

LAMOILLE COUNTY Regional Emergency Management Committee
 MINUTES September 29, 2025 Hybrid Meeting – 6:00 PM

Approved:

Community/ Mode	Representative		Community/ Mode	Representative	
Belvidere	Earl Domina Jr Pam McKenna	x x	Cambridge	Dan St Cyr Eric Boozan	
Eden	Jeff Hunsburger Tim Bullard	x	Elmore	Michel Lacasse Brent Hosking	
Hyde Park	Nicole Chauvin Brad Carriere	x	Johnson	Eben Patch	
Morristown	Jason Luneau Andrew Glover		Stowe	Tim Lambert Nick Chegwidan	x
Waterville	John Terrell	x	Wolcott	Ryan Bjerke Steve Princ	x

Additional Guests & LCPC Staff Present:

LCPC: Melissa Manka, Conrad Becker

Guests: Michaela Foody, Devin Healy, Michaela Olin, Trevor Braun, Matthew Ward

Nicole opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Adjustments to Agenda/Public Comment

There were no adjustments to the agenda. No public comment.

6:00 Introductions/Roll Call

There was a round of introductions.

6:05 Resources –Wildland Fire Presentation – Devin Healy, VT DFPR Wildland Fire Specialist

- Wildland fire specialists and VT DFPR can provide training to local firefighters, along with outreach and education
- There is a daily fire danger forecast map, red flag warnings, and email list available on the VT DFPR website.
- VT DFPR can assist towns with equipment and PPE purchasing.
- Wildland fire staff use prescribed fires to restore health to ecosystems and reduce wildfire risks.
- VT FPR assists local FDs during wildland fires if the local FD is not equipped to suppress fire, and they are able to order additional resources if needed.
- Resources from all NE states and Canada can be called in for assistance if needed, along with the Army National Guard Helicopter in serious cases.
- There are additional resources through Northeastern Interagency Coordination Center in NH, Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact.
- The top causes of fires in VT are debris burning and improper disposal of ashes.
- Devin displayed various graphs and charts, showing fire danger, drought, and acres lost to fires.

- Devin encouraged wildfires to be included in LHMPs, and for municipalities to become a Firewise Community. Encouraged Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and updating town websites with daily fire danger and information.
- The fire summary report tool can be used to assess risks region wide.
- Pam McKenna asked if there are fire road datasets? No dataset currently exists.
- VT FPR has access to VT Alerts and has the authority to order evacuations. If an evacuation is necessary, the VEM Watch Officer will coordinate with local incident commander (fire chief, EMD). Wildland fire specialists will coordinate with local incident commander but will not undermine decision making. EOC can work for the EMD and incident commander for helping victims.
- Wildland fire specialists can be contacted by Watch Officer Hazard Pager number in case of emergency.
- VT FPR sends a letter to all fire wardens and chiefs for PPE and equipment purchasing funding opportunities.
- VT FPR wants a report for every fire larger than 1/10 of an acre ASAP and if fire is spreading into wildland.

6:30 Coordination

❖ Regional Shelter Mapping & Regional Road Closure Mapping

- LCPC developed a map showing emergency shelters in all towns in the region, along with surrounding towns.
- LCPC can draft a mutual aid MOU for towns to permit towns to use other town shelters.
- Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) and the American Red Cross (ARC) can provide training for designated shelter staff (CPR, etc.).
- VEM can bring training directly to communities/regions if requested.
- Towns need to have an agreement with ARC for town shelter to be designated as an ARC shelter. Even if the shelter is not an ARC shelter, ARC can still send staff if requested/necessary.
- Nicole mentioned the recent VEM state conference that provided trainings for EMDs/volunteers, which has recordings available online.

❖ Intermunicipal Sheltering & Evacuation Planning

- LCPC is compiling a contact list for EMDs to contact each other during emergencies, along with preferred method of contact.
- REMC representatives were enthusiastic about asking ARC for a prepositioned trailer.
- LCPC will ask ARC for list of ARC certified shelters in Lamoille County.

7:00 Situational Awareness - Lamoille REMC Members

Lamoille County Planning Commission – Melissa Manka, LCPC Senior Planner

Lamoille REMC Members

Vermont Emergency Management– Michaela Foody, VEM Regional Coordinator

Vermont Medical Reserve Corps– Matthew Ward, VDH Public Health Specialist – Emergency Preparedness

❖ LCPC Updates

- The EMPG Grant application is still in question with the current Federal funding landscape.

❖ VEM Updates

- The recent Emergency Preparedness Conference recordings are available on the VEM website.
- VT Alert manager training 10/2
- G 191 10/15 in Norwich
- Incident Command 300 in Pittsford 3/24 – 26
- Drought.vermont.gov for community resources during drought
- ❖ **VDH Updates**
 - Always looking for new volunteers
- ❖ **Town Updates**
 - Wolcott is working on getting emergency plan from Supervisory Union.

Other Business/Future Meeting Topics & Trainings

- ❖ **Officers (Vice Chair) & Committee Reps (LEPC, THIRA, IPPW)**
- ❖ **Draft Bylaws**
 - **Tim Lambert motioned to accept the bylaws. John Terrell seconded. Motion passed with two abstentions.**
- ❖ **Draft Minutes**
 - **Tim Lambert motioned to accept all previous minutes. John Terrell seconded. Motion passed with two abstentions.**
- ❖ **Lamoille EMD Contact Information**
- ❖ **Future meeting topics**

Adjournment

Jeff Hunsburger motioned to adjourn. Ryan Bjerke seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35

Next Meeting: TBD