



# VERMONT LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)



## DRAFT Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Location: Virtual / Department of Public Safety. Waterbury

1. Call to Order – Bob Morlino, chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03am.
  
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda: none.
  
3. Roll Call – included below; times show members who arrived later. Note: because of flooding the night before, the Waterbury office was not open on time for public attendees.

Seat - Name	Present	Absent
Rutland Regional Planning Commission REMC / LEPC Chair - Robert Morlino	X	
Addison County REMC – Dan Kuzio	1012	
Bennington County REMC – Allison Strohl (Dara Zink)		X
Caledonia-Essex REMC – Bruce Melendy	1027	
Central Vermont REMC – Stefan Pratt		X
Chittenden County REMC – Christine Forde	X	
Franklin Country REMC – Shawn Colman		X
Grand Isle County REMC – Shawn Colman		X
Lamoille REMC – Dawn Archibald		X
Mount Ascutney Regional Commission REMC – Allison Hopkins		X
Orleans-Essex REMC – Bruce Melendy	1027	
Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission REMC – Alex Northern	1012	
Windham Regional Commission REMC – Alyssa Sabetto	X	
Fire Service Coalition – Kevin McAllister	X	
<u>Unfilled Organization / Field Seats – do not count towards quorum:</u>		
<i>Vermont Ambulance Association</i>		
<i>Vermont Sheriffs' Association</i>		
<i>Vermont Association of Broadcasters</i>		
<i>Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT)</i>		
<i>Vermont Association of Planning &amp; Development Agencies (VAPDA)</i>		
<i>Vermont Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalition (VHEPC)</i>		
<i>Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) Industry (seat 1)</i>		
<i>Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) Industry (seat 2)</i>		
<i>Vermont National Guard (VTNG)</i>		
<i>Vermont Department of Health (VDH)</i>		
<i>Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Farms, and Markets (VAAFAM)</i>		
Non-Voting Members: Patrick McLaughlin (HAZMAT Response Team chief), Mike Skaza (Fire Academy), Adam Heuslein (EMS District 2), Andrew L'Roe (ACRPC)		
Members of the public: Emily Harris, Glenn Herrin, Susan Plant, Max Kennedy, Valerie Bowman		

4. Review LEPC Appointment / Membership. Allison Hopkins has left her position with Mount Ascutney Regional Planning Commission. Organizations are still determining membership.
5. Discussion: Lithium Ion Battery Course to be available to local Jurisdiction September – Overview (Bob Morlino)
  - a. The Fire Academy has completed design of a course on mitigating Lithium-Ion battery fires in E-bikes, electric vehicles, and storage systems. There will be a train-the-trainer class August 30-31. The class is in-person, as there are hands-on components, and expected to run about 2.5 hours.
  - b. Bob Morlino will present highlights of the training at the next LEPC meeting.
6. Discussion: Full-time State position to be hired as HAZMAT Compliance Officer- LEPC Support. (Patrick McLaughlin) The position will be a full-time regular limited services position, meaning that it is grant funded. Hiring should happen within a few months when the funding is clarified. The person will support the LEPC and work on projects for it, such as commodity studies, as well as assisting with Tier 2 reporting.
7. Public Comments.
  - a. Bob Morlino would like to get more private industry involved in the LEPC, such as GMP, Cabot Creamery, Agrimark, Unilever, or others with hazardous materials.
  - b. Andrew L’Roe asked about heat pumps switching to a new flammable refrigerant (R12A). Chief McLaughlin talked about a national evaluation of the risk, trading off an environmental hazard for a fire hazard.
  - c. Emily Harris posted the LEPC bylaws (August 18, 2021), which include organizations that have not yet appointed members and term suggestions (3 years).
  - d. Northfield did training with Vermont Rail that was very good.
  - e. Patrick McLaughlin pointed out the LEPC has a website - <https://firesafety.vermont.gov/LEPC> - and talked about improvement to GIS capabilities for viewing Tier 2 data.
  - f. VHMRT is purchasing a rollover training prop for the fire academy.
8. Adjourn – Bob Morlino adjourned the meeting at 1058.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 10:00am.

All LEPC meetings will be publicly warned at the Vermont Department of Libraries website located at <http://libraries.vermont.gov/events>