

Grand Isle Mutual Aid Meeting
GI-REMC
February 6, 2023 – Draft Minutes
Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department and Virtual

Attendance: Brandi Latimer (NH EMC) and her support staff, Patrick Robinson (SHVFD), Desiree Maltais (GIR), Jacqueline Kelley (VDH), Ray Allen (GICSO), Mike Murdock (NHVFD), Max Kennedy (VEM), Ron Kumetz (Alburgh VFD), and Shaun Coleman (NRPC).

Ron Kumetz 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 Kennedy reported that the state and FEMA finishing the preliminary damage assessment process for the Dec. 23 - 24 storm. The state will be submitting a federal disaster declaration request.

A Spring Flood Seminar Question and Answer is being held on 2/9 at 12-1 pm for Franklin, Grand Isle, Chittenden & Addison counties. NWS, VTRANS, ANR, ANG, VEM, RPC staff will be available to answer any questions regarding spring flood outlook.

Some upcoming trainings that may be of interest including SEOC Orientation, VT Local EMD Course and Climate Adaptation for EM. More information may be found at <https://vem.vermont.gov/training> or email Hillary.Scott@Vermont.gov or Max.Kennedy@vermont.gov.

The FY23 state Homeland Security grant program. Applications for that are due February 24th at 5:00 o'clock and can be sent to dps.hsugrants@vermont.gov.

Vermont Department of Health – Jacqueline Kelley reported:

- Received an award from the National Association of City and County Health Officials grant to help support the Northwest VT Medical Reserve Corps. The focus of the grant is capacity building for the MRC and shelter volunteer training and public education. A \$5,000 grant was awarded.
- The MRC met recently. They are starting to get active again following some downtime after their support of vaccination clinics and testing sites. There is an interest in supporting cooling and warming shelters and stations in communities.
- MRC members were used to support the Barre warming shelter during the December wind storm/power outage event. Members were on stand-by if needed during last weekend's wind chill event.
- MRC will be attending VT Precision Tool's Health Day and the Rotary Home Show in St. Albans in an attempt to recruit new members and promote the program.

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50 **Shelter Review**

51 Shaun reported there was an interest by some towns in the County for an after-action review of
52 warming shelter activation during the December 23-24 wind/power outage event. He reviewed the
53 cooling shelter planning work performed late last summer and fall. There is an interest by some towns
54 to expand on the cooling shelter and station plans to include warming shelters and stations. There was
55 a discussion about using NWS warning categories as action triggers for preparing for upcoming
56 hazardous weather.

57
58 Max reported that he has attended several similar reviews for other areas in the state. He read through
59 a list of lessons learned including having a backup website administrator for posting public safety
60 information, defining warming shelter (overnight) vs. warming station (limited hours), reviewing Red
61 Cross shelter agreements and prioritizing resources, prioritizing warming shelters with limited resources,
62 managing large demand for VT-Alert messaging, shelter generators were not sized to power HVAC
63 system of shelter, signage needed to direct public where to go for shelters and warming centers, issues
64 with dissemination of CARES registry and transportation issues around sheltering.

65
66 For Alburgh, Ron contacted VEC and quickly received a detailed list of addresses that were without
67 power. There was discussion about how to transport people to and from a warming station or shelter if
68 they decided to open one.

69
70 Brandy and Mike reported that the North Hero Community Hall was opened as a warming shelter.
71 Brandy called the Duty Officer to request Red Cross resources (cots) if needed. There were some
72 questions about using the water district's VT Alert messaging system for town wide emergencies.

73
74 Max agreed to review North Hero's VT Alert administrative setup and possibly add a municipal EM
75 account under VT Alert separate from the water districts.

76
77 The Grand Isle EMD with support from Sheriff opened the Elementary School as a warming site.

78
79 Brandy added that she has researched a lot of sheltering plans from other states in order to find one
80 that would work for North Hero. Max offered to look as well and will send a good example.

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82 **GICMAA**

83 A quorum was present.

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85 **Minutes from Previous Meetings**

86 *Ron motioned to accept the October meeting minutes. Pat seconded. Motion carried.*

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88 **Treasurer's Report** - Mike reported that Melissa sent out an email stating "the billings have been done
89 for the two billing cycles (4th qtr. 2022 and 1st qtr. 2023) for Shelburne Dispatching totaling \$1,3036.68
90 to be received (A/R). GICMAA has not received the January bank statements or any other invoices."

91
92 Melissa will be in attendance at the next meeting with full financial statements.

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94 *Mike motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Pat seconded. Motion carried.*

GICMAA just received the 2nd. qtr. billing from Shelburne Dispatch for \$9,575.00. The flat fees have not increased for FY23 and no updates regarding FY24. There was a \$74 P.O. Box fee and \$394.50 invoice from AmeriGas for propane.

Mike motioned to give Treasurer authorization to pay Shelburne Dispatch \$9,575.00, \$74.00 for P.O. Box and \$394.50 for propane. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

GICMAA Bylaw Changes - Shaun reported that there was no REMC quorum tonight so no action needed.

Communications - No update.

Training - Grand Isle Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting Ice Rescue Training on Feb 24th and 25th. Applications due by Feb 18th.

County Emergency Services Administrator Position - Shaun noted that Bill Baron asked to keep the discussion going. Ron added that at a meeting just before the pandemic, Bill discussed renewing the effort to create the position. A committee was formed but no one recalled who was on the committee. Shaun would check the minutes about who was on the committee. There was interest to reform the committee and there was some discussion about whether the towns would be willing to support the position.

Other Business - Ray reported that he recently brought on 3 new hires.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Alburgh/St. Albans Middle School basketball incident and response. Ron noted that USCBP contacted him. They have resources that can be available locally if needed for responses. There was interest in having a meeting to discuss resources and capabilities.

Shaun reported he attended a public hearing on the proposed Highgate Port of Entry Expansion that will be taking place over the next 5 years. GSA in the early stages and are looking to upgrade facilities at the border crossing and possibly acquiring land to the east of the current crossing. On the Canadian side, the final 10 miles of A-30 will be completed by 2025. The upgrade will accommodate a predicted a 30% increase in traffic once A-30 work is completed. The plan is to have 7 lanes plus 2 lanes for buses and 1 dedicated Nexus Lane. More information available at gsa.gov/highgatespringslpoe.

Public Comment - None.

Adjourn - Ray motioned to adjourn. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.