

Addison County Regional Emergency Management Committee

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

MINUTES

8 May 2024, 12:00pm

DRAFT

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

12:00 Call to Order

Brief Introductions of participants

Roll call was taken- list of attendees at end of minutes

(9 voting members, 7 holding additional proxies, representing 8 communities)

Over the 1/3 (14 vote) quorum threshold

12:03 Approval of February 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve made by Bob Groff, Second by Barb Rainville, Unanimously approved by REMC voting members present

12:05 Speaker Kyle Medash, Western Floodplain Manager at Vermont Agency of Natural Resources-Department of Environmental Conservation, gave a presentation: *FEMA FIRM Updates & Updating Municipal Bylaws Floodplain & River Corridor Regulations*

He described the role of the state Floodplain Manager Program and available Flood Training:

<https://floodtraining.vermont.gov/>

To maintain National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) enrollment, communities must adopt, implement & enforce flood hazard area regulations

New Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) updates are being developed by FEMA/USGS for

Addison County and the Otter Creek watershed, more detail on the New Haven River

He summarized the zoning-bylaw update process and the need to have a valid, unexpired, municipal or local hazard mitigation plan to adopt bylaws

He described different municipal flood hazard standards and the recommendation of VT DEC's 2022 stand-alone model bylaw which meets FEMA standards and includes River Corridor protections to protect the area needed by rivers to move.

He described No adverse impact (NAI) standards for inundation areas and river corridors

A Flood Resilience Checklist for Vermont Communities is available at:

https://floodready.vermont.gov/update_plans

12:45 New appointments and election of officers for upcoming year was postponed until the August quarterly meeting

12:50 Presentation of REMC Logo and discussion of outreach

Sandy Korda briefly presented the new REMC logo and different versions available

This is a resource of the REMC and available to be used for promotional materials, outreach, preparation. etc. The REMC officers will discuss other methods of outreach, including a potential display at Addison Fair and Field Days.

12:55 Updates and Reminders

- **VEM Update** provided by Harry Schoppmann
Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMPs) are being reviewed and sent back to municipalities with approval and suggestions, or minor corrections needed

There are a number of current and upcoming grant opportunities, including:

- **Homeland Security- FY2024 Nonprofit Security Grant Program**
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program-** for municipalities doing implementation projects such as property buyouts and elevations, floodplain restoration, and upsizing bridges and culverts pre-application form due by June 21

The National Weather Service provides **hazardous weather information for public safety** at large outdoor event gatherings. Local Emergency managers need to provide NWS Burlington with information at least 2 weeks prior to an event, at <https://www.weather.gov/btv/dssrequest>

The annual **VEM Emergency Preparedness Conference** is scheduled for Sept 10 & 11 at the Lake Morey Resort- a free room is available for a member of each REMC.

- **LEPC and statewide Integrated Planning Workshop** provided by Danny Kuzio

At Statewide Local Emergency Planning Committee there was a presentation on annual spill responses, and emphasis on reporting through the statewide **HazMat Hotline (800-641-5005)** and **VEM Watch Officer** phone number **(800-347-0488)**

- D. Kuzio gave a quick overview of pending state legislation, **S310, “An act relating to natural disaster government response, recovery, and resiliency”**, which has been passed by the House and now Senate: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/S.310>.

The bill proposes numerous modifications to Vermont’s disaster response statutes and activities. The bill also would, among other things, create a new municipal grant program, increase the Fire Service Training Council insurance assessment by \$150,000, expand eligibility for survivor benefits to public works employees, authorize the creation of an Urban Search and Rescue Team, make changes to stormwater utility laws, and review various aspects of Vermont’s emergency response system (Joint Fiscal Office Summary: https://ljfo.vermont.gov/assets/Publications/2023-2024-Senate-Bills/a9602f41ad/FN-S.310-Climate_SAC.pdf)

- D. Kuzio noted that the most important pieces for REMC members has to do with recovery and mitigation funding through the create a Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

- D. Kuzio attended the IPPW introductory session on upcoming exercises, training, planning, personnel and equipment purchases, which the state holds each year to update its three-year plan. A survey was sent out to Emergency Managers and Fire Departments about upcoming activities and needs, and feedback was given to the IPPW. Responses were sent to VEM and discussed at a follow-up session. The updated IPPW for 2025-2027 is available online: https://vem.vermont.gov/sites/demhs/files/documents/2024_2027%20Integrated%20Preparedness%20Plan.pdf

- **RPC updates** provided by A. L'Roe

Reminded EMDs to get **Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMPs)** signed and returned. A. L'Roe noted that a number of towns are working on the updating process for 5-year **Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs)**, which is required for a lot of federal hazard mitigation grant funding.

Panton is in the final stage of submission and **Leicester** has completed its first draft to submit. Drafts are available on the ACRPC website, here: <http://acrpc.org/local-hazard-mitigation-plans/>. Several other towns have put out request for proposals to hire consultants and are in the process of hiring contractors and updating plans. For more information on what your municipality needs to do, see the website above.

1:00pm Adjourn

Motion made by Ben Marks, Seconded by Barb Rainville, Approved unanimously by voice

-Minutes submitted by Andrew L'Roe, ACRPC EM Planner

Next REMC Meeting- Wednesday, August 14, 2024
Zoom and ACRPC Office

3/8/2024 REMC Meeting Attendees:

Municipal Voting Members

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

- ** Bob Groff, Panton EMC
- * Dan Kuzio, Starksboro FD
- ** Jason Covey, Middlebury EMD and PD
- ** Barbara Rainville, Lincoln EMD
- ** Ben Marks, Cornwall EMD
- ** Paul McMahon, Waltham EMC
- ** George Gardner, Ferrisburgh FD
- ** Sandy Korda, Orwell EMD
- * Charlene Phelps, Starksboro EMD

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

Also attending.

Kyle Medash, DEC Regional Floodplain Manager

Asa Brayton, DEC Regional Floodplain Manager

Israel Phelps, Collins Aerospace

Harry Schoppmann, Vermont Emergency Management Regional Coordinator

Andrew L'Roe, ACRPC Emergency Management Planner