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**Grand Isle Mutual Aid Meeting**  
**GI-REMC**  
**June 3, 2024 – Draft Minutes**  
**Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department and Virtual**

**Attendance:** Brandy Latimer (NH EMD), Jacquie Kelley (VDH), Pat Robinson (SHVFD), Bill Baron (GI EMD/ GIFD), Ray Allen (GICSO), Adam White (GIVFD), Mike Murdock (NHVFD), Ron Kumetz (Alburgh VFD), Alex Goddard (Alburgh EMD), Shaun Coleman (NRPC), Harry Schoppmann (VEM), Mike Antoniak (Fire Safety Instructor) and Sandy Ladd (AVFD/EMD Assistant).

President Mike Murdock chaired the meeting which began at 7:02 p.m. followed by roll call.

**Public Comment** - None.

**Changes to Agenda** - GICMAA status agenda item moved to first item under GICMAA business.

**Minutes**

*Ron motioned to approve the minutes of the April Meeting. Ray seconded. Motion carried.*

**Treasurer's Report** – No report. Mike noted that Melissa sent an email which included a bank statement. There are no new bills. The Shelburne Police Department will be sending out the 4th quarter billing before the end of the fiscal year. The 3rd quarter billing is pending. The invoice will include the last 2 quarters together.

**Grand Isle Regional Emergency Management Committee**

**VEM Update**

Harry reported

- The 2024 Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference will be held September 10th-11th, 2024 in person at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT with limited sessions available virtually. Sessions will begin at 9:00am and the day will end by 4:15pm each day. REMC has one free room for anyone interested.
- ICS402 for Executives Training will be held in North Hero on June 15<sup>th</sup> from 12-4 pm.
- VEM was funded by legislature for 3 additional Regional Coordinators to alleviate workload.
- Vermont Flood Recovery Symposiums are being held around the state in June.
- The Hazard Mitigation Grant program pre-application period is being extended to August 16<sup>th</sup>. No match required under this program. <https://vem.vermont.gov/funding/mitigation> for more info.

**VDH Update**

Jacquie reported that the Medical Reserve Corps has put together summer preparedness kits to hand out to the public at campgrounds and community events this summer. This is part of an education effort for the public about the dangers of ticks, poison ivy, summer heat, etc. The Team is available to participate in any community event. If interested, email Jacquie at [Jacqueline.Kelley@vermont.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.Kelley@vermont.gov).

**Committee Updates (THIRA, LEPC, TPW)**

Brandy reported that she attended the state's Training and Planning Workshop held over 2 days. The workshop is used to build the state's 3-year training and exercise plan. For Grand Isle County, she requested Incident Command and Shelter related trainings. The ICS402 training for Executives in North Hero on June 15 has room available if anyone is interested. The other two groups have not met since the last meeting.

52 **Grand Isle County Mutual Aid Association**

53 **GICMAA Status**

54 Adam began the discussion on the 401(c)3 status of GICMAA and whether or not the group should  
55 reinstate it. The Secretary of State's Office does not have GICMAA listed anymore. This affects the  
56 group's ability to apply for grants and to collect donations.

57  
58 Mike reviewed the history of GIMCAA's non-profit status and the last efforts to reinstate it. GICMAA  
59 hired a tax professional previously and was required to provide 2 years of financial records. There was a  
60 brief discussion on annual expenses which mostly include dispatching fees. All agreed that it was worth  
61 reinstating the non-profit status.

62  
63 Ron offered to look into the process including hiring a tax professional or accountant to help. AVFD had  
64 to do this previously. He will report back to the group and include a cost estimate.

65  
66 **County Fire Fighter Training**

67 Mike Antoniak and Sandy Ladd gave a presentation on a proposed county fire fighter training program  
68 that is used in other counties. The training basically offers courses that mimic the Firefighter 1  
69 certification training. They would be held in the County. There was an effort to host it shortly before  
70 the pandemic. Sandy added this would be a good tool to recruit new fire department members.

