

Grand Isle Mutual Aid Annual Meeting
GI-REMC
October 2, 2023 – Draft Minutes
Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department and Virtual

Attendance: Brandi Latimer (NH EMD), Pat Robinson (SHVFD), Ray Allen (GICSO), Adam White (GIVFD), Desiree Maltais (GIR), Ron Kumetz (Alburgh VFD), Nancy Frantz (SHR), Peter Clark (Clarenceville/Noyan FD), Melissa Boutin (Treasurer), Jacquie Kelley, (VDH), Shaun Coleman (NRPC) and Sam Dillner (VEM).

Vice-President Ron Kumetz chaired the meeting which began at 7:05 p.m.

Public Comment

None.

Changes to Agenda

None.

Election of Officers

Adam nominated the current Slate of Officers. Nancy seconded. No more nominations.

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

Results: Mike Murdock, President; Ron Kumetz, Vice President; Melissa Boutin, Treasurer; Shaun Coleman, Secretary.

Minutes

Ray motioned to approve the minutes of the August meeting. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Melissa reported that the balance in the account is \$31,728.77. The report was emailed out earlier today. There were 3 checks written: AVFD - \$500; VSFA - \$90; and UI Insurance - \$4,521. Melissa brought a check for North Hero for \$336.27 towards the EV Training. North Hero had requested \$862 (instructors, food, training materials) for the EV Training that was held.

Ron motioned to pay North Hero \$862.00 for EV training expenses. Adam seconded. Melissa will either write a new check for North Hero for the full amount or an additional check for the balance of \$525.73. Motion carried.

North Hero would like to be invoiced for the entire year for dispatching with the invoice showing the breakdown by quarter. Melissa will talk to Mike about this request.

There was a discussion about the annual budget. Adam mentioned starting a reserve fund for any unanticipated costs. Ron will follow up with Melissa about a budget.

Ray motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report received by email. Nancy seconded. Motion carried.

Grand Isle REMC

VT Alert Overview – Sam Dillner, VEM

Sam introduced himself to the group and provided a presentation on the VT Alert 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. Towns have to have a memorandum signed by local board assigning an administrator.

There are 72 people subscribed for VT-Alert in Grand Isle. There was a discussion on ways to get people to sign up.

VEM Updates

Shaun reported that Harry was unable to attend tonight's meeting. He sent the following report:

- State Hazmat Team offers a variety of trainings - Air Monitoring, Compressed Natural Gas, Clandestine Lab Awareness, Lithium-Ion Battery training - additional details, including how to schedule, are available on their website: <https://firesafety.vermont.gov/emergency/hazmat>
- Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents for Key Decision Makers - this in person class is happening in Northfield on October 9 & October 10, 8-4 each day. Registration and details available: <https://ruraltraining.org/course/MGT-417/?scheduled=true&id=9030>
- MGT 484 Nature-Based Solutions for Mitigating Hazards - 10/24 1-5pm. Information available in the learning management system.

The LEPC is offered one seat for three different statewide working groups: LEPC which meets quarterly and deals with the Hazchem funding and hazmat planning; Training & Exercise Planning Working Group which meets twice a year and lays out the state's three-year plan; Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment working group which meets once a year to review and quantify risks. No one volunteered to fill a seat.

Vermont Health Department – Jacquie Kelley, EP

- Working with community partners on Cold Weather Sheltering for the area. The Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) will be scheduling a Red Cross Shelter Manager Training for its membership.
- MRC visited state parks in the region in an effort to increase public awareness regarding ticks and Lyme disease. They put together tick kits and distributed them to park visitors.
- MRC members have also been staffing the Multi-Agency Resource Centers in Montpelier and Barre as part of the state's on-going recovery efforts for individuals and families.
- The NWVT MRC recently held a state-wide MRC workshop on Emergency Preparedness. It included the following topics: models of disability etiquette, Vermont CARES registry, Covid 19 impacts and POD strategies. The workshop is available on-line: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lze5Pw4Uxs>
- Mental Health First Aid training to be held in October

There was a discussion about vaccination clinics and whether VDH will be holding some in Grand Isle. Adam noted it would be good to know if, where and when. Megan Kelly from VDH would like to expand clinics to flu, Covid, and Hepatitis (under 65 yo). Jacquie will get more information to the group.

GICMAA

Critical Incident Response Team – Pat Robinson

Pat reviewed prices for the training and gear for the critical response team SOP. This was emailed out to everyone in August.

Kinney Insurance said there would be a slight increase in accidental liability insurance costs. Most departments are increasing a little. They didn't see any issues with insurance coverage for the team as long as everyone is covered under accidental liability.

There was discussion on funding sources and applying for grants. The group agreed to try to put in for a county level grant through homeland security.

County Resources Inventory

No report.

County Emergency Services Administrator Position

Bill sent an email that was read. South Hero and Alburgh Selectboards are supportive of GICMAA continuing to pursue this proposal. Bill is hoping to present the proposal to the North Hero, Isle LaMotte and Grand Isle Selectboards in the coming months with the support of the heads of agencies for those towns.

Adam led a discussion about the position.

- Is the position an employee of GICMAA?
- Who covers payroll? Use a payroll service?
- Would the position be per capita based? There was concern whether or not Isle La Motte could afford such a position.
- Would the position be expected to respond to calls? Likely not.
- Where would the position be located? Office space? Overhead?
- Who provides direct supervision?

Department Updates

Everyone welcomed Peter Clark back into the group. He said he would attend the meetings again for now.

- Clarenceville/Noyan has members who are certified in ice rescue. They are having an open house on October 14. They have a new boat (2022) which will be used for rescue operations on Lake Champlain and Richelieu River.

Other Business

The group discussed the budget again. It is time to have a budget ready to bring to selectboards if departments haven't already. Ron noted that many departments were level funded after Covid when the costs were higher. There are a lot of factors for the budget such as propane, insurance, repeater. Melissa has a list of what GICMAA has been paying for each year. The departments and towns need to know if budget is going up.

Ron offered to ask if Shelburne is continuing with a flat rate or not.

Ron and Melissa agreed to pull a budget together and email to the group for review in the next week or two. Next year, the budget discussions should begin at the June Meeting.

Adjourn - Nancy motioned to adjourn. Desiree seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.