

CHITTENDEN COUNTY, VERMONT
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE #1
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Meeting notes – January 14, 2020

Present:

Al Barber, Hinesburg Fire Department
Zachary Borst, UVM Emergency Management/VTEMA
Doug Babcock, St. Michael's College/VTEMA
Shaun Coleman, NRPC/LEPC 4 and 13
Steve Cushing, St. Michael's College/VTEMA
Adam Fuller, Magic Hat Brewing Company
Kate Hammond, UVM Medical Center
Bob Henneberger, Red Cross and RACES
Andy Johnson, US Ecology/ NRC/ EVI
Samantha Slaton, VOSHA/State HAZMAT Team
Matthew Ward, American Red Cross
Christine Forde, Marshall Distel, Regina Mahony - CCRPC

Al Barber called the meeting to order 0907. There were no changes to the agenda, nor public comment on items not on the agenda. Introductions were made. There were no comments on the December minutes.

Red Cross Disaster Cycle Services -- Overview of Disaster Response and Preparedness Activities – Matthew Ward

Matt provided an overview of the Red Cross disaster cycle services. The most common type of disaster service the Red Cross provides is response to single family fires (90%). Red Cross has an answering service for reporting where there are people in need of assistance -- 1-800-660-9130. On-call Red Cross volunteers will be dispatched to the site to make sure that the people have a place to stay and that they have what they need such as medications. Red Cross's goal is to be on scene within 2 hours. For large events Red Cross volunteers from other parts of the country might also be deployed.

Other services provided include the following:

- Providing food for fire departments/responders if they will be onsite for a long time.
- Ongoing conversations and assistance to towns regarding shelters.

- Installing smoke alarms for free and checking smoke alarms and carbon monoxide monitors and educating people about fire safety.

Vermont Emergency Management Association (VTEMA) update and overview – Zack Borst

VTEMA was formed about 3 years ago as a resource to the mostly volunteer emergency management community in Vermont. The goal of the organization is to create a voice for volunteer and local emergency management professionals and there is no other organization in the state that fills this role. VTEMA also has members from private businesses involved in emergency management. The website provides information on how to join -- the membership fee is \$25 per year. VTEMA.org

VTEMA has developed a reciprocal relationship with Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) where they help with initiatives. They are also working to develop new programs and ideas including better resource sharing. An example is scheduling a tour of the FEMA Joint Field Office for Emergency Management Directors (EMDs).

The organization is currently overrepresented by northwestern Vermont – they would like to expand membership to better represent the whole state.

Last fall a survey was conducted of EMDs and EM practitioners to identify trainings people would like to have. VEM offers many ICS trainings but VTEMA is looking to identify gaps that local EMDs have such as dealing with extended electricity outages, flood insurance, and flood resilience.

VTEMA's long term plan is to focus on support for local EMDs. They are working on developing a field operations guide specifically for locals, and will continue to offer roundtables, trainings and engagements.

Zacks encourages folks to join the organization and sign up for the listserv. They will receive information on trainings, exercises, online meetings, the annual meeting during state preparedness conference, and networks for EMDs to assist each other. In the upcoming year VTEMA will also offer social events.

Update on Proposed LEPC Consolidation –

Christine provided a summary of the current conversation at the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) regarding LEPC consolidation. LEPCs are required to exist under state and federal regulations and are required to perform specific functions including developing an emergency response plan. LEPCs can receive \$4,000 from the state to perform required functions. Parts of Vermont are not meeting the requirements.

The state is considering 4 alternatives for reconfigurations the LEPCs: No Change, RPC based LEPCs, two different consolidation models, or one statewide LEPC. The one statewide LEPC

model is being recommended to the SERC by the SERC/LEPC coordinating committee. Under this model the statewide LEPCs would fulfill the federal hazmat requirements and do that on a statewide basis. There would be a full-time employee.

Comments/Questions

- Consider having one state plan and have each RPC sign-off on it and not formally merge LEPCs.
- In order for LEPCs to receive state funds they need a fiscal agent. Some LEPCs don't have a fiscal agent.
- Could the consolidation be voluntary by RPC? Maybe some LEPCs would want to and some would not.
- If there is one state plan would LEPCs still exist? Would the name change?
- Under the new plan how can LEPCs be made more useful? Would they become all-hazard focused?
- Would this plan avoid forced mergers?
- What would happen with funding for each LEPC?
- Who is managing the Tier II program and how would that be affected? The state could get more money if the Tier II program were more strictly enforced. The private sector pays the Tier II fees, they should have a say in how funds are used. The funds could be used to fund a full time employee for each LEPC.
- Will this plan result in loss of private sector engagement? Would private entities still engage?
- Would this plan reduce the engagement of SERC and VEM with locals?
- How would this affect other grants that are applied for through LEPCs?
- Ultimate question – how do we engage the most people? Will any of these models facilitate that?

Project updates

Bob – UVM hospital now has an amateur radio in their building. This will prove backup communication between hospitals if other communication methods fail.

Kate – Working on setting up a radio license class for RACES operators and make sure they have the accesses and information they need to operate at the hospital. Writing the Fanny Allen operating room reoccupation and response plan. Have a tabletop dirty bomb exercise coming up evaluating how patients would be treated and how staff would be kept safe. Working with the health department on continuing Ebola planning.

Zack – UVM held a measles tabletop in coordinated with the department of health. Measles has a 90% transmission rate. Most of students are vaccinated but there is no data for staff or

graduate students. Have made huge investments in radio infrastructure. Upcoming training March 2nd & 3rd for event and sports safety.

Andy – Enpro services has been purchased by Usecology which is a hazardous waste disposal company. Andy offered to host a future LEPC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05.

The next LEPC meeting will be held on February 11 at the CCPRC offices in Winooski.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Forde

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/>