

**Grand Isle Mutual Aid Meeting
GI-REMC
October 3, 2022 – Draft Minutes
Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department and Virtual**

Attendance: Angie Robinson (ARC), Bill Baron (GI EMC), Brandi Latimer (NH EMC), P. Robinson (SHVFD), Jacqueline Kelley (VDH), Ray Allen (GISO), Mike Murdock (NHVFD), Max Kennedy (VEM), Ron Kumetz (Alburgh VFD), Shaun Coleman (NRPC) and Charles Hall (ARC).

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

Changes to Agenda

None.

Grand Isle – REMC

There was not a quorum for the REMC so no action by the REMC could be taken. Max noted that REMCs state-wide were having quorum issues and there will likely be a change in the REMC quorum requirement later next year to address the issue.

VEM Updates: Max provided a presentation on the Local EOC Grant. A grant announcement will be made soon. This grant will support local efforts to expand on local EOC and EM capabilities. Eligible activities will include generators, IT equipment (not EOC software), interior construction, situational awareness capabilities and communications equipment such as base stations. There is \$650,000 available with a 50% match requirement.

Max noted there has been a lot of interest in the state with first responder training for Electric Vehicle fires. The Fire Academy has had issues in finding an instructor in state for in person trainings. There are on-line trainings for first responders and communities via the NFPA.

<https://catalog.nfpa.org/Alternative-Fuel-Vehicles-Safety-Training-C4105.aspx>

State/FEMA Mitigation Funding available on an array of projects. See <https://vem.vermont.gov/funding/mitigation> for more information

The Statewide Emergency Preparedness Conference was held in September at Killington.

There is an ICS/EOC Interface (G-191) training on October 11th at Castleton. All are welcome to attend.

Vermont Homeland Security – Mathew Pritchard gave an overview of funding sources currently available. There are two funding sources: the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Operation Stone Garden (OPSG). SHSP funding is for gaps identified during the annual state-wide stakeholder preparedness review workshop. The review is an assessment of current capabilities against threats both at the state and local levels. The results are submitted by the state to FEMA annually. OPSG funding is targeted for border protection.

There is a list of eligible activities under the SHSP grant and may be found at the state website link below. Grants have to address terrorism. Grant activities must prevent a threat or an actual act of

terrorism; protect citizens and assets against such threats; and respond quickly to save lives, protect property and the environment and meet basic human needs in the aftermath of an act of terrorism. For more information contact Mathew.Pritchard@vermont.gov or visit <https://hsu.vermont.gov/homeland-security-unit>.

Vermont Department of Health Update – Jacqueline Kelley introduced herself as the new Emergency Preparedness Specialist at the Vermont Department of Health in St. Albans. Part of her duties will be to support the Medical Reserves Corps which provided support during the state’s pandemic response.

American Red Cross Update –Charles Hall introduced himself. He is the Senior Disaster Program Manager at the Red Cross and is filling in for Sarah Kershaw who is no longer with the Red Cross. He offered a brief overview of services the Red Cross can provide. He provided his contact number which Shaun will email to everyone.

GICMAA

A quorum was present.

Mike asked Shaun to continue running the meeting.

Election of Officers

Shaun opened the floor to nominations.

Ray motioned for the current slate of officers to be nominated. Pat seconded. There were no further nominations. Shaun closed nominations.

Ray motioned for the secretary to cast one ballot for the current slate of officers. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Mike Murdock elected as President. Ron Kumetz elected as Vice President. Melissa Boutin elected as Treasurer. Shaun Coleman elected as Secretary.

Minutes from Previous Meetings

Ray motioned to accept the June 6 meeting minutes. Mike seconded. Motion carried.

Ray motion to accept the August 8 meeting minutes. Mike seconded Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer was dealing with some computer issues and was unable bring a hardcopy report. Shelburne Police Department was paid \$9,575.00 for dispatching. UI Insurance was paid \$4,369. The Islander invoice for \$1,263.00 was paid.

Ray motioned to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

GICMAA Bylaw Changes.

Shaun reported that there was no REMC quorum tonight so no action needed.

Ron reported that Alburgh Rescue should be added to the mutual aid agreement. They have a structure in place to issue bills. Currently, the mutual aid agreement only lists Alburgh VFD, Alburgh Town and Alburgh Village.

Communications

No update.

Training

97 Grand Isle VFD pumper training on October 12.
98 Ice Rescue training will be held if there is enough interest .
99 Swanton VFD hosting EV course with support from Highgate VFD and Franklin VFD on October 17. Jason
100 Cross is new Swanton Chief. Handy's is loaning EVs for the training.

101
102 **Other Business**

103 Bill asked for the group to revisit creating a county emergency services position and requested
104 it be a standing agenda item. There was a brief discussion on previous efforts to create the
105 position. Shaun will see if the position would be eligible through the AmeriCorps program.

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107 There was a brief discussion as follow up on the Open House event.

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109 Mike asked to have a recognition for Al on the next agenda.

110
111 Angie gave an overview of the Red Cross smoke alarm campaign "Sound the Alarm". This year
112 they will install free smoke alarms and share safety information in communities. Carbon
113 monoxide detectors are not art of their campaign. Contact Angie for more information or go to
114 <https://www.redcross.org/local/me-nh-vt/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign.html>.

115
116 **Public Comment**

117 None.

118
119 **Adjourn**

120 *Ray motioned to adjourn. Pat seconded. Motion carried.*

121
122 Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.