

Franklin County Regional Emergency Management Committee

June 29, 2023

Virtual Meeting Notes

The FC-REMC meeting was held virtually via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

Attendance: Brian Savage (Swanton EMD Assistant), Micah Genzlinger (Fairfax FD), Cathy Ainsworth (Fairfield EMC), Maurice Lamothe (STAC EMD), Mathew Sullivan (Swanton PD), Sharon Bousquet (Highgate EMD), Eva Gillilan (Fletcher EMC/Red Cross), Shaun Coleman (NRPC), Harry Shoppmann (VEM) and Jacqueline Kelley (VDH).

Shaun began the meeting at 9:00 am followed by roll call. There was no quorum.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None.

VEM Updates – Harry Shoppmann, VEM

Harry is the new VEM Regional Coordinator for the Northwest replacing Max Kennedy. Harry is available to assist with Emergency Planning, Training and Exercising. (harry.schoppmann@vermont.gov; 802-585-4509).

- Trainings:
 - ICS 300: Milton July 18-20 (full days). For those that would function in command or general staff positions during large, complex incidents or events.
 - G191- ICS/EOC Interface- September 7th (8:00-4:30pm) Grand Isle
 - Homeland Security and Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) October 4th and 5th (full days). Londonderry
- Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference September 20th and 21st Burke Mountain Resort:
 - VEM offering 1 hotel room for 1 night to each Regional Emergency Management Committee. Once an REMC selects the individual that will receive that hotel room, they must submit notify VEM by noon on Monday, August 14th.
 - Anyone interested in presenting at the 9/20 & 9/21 can submit a [speaker](#) or [exhibitor](#) proposal by July 7th.
 - Nominations open for the 2023 Emergency Management Director of the year. [Nominate them here](#).

Franklin County REMC Formation

Shaun reported there is a temporary statutory change related to REMCs (expires 12/31/23) that allows for a reduced quorum for REMCs. The intent is to make it easier for REMCs to conduct business such as forming, establishing bylaws setting a permanent quorum and electing officers. Many REMCs have been unable to reach quorum. Harry noted that there are enough members present for quorum to conduct business.

Brian motioned for the formation of the Franklin County Regional Emergency Management Committee. Sharon seconded. Motion carried.

Shaun presented the draft Bylaws for the FC-REMC.

Brian motioned to approve the Franklin County Regional Emergency Management Committee bylaws with the amendment to change the quorum from 5 to 7 voting members. Cathy seconded. Motion carried.

Harry reviewed the three committees that the REMC could send a representative to. There were not volunteers for the three committees. Election of officers was tabled.

Northwest Vermont Medical Reserve Corps – Jacqueline Kelley, VDH

Jacquie provided an overview of Team activities:

- Hosted a Summer Weather Preparedness workshop (Ticks, Poison Ivy, Sun and Heat Protection) on June 27 at Health Department in St. Albans.

- Volunteers Wally and Natalie Good and Helen Short received the U.S Department of Health and Human Services 2023 award for Outstanding MRC Preparedness and Resilience Volunteer.
- Continued support at Martha's Kitchen in St. Albans, helping conduct health screening clinics to unhoused and low-income residents.
- Providing vaccines and health screenings for the Abenaki's in Swanton.
- Providing essential preparedness planning with students at a BFA-St. Albans Financial Literacy event.
- Providing education for employees at the Vermont Precision Tools Health Fair.
- Staffed the first aid tent at the Rotary Club Home Show and Maple Fest. Will be supporting Bay Day Fourth of July event in St. Albans Bay Park on July 1.
- Assembled bags to hand out at campgrounds that include cooling towels and tick kits as well as distributing Tick informational/awareness signs at public gathering places in area.
- Helen is working with SASH to provide in-home foot care clinics to residents in Grand Isle County.

Other Business – Cooling Shelters, Solar Eclipse '24

Shaun reported that Cooling Shelter Planning for the area continues and provided an overview of the cooling shelter plans currently in place. Any community opening a shelter or station should notify the Watch Officer (800.347.0488). AHS keeps has an online map that residents may refer to when seeking a cooling shelter or station during extreme heat events.

The group discussed the total Solar Eclipse that will occur on April 8, 2024. The path of the eclipse includes western Franklin County. Saint Albans area will be prime viewing. Hotels and Inns in St. Albans are receiving reservations for the event. St. Albans City has begun to prepare for large public gatherings including identifying viewing sites for large gatherings, informational brochures, media locations, possibly purchasing eye safety for eclipse watchers and eye safety flyers. <https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/eclipses/2024/apr-8-total/where-when/>

Public Comment

No comment.

Cathy motioned to adjourn. Sharon seconded.

Meeting ended at approximately 10:30 a.m.