



Meeting Minutes

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) District VII
 Bennington County, Vermont
April 27, 2017 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 Bennington Project Independence
 614 Harwood Hill Rd.
 Bennington, VT 05201

Attendees	
Name	Affiliation
Bill Camarda	Bennington Rescue Squad
Mike Charette	Woodford Selectboard/EMD
Rich Cogliano	DEMHS
Suzy dePeyster	Sandgate EMD/Selectboard
Beth Diamond	Vermont 2-1-1
Paul Doucette	Bennington Police/EMD
John Gagnon	American Red Cross (Bennington volunteer)
Mike Hall	Manchester Police
Ed Harrington	North Bennington Fire
Marty Irion	Arlington Rescue/Sandgate EMD
Bill Levine	Stamford EMD/Fire
Michael Manley	Vermont State Police
Robert Mattison	Manchester Police
Ed Myers	North Bennington Fire/EMD
Craig O'Dell	Town of Pownal
Hugh O'Donnell	Vermont State Police
Steve Schlosser	Vermont Department of Health
Keith Squires	LEPC Chair/Arlington EMD/Selectboard
Lissa Stark	LEPC Treasurer/Town of Windhall
Allison Strohl	BCRC
Cathy Vogel	Vermont Department of Health
Dan Zimmer	Bennington County Mutual Aid

Results of the LEPC Meeting Feedback Survey: During dinner, Allison Strohl handed out the Meeting Feedback Survey results for everyone to look over. The results are attached to the end of these minutes. Allison mentioned that she is not an LEPC member and that if anyone ever wanted to make a comment or suggestion about the LEPC meetings “anonymously”, they could email her their input and ask that she not say who they are, but to raise their concerns with the Chair and Vice Chair, or the group. Or they could still fill out the survey that is available online.

Introductions: Keith Squires started the meeting with introductions.

Meeting Minutes: Keith asked if there were any corrections to last meetings minutes. There were none. Motion to accept minutes made by Paul Doucette, seconded by Bill Camarda. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Final balance of the report is \$16,589.48. There were three expenditures:

- 1) Food for last meeting: \$110.00
- 2) Food for flood seminar: \$112.95
- 3) Paid BCRC for services: \$1,610.00

Paul made a motion to accept the treasure's report, Bill Levine seconded. All were in favor.

Keith made a motion to pay BPI for the meal tonight. Paul made a motion to pay BPI, Ed Myers seconded.

Presentations

- **EMD/EMC Rolls:** Rich did a presentation on EMD Rolls.
 - Keith talked about the re-writing of the EMD training course that should be available soon.
 - Bill Levine said it would be nice to invite selectboards to come to the EMD training so they can see what the EMDs do.
 - Dan Zimmer talked about NIMS compliance and asked if there had been a discussion about having ICS 300 and ICS 400 in the evenings, because they are such long classes and people don't like to give up their weekends.
 - Steve Schlosser asked about difference sectors being in the EOC that can help out, and how the VT DOH should be involved.
 - Keith said that if anyone was interested in holding a training in the area, the LEPC would be happy to sponsor any trainings.
- **LEOP Overview:** Allison did a presentation on what a LEOP is and why it's important. Presentation is attached to the end of these minutes.
 - Keith asked about town involvement and how to make sure a town fills it out correctly.
 - Allison said that she offers to help towns fill out the plans but it is up to the towns to add the information that is useful and current to them.
 - Paul said the plan is shared with the selectboard but that it is not shared with everyone because for sensitive information.
 - Ed Myers said their plan is shared only with the trustees.
 - Bill Levine said they include people with disabilities and it could be a HIPPA issue if it gets out.
 - There was then a discussion about typed resources.
 - Allison said that could be a project that the LEPC could fund – to update the typed resources list for the county.
 - Dan said Bennington County Mutual Aid will be making an update soon.
 - Allison asked if they would share the updated list with her.

