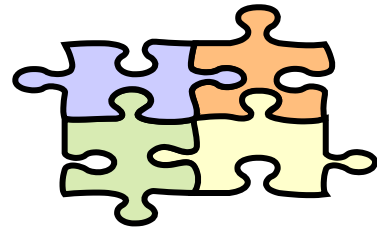


**CHITTENDEN COUNTY, VERMONT**  
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Meeting Notes, May 9, 2017

### CCRPC OFFICE

Present: Al Barber, Chair, Hinesburg Fire; Kate Hammond, VDH; Mike Collins, Global Foundries; Max Kennedy, DEMHS; Bob Henneberger, CERT/RACES; Steve Cushing, Saint Michael's College; John Berino, UVM Medical Center; Peter Murray, Geo Tech; Zachary Borst, UVM; David Attig, Vermont Gas; Lee Krohn, CCRPC.

The meeting was called to order at 0900. The only changes to the agenda were that due to an unavoidable work conflict, David Notte of VELCO sends his regrets, and will reschedule his presentation; and John Berino offered to present the annual hospital vulnerability assessment. There was no public comment on anything not on the agenda.

Motion by Borst to approve the meeting notes of 3/14/17 (there was no April meeting); seconded by Cushing and approved unanimously.

Dave Attig gave a presentation about Vermont Gas as a company, its operations, and approach to emergency preparedness/management. Founded in 1965, the firm has 130 employees, and is a full-service operation of natural gas transmission and distribution, as well as repair service and energy efficiency activities. It has both firm and interruptible customers, serving Chittenden, Franklin, and Addison Counties. It has a full suite of programs in emergency preparedness, hazard mitigation, public awareness, and first responder training; a formal Emergency Response Plan; and mutual aid agreements with other gas utilities – but which have never yet been needed to be activated. In case of an incident, Priority 1 is preservation of life; preservation of property is secondary, and gas can be shut off in limited areas to isolate an area of concern. Gas comes primarily from western Canada, but also from several other smaller domestic sources. Unlike propane, which is heavier than air, natural gas is lighter than air. It can ignite in concentrations from 5% (lower explosive limit) to 15% (upper explosive limit).

John Berino of the UVM Medical Center gave a presentation about the Vulnerability Assessment which hospitals must do each year. In the past, these have been done individually; this year, these were also then combined in collaborative fashion to analyze and clarify collective vulnerabilities across the hospital spectrum. These are organized into three main categories: natural, human, and technological, and at least here at UVMHC, are then used to create strategic priorities for action and improvement in the coming year.

LEPC other business: the prior meeting minutes, financial report, DEMHS report, and other supporting documents were distributed in advance with the agenda. Hammond, Borst, and Krohn continue to work on simplifying and streamlining the bylaws; these will be distributed in advance, to be considered at the annual meeting in June, along with election of officers and other business as needed. The next meeting will be the LEPC Annual Meeting, to be held on June 13 at the Doubletree in South Burlington.

There will be a breakfast buffet at 0830, with the meeting to begin as usual at 0900. A 'save the date' RSVP request will be sent out, as we'll need a firm count for breakfast, and regarding room capacity.

Krohn submitted the SERC/Hazchem grant application on behalf of LEPC for the upcoming federal fiscal year. There is a statutory \$4000 grant to each LEPC each year. In light of the actual requirements for LEPC work, we requested \$6000; not nearly sufficient, hopefully realistic in light of all prior year grants. Considerable discussion ensued about the array of emergency management activities for which LEPCs and RPCs are responsible, and the hope that someday, sufficient funding would be available to support these fully and properly. It was noted that the next SERC quarterly meeting is on Wednesday, May 17 at 1000 at the SEOC in Waterbury.

Barber noted that the Public Service Broadband contract, also known as First Net, has been awarded to AT&T. A project schedule and progress are yet to be determined.

Borst noted that UVM Commencement will be on May 21, always a busy time. Several off-site incidents have been supported by his team, and they have also been working with UVM's confined space rescue team. This may make a good future presentation to LEPC.

Cushing noted that St. Michael's Commencement will be on May 14. They, too, have had to support off-site incidents involving students. With the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as commencement speaker, greater preparations than usual are required.

Murray reported nothing new with Geo Tech.

Kennedy introduced himself as the new Northwest Regional Coordinator for DEMHS, and noted several upcoming training opportunities of interest. He is most recently from the VT Department of Health, and described his interest in working collaboratively to help us achieve our goals. He will be working with LEPC 1, 4, 8, and 13.

Henneberger asked that volunteer groups such as CERT/RACES be remembered in planning for and implementing training exercises.

Hammond described recent work and presentations regarding Closed PODs with those serving vulnerable populations, and again offered assistance with municipalities or other entities that may wish to become a Closed POD in order to keep key staff healthy and able to provide essential services in case of epidemic or other wide scale emergencies. She also works with MRC, which will be assisting with the upcoming full scale exercise at the Airport.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1130 hours.

*Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn, AICP.*

Please note: LEPC meeting agendas, minutes, and other information may also be found at <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/local-emergency-planning-committee/>