



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC)

Meeting Minutes for
Wednesday, March 19, 2025 – 5:30 pm
Rutland Regional Planning Commission – Microsoft Teams

I. **Voting Member Roll Call**

Chair Michael Jones convened the meeting at 5:30 PM. Maggie O'Brien conducted the voting member roll call. A quorum of voting members was present.

II. **Approve Meeting Agenda**

Judy Frazier made the motion to approve the March 19, 2025 Agenda. Motion seconded by Bob Morlino. No further discussion. Motion approved.

III. **Approve September 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Morlino made the motion to approve the September 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Bob Case. No further discussion. Motion approved.

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. Morlino presented on the origin of the State LEPC, its purpose and function, and an overview of State HazMat activities in 2024. The State Emergency Response Committee (**SERC**) recently contacted every facility in the state that uses extremely hazardous substances, notifying them of the mandate (through the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-know Act) to have representatives on the LEPC. The next LEPC meeting is April 8, and Morlino expects hundreds of attendees as a result of this outreach.

b. Threat Hazard Identification & Assessment/Stakeholders Preparedness Report (**THIRA/SPR**) Rep, Peter Mantello

- i. Mantello was not present. O'Brien stated there was nothing new to report.

c. Integrated Planning and Preparedness Workshop (**IPPW**) Rep, Tom Johnston

- i. Johnston was not present. O'Brien updated the Committee that the workshop now occurs over one session instead of two and has a tighter focus on closing gaps in high priority core capabilities in the 2024 Stakeholder Preparedness Review (Public Information and Warning, Mass Care Services, Cybersecurity, Operational Communications). The 2025 workshop is scheduled for June 16, and a report will be provided at the next REMC meeting.

VI. **REMC Organizational Tasks**

There were no outstanding organizational tasks.

VII. **Announcements/Roundtable**

- a. *Southern Region Recovery Model – FEMA*: O’Brien briefed the Committee about ongoing efforts to establish regional “recovery networks” in Southern Vermont. The change in the Federal administration is putting funding for Regional Recovery Officers and other efforts into question. At the meeting on March 17, Regional Councils were proposed as a means of informal county governance. The region recovery models are now being envisioned as a short-term (five to ten year) supportive measure until county government can be established in Vermont.
- b. *Schedule of Emergency Management Activities*: The final calendar of activities from October 2024 to September 2025 is ready for distribution. They will be shared with the Committee alongside the March 19, 2025 draft minutes. Upcoming events include a LEMP 2025 Seminar on April 16, a Local-Liaison re-training session on May 21, and a Local Liaison drill conducted by the State in June on an unknown date.
- c. *Binary Blizzard Update*: The full-scale exercise is still slated for October 2025. Given an increasing focus on building a regional emergency management support network, O’Brien reported the Binary Blizzard Buildup (**B3**) efforts would be winding down, though Towns are still encouraged to participate if they would like. Morlino and Chair Jones stated that Pawlet and Castleton would still be participating in the exercise, including the activation of an Emergency Operations Center (**EOC**). O’Brien recalled some other Towns previously expressing interest (Brandon and Mount Holly) and will circle back with their EMDs to confirm.
- d. *Regional Emergency Management Needs Assessment*: Eric Pulver and O’Brien informed the committee members of collaboration efforts to date between the REMC and the Rutland Regional Disaster Cooperative (RRDC). The current focus is developing a baseline understanding of municipal needs in the Region during the planning, response, and recovery phases of emergency management. Pulver proposed the idea of a series of “sub-regional” mini tabletop exercises to evaluate items such as food and water security, shelter and EOC operations, and identifying communication and recovery needs. An extensive discussion was held regarding the organization of the sub-regions based on local relationships and procuring buy-in through local outreach and meetings led by “community champion” towns. The Committee expressed a willingness to proceed with this approach, and the first exercise will be held for the north-east region (Brandon, Chittenden, Killington, Mendon, Pittsford, and Sudbury) before the end of June.

VIII. **Next Meeting – June 18, 2025 @5:30 PM**

Morlino made the motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Frazier. No further discussion. The meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.

