



## Orleans-Essex REMC Meeting Minutes

Here are the Minutes for the Orleans-Essex REMC Meeting, Monday, January 29, 2024

DATE: Monday, January 29, 2024, TIME: 1pm

LOCATION: Newport Fire Station, also available via ZOOM.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm by Bruce Melendy as the Chair resigned in September and the Vice-Chair was not in attendance.

Introductions were done. Those attending in person were: Maurice Doyon-Westfield EMD, Rebecca Petelle-Vermont Department of Health, Rick Hannux-Brighton Fire Chief/ EMD, Kevin Lacoss-Newport City Fire Chief/EMD, Bruce Melendy-NVDA, Nicole Gratton-NVDA, Sid Pollock-Vermont Emergency Management. Those attending via ZOOM were Gina Lyon-Barton Village EMD, Barb Nolan- UTG Board of Governors, Beverly White- Brownington-EMD, Julie Benedict-Vermont Emergency Management.

Julie Benedict from Vermont Emergency Management did a presentation on the survey that was sent out to communities as part of an After-Action Review of Vermont Emergency Management's response to the July 2023 floods.

Nicole Gratton from NVDA did a presentation on the Municipal Technical Assistance Grant program and what the requirements are for communities to be eligible.

Barb Nolan from the UTG provided information on the dispatch issues the UTG and other small communities in the Northeast Kingdom are dealing with. She advised they used to use the State Police from Derby but when the State Police changed their dispatch stations to just a few Stations across the State they were not able to use them anymore and have been using dispatch from Colebrook, NH, however they keep increasing the prices. She advised the UTG has been in contact with their State Representatives to include sending a letter to Governor Scott. Sid Pollock from VEM advised there might be a grant available through

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Homeland Security to assist with this. Barb Nolan advised they have been using Newport dispatch more recently and that seems to be working much better but she is still concerned about this issue for the long term.

Sid Pollock, the Regional Coordinator for Vermont Emergency Management provided a Vermont Emergency Management Update and Report.

Elections of a Chair and Vice-Chair were on the agenda however only six voting members were in attendance, so no official business was conducted as twelve voting members are required to be in attendance for a quorum.

The next Orleans REMC Meeting will be Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 1pm at the Newport Fire Station and available via ZOOM.

The meeting adjourned at 2pm, January 29, 2024