



STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION (SERC)
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 17, 2023

1. Call to Order - (Vice Chair, Chief Patrick McLaughlin) - 10:02 am
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda – (Vice Chair, Chief Patrick McLaughlin) – item 5, a presentation by Chief McLaughlin, deleted (to be presented in August)
3. Roll Call – (Conducted by Glenn Herrin, VEM)

Seat – Name	Present	Absent
Commissioner of Public Safety - Jennifer Morrison / <u>Patrick McLaughlin</u> (Vice Chair)	X	
Secretary of Natural Resources - Julie Moore / <u>Tim Cropley</u>	X	
Secretary of Transportation - Joe Flynn / Mike Touchette / Craig Digiammarino / <u>Andy Shively</u>	X	
Commissioner of Health - Mark Levine /		X
Secretary of Agriculture, Food, and Markets - Anson Tebbetts / Annie MacMillan / <u>Clark Parmelee</u>	X	
Commissioner of Labor - Michael Harrington / Dan Whipple / Stephen Monahan		X
Director of Fire Safety - Mike Desrochers / <u>Michael Skaza</u>	X	
Director of Emergency Management - Erica Bornemann / <u>Eric Forand</u> / Liz Rowell (Secretary)	X	
Local Government - <u>Chris Violette</u>	X	
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) – <u>Bob Morlino</u>	X	
Regional Planning Committee – <u>Andrew L’Roe</u>	X	
Fire Service - <u>Christopher Dube</u>	X	
Law Enforcement - <u>Ryan Palmer</u>	X	
Emergency Medical Service (EMS) - <u>Prescott Nadeau</u>	X	
Hospital - <u>Kate Hammond</u>	X	
Transportation Entity reporting chemicals - <u>Dave Patneau</u>	X	
Entity reporting Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) – Mark Toof		X

Others and Members of the public: Glenn Herrin (VEM, facilitator), Rhonda Camley, Charles Colley, George Ijeoma, Susan Plant

4. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2023 (vote required) - Eric Forand moved, seconded by Prescott Nadeau, to approve the February 15, 2023, SERC Regular Meeting Minutes. All voted in favor - the motion was adopted.

5. Team Reports

- a. Tier II Submissions/Financial Report & HAZMAT Team Report – (Chief Patrick McLaughlin, Division of Fire Safety). One team member has stepped away and there are two other positions open in the southern area; Chief McLaughlin is also asking for 3 additional positions to bring the total staff to 35. The team conducted training in Brattleboro with C&S Wholesalers in April and in South Burlington at Beta Technologies in May; in August they will do training on chlorine and propane gases and UAS; future training on lithium-ion batteries will include Electric Vehicles (EVs) and energy storage systems. VHMRT has had 56 responses so far, up by about 14 calls from this time last year. There is a grant request in for \$120,000 for a chemical spectrometer; other new purchases are significantly helping improve responses. The 2022 Tier 2 report portal and E payment system worked very well, with 2704 reports.
- b. Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Spill Team Calls – (Tim Cropley, ANR). There were three major incidents in the second quarter: a 1000gal diesel spill in Cavendish; a 200gal kerosene spill in South Burlington, and a 100-300gal #2 fuel oil spill in Rutland City. The May report will show a fire and spill in Putney.
- c. Fire Academy Updates – (Michael Skaza, Fire Academy). There are currently 2 full-time staff openings, but they have hired 2 new part-time instructors. They have conducted 6 HAZMAT OPS programs, certifying 79 new responders, and 2 foam firefighting flammable liquid and gas classes for another 49 students with another scheduled in Alburgh for June. The recent release of NFPA 470 consolidates everything HAZMAT into one standard. DPS has submitted the FY22 HMEP grant application for \$107,000 in federal funding, which VFA matches with \$26,000 in student volunteer hours – a 10% decrease in federal funding.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee Report (Rhonda Camley). Nothing significant to report.
- b. LEPC Report (Bob Morlino, LEPC Chair). The newly reconstituted LEPC held its first meeting on May 9 and is getting back on track. They are working on getting a full-time DPS position under HAZMAT to work on emergency planning. Their next meeting will be in early August.

7. Public Comments –

- a. Tim Cropley noted that the usual date for the next meeting, August 16, is a state holiday; the consensus was that the meeting date should shift.
- b. Chief McLaughlin noted that this is the last meeting for Liz Rowell and Erica Bornemann of VEM; their contributions to the SERC and LEPC are very much appreciated.
- c. Chief McLaughlin noted that he is the Vice Chair and the SERC should have someone else as the Chair; that position mainly involves running the meeting, and he and VEM support that. There were no spontaneous volunteers or nominations for the Chair.

8. Adjourned after passage of motion by Eric Forand, seconded by Kate Hammond - 10:57 am

Next Regular Meeting: August 16th (probably to be shifted)

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