

Franklin County Regional Emergency Management Committee

June 30, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission, 75 Fairfield, St., St. Albans, VT 05478 & Zoom

Attendance: Eva Gillilan (Fletcher) , Paul Talley (Bakersfield), Jacquie Kelley (VDH St. A), Mathew Ward (VDH Morrisville), Nicole Chauvin (Hyde Park), Jason Luneau (Morristown), John Terrell (Waterville), Dan St. Cyr (Cambridge), Ryan Bjerke (Wolcott), Melissa Manka (LCPC), Victoria Helliwig (LCPC), Michaela Olin (Red Cross), Shaun Coleman (NRPC) and Sarah Henshaw (Lamoille LTRG).

The meeting began at 6 followed by introductions. The Franklin County Interim Chair was unable to attend due to a work conflict. The meeting was a joint meeting with the Lamoille County REMC.

Adjustments to Agenda: Tori asked to present some information on the Northern Vermont Recovery and Resilience Plan she is working on under an EDA grant.

Long Term Recovery Group – Sarah Henshaw, Lamoille County LTRG Coordinator

Sarah gave a presentation on the LTRG.

- Lamoille Area Recovery Network (LeARN) was founded in 2023 to serve Lamoille County using FEMA LTRG model with support from United Way (uwlamoille.org)
- Mission: Support individuals and families impacted by disasters
- Key Services include
 - Direct financial support and providing connections to other financial support mechanisms.
 - Community education for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery resources.
 - Resource identification and assistance.
 - Volunteer coordination.
 - Host and support LeARN community events and legislative listening sessions.
 - Assist with property buyouts.
 - Develop lending library of flood response equipment.

There was a discussion regarding forming a LTRG in Franklin County that included lessons learned, activations, and funding.

Vermont Department of Health – Jacquie Kelley, EP St. Albans and Mathew Ward, EP Morrisville

- Nationally formed after 9/11. Volunteer based to support communities with public health and emergency preparedness activities.
- Northwest VT Medical Reserve Corps recently merged with Chittenden County Medical Reserve Corps to expand the volunteer base.
- Presently operate with funding from VDH and the National Association of County and City Health Officials.
- MRCs support community events with first aid stations and provide wellness checks (foot, dental) at shelters.
- Funding is used to support WIC families and services with go bags and family preparedness kits. Also partnering with CVOEO to purchase reflective vests to distribute to homeless population.
- The American Red Cross just signed an MOU with several MRCs that enables them to open shelters in Vermont during emergencies.
- MRC is always seeking new partners and volunteers. Contact [Jacquie](#) for more information.

Vermont Emergency Management – Michaela Foody, VEM Regional Coordinator

- The State Preparedness Conference will be held on September 4th and 5th at Killington Resort. Each REMC can reserve one hotel room for a member to attend for free. Let Shaun and Melissa know if interested.
- VEM newsletter is out and highlights events, training, and resources for emergency managers/coordinators.
- She provided an overview of upcoming state-led training sessions.
- She thanked the communities for updating LEMPs and continues to support those that haven't.

- The state 3-year training and exercise planning process began earlier this month. Agencies and communities were invited to provide input on what their training and exercise needs are.

Northern Vermont Recovery and Resiliency Plan – Victoria Hellwig

The Northern Vermont Economic Development District received an EDA grant for recovery and resiliency planning. The focus has been on communities within the Lamoille River watershed. A hydraulic model of the Lamoille River is being developed to help communities understand how different flood stages can impact local infrastructure and identify mitigation measures based on different flood scenarios.

There is an economic recovery planning component as well that includes continuity of operations planning.

Tori asked a series of questions about impacts, challenges and lessons learned from the July 2023 and 2024 flood events.

- For Cambridge, not knowing what resources to use was an issue in 2023.
- In 2023, shelter access in Cambridge was an issue. Need to look at transportation routes and shelter locations to ensure everyone has safe access.

Tori asked everyone to [email](#) her any additional information they would care to share.

Officers (Chair, Vice Chair) & Committee Reps

No action taken for Franklin County REMC.

Member Updates

None.

Other Business

- Mitigation presentation on July 7th at Johnson State by SLR Consulting that will include hydraulic modeling sample.
- NOAA in process of scheduling a workshop on their new flood inundation mapping tool. NRPC and LCPC will be sponsoring separate workshops for the area.
- Johnson, Cambridge, Waterville need to coordinate for emergency shelters
- Discussion on the use of Waze during emergency events. Municipalities are allowed to have accounts and notify the public of road closures, however, the towns must have .gov website. VEM can assist with setting up an account.
- VEM has a map of open shelters during emergencies. VDH has a map of Cooling shelters and cooling sites during heat outbreaks.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.