

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ROUNDTABLE
Regional Emergency Management Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 12th, at 12:00pm
MARC Conference Room & Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Voting Members Present: Kevin McAllister, Mike Spackman, Bay Wheeler, Paul Stagner.

Staff Present: Malia Cordero, Allison Hopkins, Logan Nicoll (MARC), Taiga Christie (VEM).

Others Present: Wayne Wheelock, Brendan McNamara.

Update from MARC: Malia shared links to the following online planning tools:

- VTrans Transportation Resilience Planning Tool
 - <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/transportation-resilience>
 - The TRPT is a web-based application that identifies bridges, culverts, and road embankments that are vulnerable to damage from floods, estimates risk based on the vulnerability, and criticality of roadway segments, and identifies potential mitigation measures based on the factors driving the vulnerability. The TRPT has been developed for the entire state and is ready to be applied to inform project scoping, capital programming, and hazard mitigation planning for state and local highways.
- Local Road Verified Closures Map
 - <https://vapda-hub.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/84ffc4edabca46ea89992aa2525ed867>
 - Contact Malia at mcordero@marcvt.org or Logan at lnicoll@marcvt.org if you would like to add a local road closure to the map.

Roundtable Discussion: Taiga Christie, the Southern Regional Coordinator at Vermont Emergency Management, facilitated a group discussion about the July flooding events. A summary of the discussion is outlined below:

- Strengths
 - Pre-event planning work with dispatch and local partners
 - Local knowledge
 - Effective communication between Springfield, VEM, and Urban Search & Rescue team
 - Mutual aid agreements between towns; “neighbors helping neighbors”
 - Towns used VT Alert as a tool to inform residents of road closures
- Challenges
 - Inundation flooding on roads that had never been flooded in past years
 - Towns not fully aware of potential for high impact weather event
 - VT Alert is only effective when there is staff available to send out notifications

- Existing road ditches that need to be cleared; existing roads that need ditches installed – should be done proactively rather than reactively
- Concern about parallel emergencies and response being impacted by limited resources and/or road closures (i.e. a structure fire occurring during the flood response period)
- Inconsistent/nonexistent cell phone coverage creates a significant communication challenge, especially for any support teams coming from out of state.
 - Mountain terrain interferes with HAM operators
 - Increases burden on regional dispatch
 - GMP may be able to provide staff members with SAT phones to town EOCs
- Areas for Improvement/Next Steps
 - Weather forecasts need to be more localized; they are not accurate at the town level.
 - Continuity of Operations planning
 - **Planning for long-term power outages**
 - Power outages have been increasing in duration
 - “How long should we plan on power being out for?”
 - The SEOC can sometimes provide more accurate repair estimates on localized power outages (i.e. specific household or part of town)
 - Collaborating with local media re: weather forecasting and public notifications

Action Item – Vote to Appoint REMC Officers:

M. Spackman motioned to appoint K. McAllister as the REMC Chair. P. Stagner seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

M. Spackman motioned to appoint P. Stagner as the REMC Vice-Chair. K. McAllister seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Action Item – Vote to Set REMC Quorum:

K. McAllister motioned to set the quorum requirement to 4 voting members. M. Spackman seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.