

**Grand Isle Mutual Aid Meeting
GI-REMC
August 8, 2022 – Draft Minutes
Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department and Virtual**

Attendance: Adam White (GIVFD), Angie Robinson (ARC), Brandi Latimer (NH EMC), P. Robinson (SHVFD), N. Frantz (SHR), Erin Creeley (VDH), Max Kennedy (VEM), Ian Kilburn (VEM) and Shaun Coleman (NRPC).

Shaun Coleman chaired the meeting which began at 7:00 p.m. followed by roll call. There was no quorum.

Changes to Agenda

None.

VT-ALERT Presentation – Ian Kilburn, VEM

I. Kilburn provided a PowerPoint presentation on the VT-ALERT emergency notification system. VT-ALERT is used by the state and local responders to notify the public of emergency situations. Those include, but are not limited to, evacuation information; chemical spills; shelter-in-place alerts; severe weather advisories; boil water advisories, and roadway interruptions. Residents can tailor the alerts to specific locations, types of alerts and on which devices they will be notified.

Municipalities can designate individuals such as EMDs to administer VT-ALERT for their jurisdiction. This is helpful for fire districts, municipal water/waste water managers, highway departments and first response chiefs to notify the public during emergencies. Administrators have the option of targeting specific areas of town such as neighborhoods.

For more information or to register as an administrator, go to <https://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert> or contact Ian Kilburn at ian.p.kilburn@vermont.gov.

Minutes from June Meeting

Tabled.

Treasurers Report

Tabled.

GI-REMC Updates

Shaun reported that there is no quorum so no action may be taken.

Vermont Emergency Management Update

Max Kennedy introduced himself as the VEM NW Planner for Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. He provided an overview of the REMC program including reviewing the state issued guidance, quorum, bylaws, officers and appointments to the REMC. He spoke of his role at VEM to provide direct assistance including emergency planning, training and exercises. He also offers direct assistance to a local EOC during emergency events if needed as a direct liaison to State EOC.

The state has begun planning for a statewide catastrophic exercise called Binary Blizzard scheduled for 2023. The exercise will test the state's ability to respond to a cyber-attack and associated critical infrastructure disruptions.

The state's annual Emergency Preparedness Conference will be held in September (National Emergency Preparedness Month) on Sept 20th and 21st at Killington. Each REMC may have one free overnight stay. Shaun said he will send out a notice to the REMC list and will randomly select one person who has expressed interest in staying overnight.

There will be a grant opportunity announced likely in September for municipalities and REMCs to enhance local Emergency Operations Centers. VEM will send out a grant notice once it is released.

Max noted that the state does recognize issues the REMCs are having with achieving a quorum and expects a change will be coming during the next legislative session.

Cooling Shelters and Hot Weather Planning

Shaun reported that Jared Ulmer from Vermont Department of Health was unable to attend tonight's meeting to discuss the initiative. VDH is recommending that municipalities adopt hot weather plans to guide preparedness and response activities before and during a hot weather event. They have developed guidance to assist communities to use the plans as an annex to Local Emergency Management Plans. Similarly, Local Hazard Mitigation Plans are the most likely place to address long-term heat mitigation strategies.

VDH has been partnering with RPCs across the state to help with the planning effort. VDH has a website that show locations of cooling shelters and local contact information for the party responsible in activating the shelter. Shaun asked everyone to submit their cooling shelter locations either directly to Jared or through the healthvermont.gov or through Shaun at NRPC.

GICMAA Bylaws

Shaun reported he had mailed out the bylaw changes previously and received feedback from a few members. In the update, some references to LEPC13 were removed and added GI-REMC structure based on state issued guidance. Also added some language regarding following Vermont's Open Meeting Law. There isn't a quorum so no action can be taken on the bylaws. Every member was emailed a copy for review and a vote at a later date.

Communications - Tabled.

Training - Tabled.

Other Business

Adam White introduced himself as the new Grand Isle Fire Chief.

Public Comment – None.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.