

Regional Dispatch Governance Group working notes from 10/28/16 discussion

Present: Aaron Frank, Dawn Francis, Jennifer Morrison, Jeffrey Barton, and Steven Bourgeois, Colchester; Kevin Dorn, South Burlington; Ann Janda and Joe Colangelo, Shelburne; Ray Coffey, Winooski; Steven Locke, Burlington; Dan Manz, Essex Rescue; Liz Coyle, Deltawrx; Charlie Baker and Lee Krohn, CCRPC.

Keep governance on agenda for 11/30 roadmap workshop. Liz will send a brief powerpoint on key issues for governance. These include accountability, responsiveness, transparency, fiscal, operational control, decisionmaking responsibility, legal, and liability concerns.

Different models exist: standalone entity w/ members and/or customers managing but contract for services...one town selling services to others; joint authority of some sort... regional models exist here (CSWD, CWD, CCTA/GMTA...).

Concerns if one municipality changed its willingness to support over time...or if customers withdraw later...what happens to the operational model, fiscal needs, capital expenses incurred. Could evaluate/propose 2 or 3 models...consider pros and cons; how well each addresses the needs...

Are there 'deal breakers' to consider?

Who has authority to evaluate performance of a governance structure; how to evaluate?

Does the choice of where to locate/who houses a more regional dispatch operation matter relative to the choice of a governance structure?

Sharing of up front capital costs even if wait til later to join?

Informal thinking that the greatest chance of success could be to create regional authority, but contract with/expand a current system such as Shelburne Dispatch or Colchester Dispatch. May be less risky than a contracting approach, and as noted, similar models already exist and serve the region. Governance structure critical – should be Manager/Chief level for qualified, knowledgeable representation and decisionmaking.

Separate fire/rescue dispatch from PD, or all together? Financial equity important. Technical issues – simple transition or a major effort? Seek to become (or expand an existing) PSAP?

Will likely be up front capital costs; hoping it will help to bend the curve to lessen rising costs over time. Great potential to convert dispatch into a more career-oriented profession, with opportunity for progression through the ranks, lessen challenges of attracting/retaining qualified staff.

How to best merge our conversation into Deltawrx work?

Need to justify path forward... document options, pros and cons re: objective-driven, positive outcomes sought.

Roles/responsibilities... see Liz presentation, performanc expectations, customer services etc likely

Need to research existing successful systems: Lamoille County, Clinton County, Keene Mutual Aid...

Agreement to meet again in two weeks to continue the conversation; 12:00 Noon on November 10th ; Colchester Town Hall. Lee will begin researching other systems; perhaps arrange a 'road trip' to visit first hand; and will send out appointment for Nov. 10.