71  
72 Each training session varies in length. Costs per training are primarily to cover student books (approx.  
73 \$1,000). Instructors are volunteers. Having 12-30 students per training would be ideal. The concept  
74 worked well for years in other areas. All were in support of the concept. Departments agreed to task  
75 the training officers to help organize a county program.

76  
77 **Critical Incident Response Team**

78 Pat reported that South Hero VFD purchased gear. Once the non-profit status of GICMAA is fixed, then  
79 he can apply to grants for equipment.

80  
81 **County Emergency Services Administrator Position**

82 Bill reported that he has researched a similar position for a fire compact in New Hampshire. Brandy  
83 helped pull together some information for a position description which will be tailored to fit the county  
84 needs. Some of the duties would include recruitment and retention efforts, resource maintenance, and  
85 training coordination. Efforts to create the position will likely pick up again towards end of summer due  
86 to other commitments. He will have something for the group to review and comment on by early fall.

87  
88 **App Based Response Reporting**

89 Adam reported that he has been looking into an app by a company called First Due  
90 (<https://www.firstdue.com/>). The company offers several apps for fire and EMS that can be used for  
91 pre-incident planning, fire prevention, assets and inventory, etc. He has been looking to see if this is  
92 something that would be beneficial at the County level both in usefulness and price. Shelburne has  
93 been using iamResponding (<https://www.iamresponding.com/>) and Active911 by First Arriving  
94 (<https://firstarriving.com/>). Some of the AI technology with the apps can auto populate reporting forms  
95 based on the type of tone used.

96  
97 Adam agreed to look further into the apps and report back something more formal.

98  
99 **County Based Wildland Firefighting Asset**

100 Bill led a discussion on whether or not the county should procure a UTV for wildland fires. He provided  
101 information and some slides on Milton Fire's UTV (Polaris Ranger) that is equipped for wildland fires.  
102 The discussion included whether or not it was needed, efforts by South Hero to equip a boat with ramp

103 for island responses, dimensions of vehicle, tracks vs tires and costs. A Polaris UTV to be used in this  
104 capacity ranges \$30-50k in price.

105  
106 The concept was supported. Bill offered to get more detailed information including pricing and bring it  
107 back to the group.

108  
109 **Department and EMD Updates**

110 North Hero: Brandy reported that North Hero complete their EM plan. They will be hosting ICS402  
111 mentioned previously. Also hoping to have a local tabletop exercise for Selectboard and staff so  
112 everyone knows their roles and responsibilities. The town went out to bid for updating their Hazard  
113 mitigation plan and will be selecting a contractor soon to complete the work.

114  
115 Alburgh: Alex reported that Alburgh completed their EM plan as well. Alex was appointed the EMD and  
116 Sand Ladd is the assistant EMD. The town will be working with a contractor out of New Hampshire on  
117 creating a hazard mitigation plan. Ron noted that Jason Beaulac acquired a military surplus vehicle for  
118 Alburgh Fire that includes a generator and HVAC system. It was hooked up to the Bingo Hall and worked  
119 very well.

120  
121 Grand Isle: Bill reported the Local EM plan was finalized. Adam reported they are in process of updating  
122 their hazard mitigation plan. He is also meeting with Building Energy to review the solar system installed  
123 at the new Ferry maintenance building. Grand Isle will be scheduling a flammable gas training with VT  
124 Fire Academy. Cota's just installed a new 30K gallon tank.

125  
126 South Hero: Pat reported South Hero completed updating their EM plan and is currently seeking  
127 proposals to update their hazard mitigation plan.

128  
129 *Ron motioned to go into Executive Session for the purposes of appointment or evaluation of a public*  
130 *officer. Adam seconded. Motion carried.*

131  
132 *Ron motioned to exit the Executive Session. Ray seconded. Motion carried.*

133  
134 **Other Business**

135 There was a brief discussion about the April 8 eclipse. There were no issues with crowds or traffic.

136  
137 **Adjourn** - *Ray motioned to adjourn. Pat seconded. Motion carried.*

138  
139 Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.