for the Integrated Planning Workshop

RPC updates (Andrew L’Roe)

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs) are currently underway for several municipalities and there has been communication between VEM and several other towns about funding through BRIC. See ACRPC website (<https://acrpc.org/local-hazard-mitigation-plans/>) or contact A. L’Roe for questions.

Annual Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMPs) - A. L’Roe will be reaching out to towns with more information after town meeting. Emphasis this year on Shelter identification.

A. L’Roe is working with NOAA and Forest Service to get new batteries installed in 2 early-warning rain gauges in Lincoln, and another on private property in Ripton

1:00pm Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Paul Vaczy, Seconded by Ben Marks- Passed unanimously by voice vote

Next REMC Meeting- Wednesday, May 8, 2024
Zoom and ACRPC Office

2/14/2024 REMC Meeting Attendees:

Municipal Voting Members

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

- ** Erik Eriksen, Ripton FD & EMC
- ** Valerie Capels, Bristol EMD
- ** Ben Marks, Cornwall EMD
- ** Dan Kuzio, Starksboro FD
- ** Paul McMahan, Waltham EMC
- ** Ethan West, Goshen EMD & Brandon FD
- ** Ryan Brown, VARS Panton and Addison
- ** Paul Vaczy, Salisbury EMD

(8 voting members all holding additional proxies, representing 9 communities)

Also attending,

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| Kate Rothwell, MREMS | Rhonda Williams, Waltham SB |
| Walker Randall, MREMS | Demetria Kirby, Middlebury College |
| Beate Ankjaer-Jensen, VT Dept of Health | Israel Phelps, Collins Aerospace |
| Isaac Danuloff, VT Dept of Health | Harry Schoppmann, Vermont Emergency
Management Regional Coordinator |
| Craig Zontag, Lemon Fair Insect Control District | Andrew L'Roe, ACRPC Emergency
Management Planner |
| Carol Bradford, Lincoln | |
| Kyle Pearsall, Porter Hospital | |
| Peter Brown, Middlebury College | |