

Windham Region Emergency Management Committee (REMC)

Informational Session Minutes

Date and Time: August 7th from 1-3pm

Location: Windham Regional Commission, 139 Main Street, Suite 505, Brattleboro, VT 05301, and Via Zoom

Topic: An opportunity to meet with numerous local and regional US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) staff. There will be a presentation as well as an open discussion format to this meeting.

Objective: An understanding of the timing and informational needs of both the USACE and the Towns regarding emergency communications leading up to and during high water events. A determination if changes to protocols are warranted, and if so what those changes may be.

Guest Speakers:

- Alex Cote, Project Manager, Ball Mountain and Townshend Dams, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
- John Asseng, Operations Manager, Upper Connecticut River Basin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
- Laurie Gibeau, NAE Dam Safety Program Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
- Scott Bockus, Civil Engineering Technician, Upper Connecticut River Basin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
- Jeremy Kellett, Physical Scientist, Reservoir Regulation Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Margaret Digiorno, Upper Connecticut River Basin Regulator, Reservoir Regulation Center, U.S Army Corps of Engineers
- Amy Hamilton, Emergency Management Specialist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District

Agenda:

1. Discussion and presentation points:
 - History of the Dams (Project Manager)
 - Dam Safety/Communication Guidelines/Inundation Mapping (Dam Safety)
 - Release Protocols (RRC)
 - Authorities
 - Emergency Planning and Hazard Communication
 - USACE posts notifications to USGS and NWS
 - Alyssa asked that USACE coordinate with VEM to setup and pre-plan VTAlert notifications for town EMDs and Emergency Response
 - Town needs
 - USACE suggested that Silver Jackets are a resource to tap into for town planning support around dam evacuation planning.
2. REMC reminders and other items:
 - Topic suggestions/requests for meetings/events/trainings/speakers – none received
 - The latest Vermont Emergency Management newsletter: <https://vem.vermont.gov/contact-us/newsletter>
 - HSEEP class to be held in Brattleboro in November. See LMS for details.
 - VEM's annual conference will be held on September 10-11 at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee
 - REMC business – none discussed
3. Our next REMC informational session will be on Zoom on November 12th and will have Neil Glassman to discuss Team Rubicon. Team Rubicon is a veteran led team of skilled volunteers that can bridge the gap between community needs and federal or state assistance during/after hazard events. Their capabilities include damage assessment, muck outs, debris management, hazard mitigation projects, and more. Team Rubicon services also

count as community qualified disaster relief payments when seeking FEMA assistance in federally declared disasters. Towns can directly reach out to Team Rubicon with needs.

4. Thank you for attending! Remember that REMC meeting agendas and minutes can always be found [here](#).