

## TRORC Regional Emergency Management Committee

June 25, 2024

6:00 – 8:00 pm

### In person:

VA Training Building “Freedom” at the VA Medical Center,  
163 Veterans Drive, White River Junction.  
First building on the right coming from I-91, parking is on the left.

### Minutes

#### 1. Attendees:

Scott Cooney (Hartford + proxy)  
Tracy Simon (Chelsea)  
Brad Salzmann (Royalton)  
Rich Doolen (Brookfield)  
Jeff Morin (Newbury + proxy)  
Mark Belisle (Granville)  
Chet Pasho (Hartland + proxy)  
Alex Northern (Norwich + proxy)  
Gary Moore (Bradford)  
Ariel Young (VAMC)  
Sydney Steinle, Peter Gregory, Kevin Geiger (TRORC)  
KellyAnn Donahue (Corinth)  
Jason Schumacher (Strafford)  
Kristin M. Haas, DVM (State Veterinarian)  
Taiga Christie (VEM)  
Brenda Field (West Fairlee)  
Dr. Jackson Schonberg (Red Cross/VDART)

2. Sydney Steinle called the meeting to order at 6:10.

3. The March 20, 2023, REMC meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Gary Moore (Bradford), seconded by Scott Cooney (Hartland).

William B Emmons III, Chair ~ Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director  
128 King Farm Rd. Woodstock, VT 05091 ~ 802-457-3188 ~ [trorc.org](http://trorc.org)

4. Kristin M. Haas, DVM (State Veterinarian; Deputy Director, Food Safety & Consumer Protection) gave a presentation on Avian Flu including some background on the disease, the current situation as of 6/25/2024, the State's response, and how it could relate to towns. Haas states that the virus can spread between animals, people, and equipment shifting between farms, including visitors and workers that have access to the animals. It is important for those who care for animals to practice good biosecurity when there is a disease that could impact their animals.

Delsie Hoyt (Tunbridge) asked whether the State is going to reach out to agricultural fairs to warn or provide guidance, as these fairs often have numerous animals in the same building for viewing. Haas responded that the State has held a meeting with some who run similar fairs to discuss. After the meeting, they issued some fair and field days biosecurity guidance, which is available at:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal-health-0/fairs-shows-and-exhibitions>.

Kevin Geiger (TRORC) asked why they are only tracking the spread in lactating cows. Haas answered that the disease had been first detected in lactating cows, and lactating cows tend to have virus presence in their mammary tissues. They are looking into other cattle, including calves, meat cattle, and those in mixed herds, but the main focus is lactating cattle. The federal government is developing a national herd monitoring system for HPAI to encourage more testing.

5. Taiga Christie from Vermont Emergency Management provided an update from VEM. Registration is open for the Emergency Management Conference and a schedule will be posted soon. There will be a Disaster Resilience Network "day of learning" in Barre; more details will be sent out soon.

Alex Northern (Norwich) wondered why the Watch Officer number does not always contact the watch officer, and why there may be such a delay in response. Christie responded that during business hours, the number will usually lead to the VEM reception desk, which pages the Watch Officer to call you back. After hours, the number usually leads to Vermont State Police dispatch who pages the Watch Officer. It may also lead to Hazmat, which will then page the Watch Officer. If there are issues with the number, callers are encouraged to give VEM that feedback.

6. Meeting adjourned at 7:15.

**Zoom:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84399833348?pwd=gRsOvh9NYaamOs6l4aWyeycdfDztxv.1%20>

Meeting ID: 843 9983 3348 | Passcode: 524757