

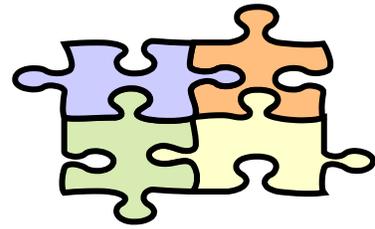
CHITTENDEN COUNTY, VERMONT
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE #1
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Meeting Notes, April 12, 2016

Present: Chair Al Barber, Hinesburg Fire; Noreen Karcher, VT 211; Kate Hammond, VT Dept. of Health; Bob Henneberger, Stephen Edwards, and Kathi Walbridge, CERT/RACES; Zachary Borst and Jeff Rogers, UVM; Randy Bronson and Brett LaRose, DEMHS; Dustin Keelty, Town of Milton; Dan Baker and Rachel Heath, UVM; also CCRPC senior planner Lee Krohn, AICP.

There were no changes to the agenda, nor public comment on items not on the agenda.

With no questions or concerns, the meeting notes of March 8, 2016 were accepted by unanimous consent.

Dan Baker and Rachel Heath of UVM gave a presentation about mobile home parks and relationships to Local Emergency Operations Plans... and considerations in planning around hazards, vulnerabilities, and emergency operations. Typical vulnerabilities often include flooding and proximity to railroads. As noted last month, at least a list of mobile home parks is now a required element in each town's LEOP; perhaps the real question is how and whether towns may now plan for specific needs these residents may have in emergency situations. Heath and Barker noted that these landowners or groups are not always the easiest to organize, but offered assistance to towns as may be desired. These issues may also arise in All Hazard Mitigation Plans.

Randy Bronson of VT DEMHS gave a presentation about VT ALERT, a notification system for which anyone can sign up to receive alerts about a wide range of incidents or emergency situations (severe weather, public health issues, Amber Alerts, and the like). VT DEMHS uses this system now, and other entities (municipalities, CCRPC...) can apply to be authorized providers of emergency information. Notifications can be tailored to specific geographic areas if desired, as well as pre-defined groups of any type; and recipients can select the types of alerts they wish to receive. It is a simple, flexible, web-based system. A recent incident where this could have been useful was when the City of Winooski shut down part of the circulator due to a hazardous materials incident. The City notified residents via its own text-based system, and then it was picked up by news media; but with VT ALERT, a broad range of recipients could easily have been notified, which might have helped to lessen congestion in the heart of the City during the peak afternoon commuting time. Individuals can sign up at www.vtalert.gov. It is a free service to receive, nor is there a cost to eligible entities to become an authorized provider. Bronson is available to offer presentations and other information upon request. Krohn will seek to gauge interest among municipalities and other regional planning commissions.

Project updates

The hazardous materials commodity flow study contemplated previously is now changed again; one or two selected RPCs may do their own, more limited studies.

Krohn attended the NH Fire Chiefs Association hazardous materials conference in Concord, NH, related to LEPC roles, duties, and responsibilities, as well as emergency response to hazmat incidents.

Borst is now a full time emergency management coordinator at UVM, and will be a regular participant in LEPC. He offered assistance and collaboration toward mutual goals. Rogers also reported that construction continues at the main UVM campus, and will resume shortly at the Medical Center.

Keelty is helping to manage transitions in Milton's Public Works Department.

Hammond reported on recent activity in Bennington/North Bennington around PFOA contamination of water supplies, and how the VT Health Dept. and MRC are assisting in current or upcoming response activities.

Karcher offered a snapshot of VT 211 activity in 2015, and a scorecard for the 'Help me Grow' program.

CERT and RACES held a ham radio workshop, and will help again with the Gran Fondo bicycle event in Addison County.

Next month's meeting will need to cover membership, election of Chair, and other housekeeping matters. It was suggested that a DLAN training update might be helpful.

Save the date: this year's Emergency Management conference will be on November 4 & 5 at Lake Morey Inn.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 10 at 0900 hours. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn, AICP.