

Windham Region Emergency Management Committee (REMC) Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 19th

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Greg Lakis (Jamaica EMD); Neil Glassman and Chris Dawson (Presenters); Richard Cogliano (Dummerston EMD); Dave Emery (Vernon EMD); Gig Zboray (Whitingham EMD); Victor Rivas (Stratton EMD); Eric Stevens (Grafton EMC); Pamela Corbett (VDH); Howard Brousseau (Weston); Taiga Christie (VEM); Mark Anderson (Windham Sheriff Department); Alyssa Sabetto, WRC Senior Planner and REMC Staff

Topic: 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.

Objective: Understand the capabilities of Team Rubicon and how to utilize them.

Guest Speakers:

- Neil Glassman, Team Rubicon - neil.glassman@teamrubiconusa.org • (917) 971-3061
- Chris Dawson, Team Rubicon - christopher.dawson@teamrubiconusa.org • (802) 355-2152

Meeting:

1. Introductions
2. Discussion of Team Rubicon led by Neil Glassman
 - AKA “Greyshirts”
 - Global response network
 - Strategy is based on building resilience for the communities they serve
 - 377 volunteers in VT – of those 150 are deployable based on training and background check, 150 are veterans, active duty or National Guard members
 - Not all volunteers are veterans
 - First responders and “kick ass civilians” are also part of their base
 - Volunteers in many places; they call on local force first to benefit from local knowledge
 - Help to bridge the gap between needs and what state and federal assistance can provide to local communities
 - They have a trailer in Manchester, NH and another in CT that are available for VT
 - They engage with preparation, mitigation, response, and recovery
 - 3 operations in VT over the last 3 years; Greyshirts from all over New England responded
 - After being called on by a town Rubicon would send out a recon team to assess situation; they would then decide if they can have an operation – they need housing for themselves and place to set up
 - Some things are deemed out of scope for their capabilities and that would be determined by the recon team
 - They do not have drones or ATVs
 - They do not do mold remediation
 - They do not work with commercial buildings or multifamily dwellings
 - They manage themselves and can deploy within a couple of days; they do like to be connected with local community groups to avoid duplication and to best manage volunteer resources
 - General limit is 8 days for Individual volunteers
 - They have a logistics team that handles their food

- They can assist multiple towns simultaneously
- They can assist individual homeowners and homeowners or resource/community groups can reach out directly
- Liability coverage
 - All volunteers sign waivers
 - Team Rubicon contributes medical deductible if a volunteer does injure themselves
- They need volunteers and you can learn more at their website

3. Updates and other items:

- February meeting topic ideas
 - RACES – West River Radio Club
 - LEMP annex overview
 - Forest Parks and Rec – brush fire risk and resources, resources to enhance local fire departments
- [Local Emergency Management Plans](#) going forward
 - New template
 - New support protocols
- [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#) update
- [Municipal Vulnerability Index tool](#)
- Topic suggestions/requests for meetings/events/trainings/speakers
- The latest [Vermont Emergency Management newsletter](#)
- REMC business – as needed

4. Our next REMC session will be February 11th via Zoom.

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