

LEPC #12

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE



LEPC12@TRORC.ORG

C/O TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION
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**April 21, 2016 – DRAFT
White River Junction State Office Building
118 Prospect Street, WRJ, VT**

Attendees: Tory Levite, Kevin Geiger, Lance Colby, Wendy Walsh, Mary Hamisevicz, Bob Weinert, Mark Warner, Gidget Lyman, Brad Salzmann, Lynn Thomas, Jim Tonkovich, Bill Burden, Lt. William Jenkins, David Farnham, and Jerry Fredrickson.

1. Call to order at 6:09 p.m. Mark Warner presided. Introductions were made.
2. Approval of Minutes of February 18.
Motion to approve made by Mark Warner, seconded by Jim Tonkovich, the Committee approved the minutes of December 18, 2016 unanimously.
3. Treasurers Report
Mark Warner reported that there is \$2,005 in the account.
4. Spring Fire Behavior

Kevin Geiger stepped in for Lars Lund, State Fire Supervisor, from the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, who had to be on a fire call. Kevin relayed things he learned as a Park Service wildlands firefighter, noting that we were in the spring fire danger window. Brush fires are common in Vermont during the Spring and Fall, virtually all caused by people. These fires behave differently from structural fires, and need different tactics and gear. The most important piece of information to know is the current weather forecast, as a change in wind direction or speed can cause the fire to shift and intensify. Firefighters should always have good lookouts, communications, escape routes and safety zones, even on grass fires. Kevin noted that transitional fields are probably the most dangerous fuel this time of year. He reminds folks to “keep one foot in the black”, as the safest place in a wildfire is where it has burnt.

5. CERT Status Update

Brad Salzmann reported that nothing has changed with the team or the trailer since the last update. Brad is still planning to attend the May CERT training in Maryland to gain much needed information.

Another meeting was held to gain recruits for our CERT team on April 20th, and four people showed up.

The trailer is still in South Pomfret, Brad is trying to find a permanent place for the trailer indoors so the equipment does not get destroyed in the elements. There was an idea to find a donation for outside cover for the trailer.

It was suggested to bring the CERT trailer to the Resiliency Festival in South Royalton on August 28th to hopefully gain more support for a team and to provide information to citizens.

Motion to allow the CERT trailer to go to the Resiliency Festival made by Jerry Fredrickson, seconded by Gidget Lyman, the Committee approved unanimously.

Brad is still researching CERT bylaws. Brad is receiving many examples of bylaws from within the state. Jerry Fredrickson is going to contact students at the Vermont Law School to take a look at them. It was suggested that Brad observe how other CERTs in the state are operating to gain some insight. Part of the bylaw requirement is that the CERT needs to have a name approved by the LEPC. Gidget remembered that this might have already been voted upon a couple years ago, Tory will look at past minutes to see if this was true. The discussion was tabled on a motion by Jerry pending further information.

6. HMEP Update

Kevin Geiger and Tory Levite from TRORC gave an update on the HMEP for this year. All the fixed facility maps will be updated with the most recent Tier II data from 2015. TRORC expressed concern that the software and Tier II data is not widely accessible, which could create problems. There was talk that there are many facilities are not reporting when they most likely should. Kevin and Tory will be going through the data to find data gaps and send a list of facilities that should be reporting to Bob Weinert at DEMHS.

There was talk among LEPC members that Tier II reporting is not enforced by the State or the EPA. Facilities are supposed to be fined a large amount of money if they are found to not be reporting, but no one knows if that has actually been enforced by any agency.

7. Bylaw Updates

This was not looked at since the past meeting. Tabled for further discussion and research.

8. Other Business/Upcoming Training

The SERC was asked for more funding for CERT supplies, but the LEPC was turned down. There was discussion of looking for other funding avenues.

Jim Tonkovich suggested that he give a talk at the August meeting about the new 911 and 211 procedures around the special needs intake form.

There was discussion on getting VT Alert to give a presentation at the June meeting to get more Towns interested in joining. Towns that do have VT Alert report that it works very well.

Lt. William Jenkins reports that there is a new VSP Barracks being constructed off of exit 5 on I-91 that will combine the Brattleboro and Rockingham barracks. That will become the main 911 dispatch center for Southern Vermont. Capt. Rick Hopkins is the new Troop C/D commander, replacing the irreplaceable Ray Keefe.

9. Adjournment

At 7:37 p.m. a motion was made by Mark Warner and seconded by Jerry Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. The Committee adjourned until its next scheduled meeting of June 23, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the VSP Barracks in Royalton.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tory Levite for Mark Warner, LEPC 12 Chair