

Grand Isle Mutual Aid Meeting
GI-REMC
April 3, 2023 – Draft Minutes
Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department and Virtual

Attendance: Brandi Latimer (NH EMC), Patrick Robinson (SHVFD), Desiree Maltais (GIR), Ray Allen (GICSO), Adam White (GIVFD), Mike Murdock (NHVFD), Ron Kumetz (Alburgh VFD), Nancy Frantz (SHR), Shaun Coleman (NRPC), Angie Robinson (ARC) and Michaela Olin (ARC).

The meeting which began at 7:00 p.m. followed by roll call.

Changes to Agenda

None.

Grand Isle – REMC

No quorum. No action could be taken. The legislature may take action on conditionally changing the REMC quorum to 5 but the condition being it will roll back to the current quorum requirement at the end of the year. It is unknown when this will occur.

Michaela Olin, Disaster Program Manager for American Red Cross, Northern New England

Michaela gave a presentation on services the Red Cross provides. For Vermont, they can support any event but typically support home fires and flooding events. Angie had reached out to Michaela for shelter agreement information. Agreements should be updated every 3 to 5 years.

This year in northern Vermont, Red Cross has supported 17 home fire events. Red Cross will provide resources for family members who are affected by disasters. Red Cross Disaster Health and Disaster Mental Health providers are all Vermont licensed professionals.

Red Cross primary preparedness program is a fire campaign which provides free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and education in homes. A *Sound the Alarm* is a national push where Red Cross regions choose to install as many smoke detectors as possible in as many homes as possible in one day. Let Michaela know if there are any towns that you think would be most beneficial. They also offer educational disaster preparedness materials for kids.

Red Cross offers various training including First Aid, CPR, lifeguard, babysitting, etc. Michaela also spoke about Red Cross Volunteer services and Armed Services support.

April is National Volunteer Month. Volunteer week which is nationally recognized is April 16 to 22nd. On April 18th there is a Red Cross open house at their office in Burlington on Prospect St.

There was a brief question and answer period regarding sheltering and shelter agreements.

Vermont Department of Health Update

Shaun noted Jacquie Kelley, the new emergency planner for the St. Albans office couldn't make the meeting. He reported that the MRC received a National Association of Community Health Organizations grant which will be used for capacity building and shelter management training/support for communities. The Team has been trying to recruit more members after a brief hiatus from supporting state run COVID testing and vaccination clinics.

GI-REMC Election of Officers - No REMC quorum. No election.

52
53 **GICMAA**

54
55 **Minutes** - Ray motioned to accept the minutes. Pat seconded. Motion carried.
56

57 **Treasurer's Report** - Tabled. Mike asked if the financials could be sent out with the meeting agenda and
58 minutes. Shaun will ask Melissa for the next meeting.
59

60 **Operation May Day** - Adam reported that the event sponsored by Division of Fire Safety occurs on
61 Saturday May 13 from 9 am to 1 pm. It is the first coordinated statewide firefighter recruitment effort
62 aimed at bringing new firefighters into the Vermont Fire Service. Grand Isle is going to do a small open
63 house. South Hero and North Hero is talking about it. Alburgh is trying to put one together. Grand Isle
64 Rescue will be setting up an informational table.
65

66 **County Emergency Services Administrator Position** - Prior to the pandemic, a committee was formed to
67 explore the possibility of a County position made up of Bill and another member who moved away.
68 Michaela noted she was once an AmeriCorps member and explained the different tiers of AmeriCorps –
69 retired individuals, youth in college and adults in general. The aim is that you live with people you serve
70 so they provide a basic living stipend that is just underneath the poverty standard for the US. It is
71 unclear what effort is being done to try to create this position. Housing was an issue during the last
72 attempt at getting an AmeriCorps member to fill the role.
73

74 **Other Updates** - Shaun reported that Local Emergency Plans are due May 1st.
75

76 There is an Incident Command System for Executives Training to be held on 4/17 from 4 to 8 pm at the
77 Grand Isle Sheriff's Office. Contact Max Kennedy (max.kennedy@vermont.gov) to register.
78

79 Ron reported that the second annual *Female Frontline Camp* will be held in July. Last year GICMAA
80 authorized up to \$500 to run the camp and they only used \$164.35. They also received a random
81 donation of \$250.
82

83 *Mike Murdock motioned for GICMAA to make a donation up to \$500.00 to support the Female Frontline*
84 *Camp. Adam White seconded. Motion carried.*
85

86 Pat reported that he met with Sheriff Allen to discuss starting an active shooter SOP for South Hero. He
87 would like to make it a County level SOP as it makes sense from a training perspective. The idea is to get
88 a couple members from each agency to participate. There is grant funding available.
89

90 Adam noted that Superintendent Clark has been reaching out to chiefs to have the active shooter
91 response discussion. The Sheriff is meeting with the superintendent this week. This led to a discussion
92 about county-wide training for all the schools regarding school safety including CPR and AED. There was
93 also a discussion on replacing the AEDs throughout the rest of the county. All the pads on AEDs in the
94 schools are expired so the timing is right.
95

96 Desiree noted that in the Teacher Master agreement there is a requirement for CPR/AED and they give
97 it during in-service at the beginning of the school year. There's a lot of people who start part way
98 through the year and they are trying to determine how to get their certifications.
99

100 Ray just gave a class for first aid and CPR last week for a dozen teachers.
101

Ray motioned to support Patrick's goal of having a county-wide task force/response team for major events. Ron seconded. Motion carried.

Pat said he would bring some materials to the next county meeting.

Ray reported that he attended VSP's after action review of the active shooter hoax incidents recently. VSP critiqued everyone's response review. Grand Isle County did very well in the review in terms of school security.

Adam reported that he and Bill Baron have received permission from their Selectboard to become VT Alert administrators for the town. There was a discussion of using VT Alert during the past storms and bringing them back for another training session or at least a refresher.

Adam reported he reached out to the Coast Guard to have someone meet with him regarding SOPs regarding lake calls. The senior chief is leaving in June. Ray added VSP has a marine division and they are good to work with. Mike noted that Coast Guard out of Portland Maine monitors all Lake calls. This led to a discussion of Grand Isle marine units, resources and operations.

Adam reported that GIVFD is getting a fire training trailer that should be ready by end of May or June.

Ray reported the Sheriff's Department is looking to host a recruitment event for first response agencies in the Islands similar to last year. It was a lot of fun and they had a great turnout last year.

Angie reported that there is a shelter trailer in the county if anyone needs help with resources for setting up a shelter. It is at the Sheriff's Department. If you want to access the trailer, call the EOC to ask the Red Cross for permission to use the materials and/or if you want Red Cross assistance. Michaela added that if there is ground staff in place (like Angie) that doesn't mean you couldn't access resources on the trailer. Sheriff's office and fire departments can move trailer if needed. Just notify EOC (duty officer) first to request permission from Red Cross.

Adam requested, on behalf of the Grand Isle Selectboard, a meet and greet with the new officers on the Sheriff's Department.

There was a discussion on ladder trucks including maintenance, price, need and training requirements.

Ray reported that there are two major events coming this summer including a Reggae Fest and another music event at Shore Acres. The organizers are bringing their own security. It may be worth seeing if MRC is willing to host a first aid station for the event.

Public Comment - None.

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.