

# Bennington County REMC Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 6 PM – 7:30 PM



### Location

Bennington Fire Department  
130 River Street, Bennington, VT

**In-person attendees:** Bill Levine, Sheila Lawrence, Paul Dansereau, Keith Cross, Steve Coote, Paul Doucette, Camillo Grande, Todd Lawrence, Vince Thompson, Brian Hawley, Linda Schmidt, Mary Rogers, Scott Creedy, Wayne Tift, Kim Hall, Bill Camarda, Gordon Black, Craig O'Dell, Dee Myrvang

**Virtual Attendees:** Susan Lenox; Lois Bink; Julie Benedict, State Exercise Administrator; Taiga Christie, Southern Vermont Regional Coordinator

### **Agenda:**

- Dara Zink welcomed everyone, and group introductions took place
- Julie Benedict presented on after-action reporting via a power point which will be posted on the Vermont Emergency Management webpage: [Home Page | Vermont Emergency Management](#)
  - VEM sent out a survey to see where they did well during the July 2023 flood events and where there were areas of opportunity – this was a review of the results
  - Discussion was held about what feedback was missing.
  - Julie shared that there is a weekly 1pm municipal call for the first 3 LEMP contacts.
  - Chief Doucette indicated that towns need to make sure their LEMPs are up to date and contact information is correct. If this needs to be updated, please send the information to Dara to update in the WebEOC system.
  - Julie Benedict contact information: [julie.benedict@vermont.gov](mailto:julie.benedict@vermont.gov)
  - Here is a link to the municipal Waze account where locals can update local road closures. <https://www.waze.com/partnerhub/user-lobby/lobby?redirect=%252Fpartnerhub%252F>
- Taiga and Dara facilitated a discussion was held about what the REMC is and what it looks like in the future. Membership in the REMC was clarified. Towns have 2 voting members: one is the EMD and one is an emergency services representative. Villages do not have voting members but are strongly encouraged to come to meetings as their input on future exercises and training throughout the region is valuable and needed. Quorum was reviewed and Dara will clarify the total number of voting members.
  - Reminder: Please let your town leaders know that they need to appoint the two representatives by the end of March.
  - Draft by-laws were handed out but not reviewed at this time.
  - Dara asked for everyone to consider being a part of the REMC and to think about the Chair & Vice-Chair roles and who may be interested in filling those roles.
  - Mutual Aid agreements between towns were discussed
    - Templates and examples can be found here: <http://vem.vermont.gov/programs/nims/samples>
    - The Vermont MOU template can be found here: <https://vem.vermont.gov/sites/demhs/files/documents/Vermont%20MOU%20Template.docx>

- Dara asked for ideas for future trainings:
  - VDart was suggested: [VDART | Helping Animals In Disasters \(vermontdart.org\)](http://vermontdart.org)
  - Dam Safety & the US Army Corps of Engineers
  - VT Railway
  - A small town that can share how they dealt with flooding
  - [CARE \(Citizens Assistance Registry for Emergencies\) | Enhanced 911 Board \(vermont.gov\)](http://vermont.gov)
- Updates:
  - Taiga - Vermont Emergency Management updates:
    - LEMP training will be offered to municipalities- please direct questions to Taiga or Dara
      - Dara will schedule one for beginning of April
    - 2024 VEM Preparedness Conference will be Sept 10 & 11<sup>th</sup> @ Lake Morey
      - There is one free room for a member of the REMC
    - HMP Grants will be opening soon. Please make sure you are on the funding email list.
    - Link to VEM email lists including the funding list: <https://vem.vermont.gov/email-lists>
    - Watch Officer Phone Number: 1-800-347-0488
  - Dara – Update from Bennington County Regional Commission
    - Discussion of towns with American Red Cross (ARC) shelters and cleaning up the list with ARC. The list of current shelters below.
      - Our ARC representative is Lyndsey Morin: [lyndsey.morin@redcross.org](mailto:lyndsey.morin@redcross.org)
      - She is currently on leave for two months. If you need immediate assistance, please reach out to Charles Hall at [Charles.Hall3@redcross.org](mailto:Charles.Hall3@redcross.org).
      - Dee Myrvang mentioned that Medical Reserve Corp is available for assistance with sheltering if needed
  - Wrap-up: Dara has asked that everyone think about some regional trainings that members would like to see happen and bring ideas to the next meeting
- Next REMC Meeting: Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm – Location – Manchester – Venue TBD
  - Please refer to the REMC webpage at [Regional Emergency Management Committee - BCRC \(bcrvt.org\)](http://bcrvt.org) for updates

| <b>American Red Cross Shelters as of 2.1.24</b>     |                   |                       |                          |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Location</b>                                     | <b>Managed by</b> | <b>Street Address</b> | <b>Town</b>              |
| Arlington Memorial High School                      | ARC Managed       | 529 East Arlington Rd | <b>Arlington</b>         |
| East Arlington Fire House                           | ARC Managed       | 184 Old Mill Rd       | <b>Arlington</b>         |
| 2Nd Congregational Church                           | ARC Managed       | 115 Hillside Street   | <b>Bennington</b>        |
| Bennington Elementary                               | ARC Managed       | 128 Park Street       | <b>Bennington</b>        |
| Bennington Moose Lodge                              | ARC Managed       | 916 Main Street       | <b>Bennington</b>        |
| Bennington Project Independence                     | ARC Managed       | 614 Harwood Hill      | <b>Bennington</b>        |
| Bennington Recreation Center                        | ARC Managed       | 655 Gage Street       | <b>Bennington</b>        |
| Bennington Rural Fire Department<br>- South Station | ARC Managed       | 63 Gore Road          | <b>Bennington</b>        |
| Catamount Elementary School                         | ARC Managed       | 230 School St         | <b>Bennington</b>        |
| Elks Lodge  | ARC Managed       | 125 Washinton Ave     | <b>Bennington</b>        |
| Green Mountain Christian Center                     | ARC Managed       | 1506 Harwood Hill Rd  | <b>Bennington</b>        |
| Molly Stark Elementary School                       | ARC Managed       | 181 Orchard Road      | <b>Bennington</b>        |
| Monument Elementary School                          | ARC Managed       | 55 West Main Street   | <b>Bennington</b>        |
| Mount Anthony Lodge No. 13                          | Independent       | 504 Main Street       | <b>Bennington</b>        |
| Mt Anthony Union Middle School                      | ARC Managed       | 747 East Rd           | <b>Bennington</b>        |
| Manchester Elementary Middle<br>School              | ARC Managed       | 80 Memorial Avenue    | <b>Manchester Center</b> |
| North Bennington Graded School                      | ARC Managed       | 9 School St           | <b>North Bennington</b>  |
| North Pownal Fire Station                           | ARC Managed       | Rte 346               | <b>North Pownal</b>      |
| East Pownal Fire Station                            | ARC Managed       | 504Th Stream Rd       | <b>Pownal</b>            |
| Pownal Center Fire Station                          | ARC Managed       | 2872 North Pownal Rd  | <b>Pownal</b>            |
| Pownal Elementary School                            | ARC Managed       | 94 School House Rd    | <b>Pownal</b>            |
| Stamford Elementary School                          | Independent       | 986 Main Street       | <b>Stamford</b>          |
| Sunderland Elementary School                        | ARC Managed       | 98 Bear Ridge Road    | <b>Sunderland</b>        |