



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC)

Meeting Minutes for
Wednesday, September 18, 2024 – 5:30 pm
Rutland Regional Planning Commission - Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 225 443 539 134 | Passcode: uYLrHc
Call in (audio only): 802-440-1368 | Phone ID: 225 616 290#

I. **Voting Member Roll Call**

Vice Chair Jan Sotirakis convened the meeting at 5:33 PM. Roundtable introductions were given in lieu of the voting member rollcall. A quorum of voting members was not present, so non-binding decisions were made by consensus for this meeting.

II. **Approve Meeting Agenda**

No formal additions: see item VI. It was agreed by consensus of the voting members present that the agenda be approved.

III. **Approve June 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

It was agreed by consensus of the voting members present that the minutes of the June 19, 2024 meeting be approved, with the amendment that the Vermont Emergency Management Preparedness Conference dates be changed from September 9-10 to September 10-11.

IV. **Open to the Public**

There was no one from the public in attendance.

V. **REMC Representative Reports**

- a. Statewide Local Emergency Planning Commission (**LEPC**) Rep, Bob Morlino
 - i. LEPC held their last meeting on July 9. Glenn Wallace, representing US EPA Region 1, was scheduled to present on the purpose and function of LEPCs. Wallace cancelled at the last minute, so the Commission instead went over Patrick McLaughlin's annual report for the HAZMAT Team. The next LEPC meeting is October 22, during which Wallace will give his postponed presentation.
- b. Threat Hazard Identification & Assessment/Stakeholders Preparedness Report (**THIRA/SPR**) Rep, Michael Ramsey
 - i. This position is currently vacant, so nothing to report.
- c. Integrated Planning and Preparedness Workshop (**IPPW**) Rep, Tom Johnston
 - i. Johnston was not present at the meeting.

VI. **Announcements**

- a. RRPC is hosting the Statewide Hybrid Binary Blizzard Tabletop Exercise at 16 Evelyn Street on October 23. O'Brien stated she will communicate with municipalities who previously expressed interest in participating and confirm their registration status. Taiga Christie noted that the registration deadline is October 16.
- b. O'Brien noted that Christie will no longer be the Regional Coordinator for the Rutland Region by the next REMC Meeting and thanked her for her service. VEM is seeking to fill a maximum of three additional Regional Coordinator Positions, and the Southern Region (Bennington, Orange, Rutland, Windham, Windsor) will be broken up into smaller cohorts. Rutland and Bennington Counties will constitute a region for one of the newly hired coordinators.

VII. **REMC Organizational Tasks**

- a. Amend REMC Meeting Time Resolution
 - i. As of 6/20/2024, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (**RRPC**) moved offices from 67 Merchants Row to 16 Evelyn Street. The Meeting Time Resolution listed the physical meeting place as Merchants Row, so there is a need to amend the Resolution. It was agreed by consensus to adopt the Resolution as amended, with the date made current for a fresh signature from Vice Chair Sotirakis.
- b. Voting Membership Reappointments
 - i. The start of Federal Fiscal Year 2025 is October 1. O'Brien reminded the Committee to complete their Voting Membership Reappointment Forms, which will be sent out during this month.
- c. New Chair Scoping
 - i. With the lack of quorum, O'Brien stated she will conduct scoping over the next few months to find a potential new Chair. Nominations and elections will occur at the next REMC Meeting in December.

VIII. **Roundtable**

- a. O'Brien led a strategic discussion regarding the future of the REMC given an increase in recently declared disasters and limited capacity across the board. The Committee made observations about the strain transient populations have on community resources during both "blue-sky" conditions and disasters. Given this, the group explored several potential avenues for strengthening the Region's preparedness, response, and resiliency, including the development of a partnership between the REMC and the newly established Rutland Regional Disaster Cooperative. The summary of this conversation can be viewed [here](#), and the full roundtable can be viewed on the [RRPC YouTube Channel](#)

IX. **Next Meeting – December 11, 2024 @5:30 PM**

Respectfully submitted by Maggie O'Brien, Emergency Management Planner at the RRPC.

**Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC)
Voting Members 2023-2024 as of 9/18/2024**

| Voting Members | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------|----------------|---------|-------------|
| Town | First Name | Last Name | Title | Present | Proxy Given |
| Benson | Paul | Davoren | EMD | | Y |
| Benson | Jerod | Glover | Fire Rep | | Y |
| Brandon | Seth | Hopkins | EMD | | Y |
| Brandon | Tom | Kilpeck | Fire Chief | 1 | Y |
| Castleton | Michael | Jones | EMD | | Y |
| Castleton | Peter | Mantello | Police Chief | 1 | Y |
| Chittenden | Bob | Case | EMD - designee | 1 | Y |
| Chittenden | Jan | Sotirakis | Fire Rep | 1 | Y |
| Clarendon | Craig | Knapp | EMD - designee | | Y |
| Clarendon | Matt | Jakubowski | Fire Chief | | Y |
| Danby | Shelley | Taylor | EMD - designee | | Y |
| Danby | Tom | Johnston | Fire Rep | | Y |
| Fair Haven | Jim | Heller | EMD - designee | | Y |
| Fair Haven | Bill | Humphries | Police Chief | | Y |
| Hubbardton | VACANT | | | | |
| Hubbardton | Rick | Grabowski | Fire Rep | | |
| Ira | Bob | Toppin | EMD | | |
| Ira | VACANT | | | | |
| Killington | VACANT | | | | |
| Killington | VACANT | | | | |
| Mendon | Val | Taylor | EMD-designee | | Y |
| Mendon | Lema | Carter | Constable | | Y |
| Middletown Springs | Herb | Childress | EMD-designee | | Y |
| Middletown Springs | Bill | Reed | Highway Rep | | Y |
| Mount Holly | Jeff | Chase | EMD | | Y |
| Mount Holly | Jon | McCann | Fire Rep | | Y |
| Mount Tabor | VACANT | | | | |
| Mount Tabor | Tom | Johnston | Fire Rep | | |
| Pawlet | Bob | Morlino | EMD | 1 | Y |
| Pawlet | Jonathan | Weiss | Fire Rep | | Y |
| Pittsford | Tim | Cornell | EMD | | Y |
| Pittsford | Steve | Shortsleeves | Fire Rep | | Y |
| Poultney | Paul | Donaldson | EMD | | Y |
| Poultney | Aaron | Kerber | Fire Chief | | Y |
| Proctor | Judy | Frazier | EMD | | Y |
| Proctor | Kevin | Blongy | Fire Rep | | Y |
| Rutland City | Bill | Lovett | EMD | 1 | Y |
| Rutland City | Dan | Gedney | Fire Rep | | Y |
| Rutland Town | Martin | Wasserman | EMD | | Y |
| Rutland Town | Bill | Sweet | Fire Rep | | Y |
| Shrewsbury | Aaron | Korzun | EMD | | Y |
| Shrewsbury | Jack | Perry | Fire Rep | | Y |
| Sudbury | Steve | Sgorbati | EMD | | N |
| Sudbury | VACANT | | | | |

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| Town | First Name | Last Name | Title | Present | Proxy Given |
|--------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Tinmouth | Matthew | Patry | EMD-designee | | Y |
| Tinmouth | Ray | Pratt | Fire Rep | | Y |
| Wallingford | Jim | Bagnall | EMD | | Y |
| Wallingford | Michael | Hughes | Fire Chief | | Y |
| Wells | Todd | Fenton | Fire Chief | | Y |
| Wells | Don | Preuss | EMD-designee | | Y |
| West Haven | Rod | Ethier | EMD | | Y |
| West Haven | Kerry | Ellis | Law Enforcement - designee | | Y |
| West Rutland | Mary Ann | Goulette | EMD | | Y |
| West Rutland | Michael | Skaza | Fire Chief | | Y |

6

**Non-Voting Members
Organization**

| Organization | First Name | Last Name | Present |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| American Red Cross | Lindsey | Morin | 1 |
| Rutland Mental Health | Loree | Zeif | 1 |
| Rutland Regional Planning Commission | Maggie | O'Brien | 1 |
| Town of Hubbardton | Mike | Wetmore | 1 |
| Vermont Department of Health | Eric | Pulver | 1 |
| Vermont Emergency Management | Taiga | Christie | 1 |

6

TOTAL (with proxies) (Voting Members) **10**

TOTAL (without proxies) (Voting members) **6**

Quorum (≥11) Met? **NO**