- Dan will check.
 - Beth Diamond asked Bill Levine if he knew about the Care Program with 2-1-1 (dispatch hold information about people that need special help during a disaster).
 - To update the information, those who sign up will be contacted each year to update their information.
 - Allison asked if it has been a successful program.
 - Beth said that it has been.
 - Keith asked if that information is protected by HIPPA.
 - Beth said that the person who signs it would be allowing their medical information to be shared.
 - In addition: people can now connect with Vermont 2-1-1 Information and Referral Specialists by texting their zip code to 898211, Monday-Friday, 8:00am-8:00pm.
 - Keith made a final note about the LEOP – that it has helpful documents that are useful during/after a disaster, and it can help to have paperwork ready for FEMA.
- **What is a LEPC/How can it help the community:** Keith Squires did a presentation about how the LEPC can assist the community.
 - LEPCs are here to help the community and first responders with keeping things up to date and to practice drills/exercises.
 - Keith talked about Vermont Title 20 and how responders are protected when they respond to an incident.
 - It's important to the towns and to responders to be familiar with each other.
 - Mike Hall said most the emergency services personnel are volunteer and many have been there for a long time and are aging, but there aren't any new people coming in.
 - He wants to know if anyone is looking at this issue at a state level.
 - Paul said that he works with the Bennington FD and that is a problem there, and it is also a statewide issue.
 - Requirements have changed, work is not allowing them time to leave, people are taking their training and going elsewhere to get a paid job.
 - Bennington has been putting money into retention and recruiting in the FD, but it is hard when they resign quickly and take their training elsewhere.
 - Steve asked if there was a reason why they haven't moved to paid employees.
 - Paul said that in NY, if you volunteer then you get a break on property taxes.
 - Ed Myers said years ago that there was talk about firefighters getting a break on fuel oil but it didn't go anywhere.
 - Dan mentioned that TIMs Training (Traffic Incident Management) training is a good one to take for incident management
 - Lost 100,000 volunteers in the US this last year.
 - OSHA is starting to get involved in fire trainings and departments.
 - Rich mentioned the GEPAC (Governors Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council):

http://governor.vermont.gov/boards_and_commissions/emergency_preparedness; they meet to discuss emergency preparedness, disaster preparedness, public safety, etc.

Agency Reports:

- Steve Schlosser – VT DOH: Active Shooter Class, May 25th, 6:30 pm in Bennington at the VT DOH Community Room. This training is open to the community. Will be a 45-minute presentation. Would like to hold it in Manchester next.
 - Keith mentioned Steve should invite the school crisis team.
 - Beth mentioned that childcare providers are now required to have emergency plans and that they might be interested in attending.
 - Steve also mentioned the last PFOA blood draw, which will be held on June 6th.
 - He then introduced the Director of the VT DOH, new since last May.
- Bill Camarda – Bennington Rescue Squad: Completed a train to hire program with 11 graduates, 6 hired. It has been a successful program. Looking to do it again next winter.
- Marty Irion – Arlington Rescue Squad: Mentioned that they are having the same issues as the FD with recruiting volunteers.
- Michael Manley – State Police: Mentioned the change with command structure and introduced the temporary commander. The position will be filled with a permanent position soon.
- Beth Diamond – Vermont 2-1-1: talked about Help Me Grow, available 9 am-6 pm, Monday through Friday, to help individuals, childcare centers, doctors offices, or anyone, to answer questions about child development and behavior. Anyone can call 2-1-1 and press 6. A child development specialist who can answer your questions will answer the call.

DEMHS Report:

- Rob Schell has left and there is now a vacancy at DEMHS. They are looking for a candidate with management and local first response experience.
- Childcare providers are required to have emergency plans. It would be great to hold a group meeting with the providers to discuss how to develop the plan. There is a template.
- Allison will distribute the template with the meeting minutes.
- Earlier this week, several human service (and animal service) agencies got together with the Red Cross to discuss trainings. The point of the meeting was to develop trainings that each organization will hold, in an effort to not overlap efforts/hold multiple trainings of the same topic. Each training will be open to all organizations and the public.

Adjourn: The meeting ended at 8:00 pm.

Next Meeting:

July 27, 2017, location and topic TBD.