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

**Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC)
Voting Members 2024-2025 as of 3/19/2025**

Voting Members					
Town	First Name	Last Name	Title	Present	Proxy Given
Benson	Paul	Davoren	EMD		
Benson	Jerod	Glover	Fire Rep		
Brandon	Seth	Hopkins	EMD		
Brandon	Tom	Kilpeck	Fire Chief		
Castleton	Michael	Jones	EMD	1	Y
Castleton	Peter	Mantello	Police Chief		Y
Chittenden	Bob	Case	EMD - designee	1	Y
Chittenden	Jan	Sotirakis	Fire Rep		Y
Clarendon	Craig	Knapp	EMD - designee	1	Y
Clarendon	Matt	Jakubowski	Fire Chief		Y
Danby	Shelley	Taylor	EMD - designee		
Danby	Tom	Johnston	Fire Rep		
Fair Haven	Jim	Heller	EMD - designee		
Fair Haven	Bill	Humphries	Police Chief		
Hubbardton	Rick	Grabowski	EMD		Y
Hubbardton	Michael	Wetmore	Fire Rep	1	Y
Ira	Bob	Toppin	EMD		
Ira	VACANT				
Killington	Whit	Montgomery			
Killington	Craig	Bowman			
Mendon	Val	Taylor	EMD-designee		
Mendon	Lema	Carter	Constable		
Middletown Springs	Herb	Childress	EMD-designee		
Middletown Springs	Bill	Reed	Highway Rep		
Mount Holly	Jeff	Chase	EMD		
Mount Holly	Billy	Austin	Fire Rep		
Mount Tabor	Matt	Gasperetti	EMD		
Mount Tabor	Tom	Johnston	Fire Rep		
Pawlet	Bob	Morlino	EMD	1	Y
Pawlet	Jonathan	Weiss	Fire Rep		Y
Pittsford	Tim	Cornell	EMD		
Pittsford	Steve	Shortsleeves	Fire Rep		
Poultney	Paul	Donaldson	EMD		Y
Poultney	Aaron	Kerber	Fire Chief	1	Y
Proctor	Judy	Frazier	EMD	1	Y
Proctor	Kevin	Blongy	Fire Rep		Y
Rutland City	Bill	Lovett	EMD		
Rutland City	Dan	Gedney	Fire Rep		
Rutland Town	Martin	Wasserman	EMD		
Rutland Town	Bill	Sweet	Fire Rep		
Shrewsbury	Aaron	Korzun	EMD		
Shrewsbury	Jack	Perry	Fire Rep		
Sudbury	VACANT				
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**Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC)
Voting Members 2024-2025 as of 3/19/2025**

Town	First Name	Last Name	Title	Present	Proxy Given
Tinmouth	Matthew	Patry	EMD-designee		Y
Tinmouth	Ray	Pratt	Fire Rep	1	Y
Wallingford	Jim	Bagnall	EMD	1	Y
Wallingford	Michael	Hughes	Fire Chief		Y
Wells	Todd	Fenton	Fire Chief		
Wells	Don	Preuss	EMD-designee		
West Haven	Rod	Ethier	EMD		
West Haven	Kerry	Ellis	Law Enforcement - designee		
West Rutland	Mary Ann	Goulette	EMD		
West Rutland	Michael	Skaza	Fire Chief		

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**Non-Voting Members
Organization**

Organization	First Name	Last Name	Present
Rutland Mental Health	Loree	Zeif	1
Rutland Regional Medical Center	Jeremy	Carrara	1
Rutland Regional Planning Commission	Maggie	O'Brien	1
Town of Fair Haven (Police)	Shane	Carvey	1
Town of Fair Haven (Police)	Tyler	Duel	1
Town of Pawlet (EOC Volunteer)	Jacki	Becker	1
Town of Wallingford (EMC)	Bill	Weiss	1
Vermont Department of Health	Eric	Pulver	1
Vermont Emergency Management	Bill	Jones	1

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TOTAL (with proxies) (Voting Members) **18**

TOTAL (without proxies) (Voting members) **9**

Quorum (≥11) Met? **YES**