



DEMHS REGION 4
REPT Steering Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 23, 2022
1:30 p.m.

Attending:

Name	Municipality/Organization	Name	Municipality/Organization
Mark Paquette	SCCOG	Mike Caplet	DEMHS Region 4 Coordinator
Darlene Richards	DEMHS Region 4 Secretary	Juan Roman	First Selectman, Chaplin
Chief Floyd Chaney	EMD, Mashantucket Pequot T.N.	Jim Randall	NECCOG Representative, EMD, Chaplin
Louis Demicco	RESF 4 Chair	Tony Ruggiero	RESF 10 Co-Chair, UConn F.D., CERRIT
Jonathan Montey	EMD/Deputy Police Chief, Mohegan Tribal Nation	Richard Waselik	RESF 9 Co-Chair
Richard Willner	RESF 11 Chair, Stonington Veterinary Hospital	Robin Kebernick	Eversource Manager, Community Relations, Eastern Division
T.J. Magnoli	RESF 12 Eversource (North)	Toni Rackliffe Berlandy	RESF 12 Eversource East
Michael Licata	REPT STC Chair, EMD/Fire Marshal, Windham	Kristin Doundoulakis	RESF 3 Chair
David DeNoia	RESF 3 Co-Chair, New London Public Works	Kim Turner-Haugabook	CT DPH Vaccine Outreach
Tom Curcio	EMD/Fire Chief, City of New London	Captain Jay Bee	DEMMD Groton Town
Chief Tracy Montoya	EMD/Fire Chief, City of Norwich	David Bradley	RESF 20 Chair, PSS, SLIS, U.S. Coast Guard
Bill Skene	EMD, Brooklyn	Scott Belleville	RESF 5 North Chair, EMD, Putnam
Fred Stone	RESF 4 Co-Chair		

Called to Order and Report of the Chair: REPT STC Chairman, Michael Licata, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. via Zoom teleconference and Mike Caplet determined that a quorum was present. Mike Caplet introduced Kim Turner-Haugabook who is new with the Department of Public Health's Equity Team with Region 4. Kim works with the most vulnerable town populations in our region by providing vaccination clinics along with the new Vaccine plus Program that is now rolling out. Mike Caplet provided Kim's email address in the group chat.

Review/Acceptance of Past Minutes: Michael Licata asked for a motion to accept the previous REPT STC minutes for the January 26, 2022 virtual meeting. **Chief Floyd Chaney, EMD of Mashantucket Pequot T.N. made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Scott Belleville, Chair of RESF 5 North, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment: There were no comments from the public.

Report from the Chairman: Chairman Licata indicated that the rate of Covid-19 cases is dropping and we are closely monitoring these rates as the spring approaches.

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Financial Reports—Mark Paquette: Mark reported that the FY2019 Homeland Security Grant is extended until February 28, 2023 by Doug Glowacki of the DEMHS Grants Unit. Although it is good news for the FY19 funding, I do not believe that we will receive an extension for the FY2020 grant. This means that the FY2020 grant ends at the end of April in 2023. Mark then briefly reported out on the RESF Groups status on unspent funding for FY19. Mark indicated that the RESF 5 Cyber Security Subcommittee has \$33,000 left to spend. Mike Caplet and I attended the Cybersecurity meeting earlier today and Mike Caplet indicated that a proposal was submitted for specific courses; however, I am not certain the courses will match up to the grant deliverables. More information will be forthcoming. Mark shared that he has spoken to the RESF 13 Chairman, Sergeant Tom Lazzaro of the Norwich P.D., regarding their \$72,000 of unspent funding, but Tom explained that has training courses planned so we should be ok with that. Mark also indicated that we might be able to have an RESF 11 Exercise and utilize the funding because the FY19 grant has been extended. Mark stated that CERRIT has \$56,977 of funding remaining; however, that is being spent down. Lastly, Mark shared that we have \$8,300 of funding that remains for the maintenance of equipment.

I am very happy that we received the FY19 grant extension without pulling projects; however, remember that we also need to spend the FY2020 funds too.

Reports from the RESF Groups:

RESF 1	Transportation	No report.
RESF 2	Communications	Wayne Gronlund was not present so there was no report.
RESF 3	Public Works and Engineering	Kristin reported that this group will meet again on March 8, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held virtually.
RESF 4	Firefighting	Louis Demicco reported that their next meeting will take place tomorrow at Mohegan Tribal Nation at 7:00 p.m. This group will determine who will receive printers, etc.
RESF 5	Emergency Management & Cyber Security Subcommittee	<p>Scott Belleville, Co-Chair RESF 5 North, reported that this group will meet on March 15, 2022 and will also include the attendance of the RESF 9 group so that they can demonstrate what this particular RESF Group does.</p> <p>Mike Caplet spoke on behalf of the RESF 5 Cyber Security Subcommittee group. Mike shared that this group met this morning. Chief Finkelstein attended along with several CEOs, school officials and other IT professionals. CTIC also provided a cybersecurity briefing. This group requires a nondisclosure meeting document in order to attend due to cyber issues. Julie Wilson is assisting in exploring future training options with Texas A&M. The next meeting for this group will be on March 30, 2022. If your municipal IT Point of Contact or School can attend please make sure to sign the Nondisclosure form. I will also send out another meeting invite as we move closer to this date. It was good to see this group back up and running again.</p>

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		Mike Caplet reported that the RESF 5 South group has not met recently; however, the members have been attending the RESP meetings. I expect that this group will start up again in the spring.
RESF 6	Mass Care, Housing and Human Resources	Mike Caplet reported on behalf of Sue Bolen who was not present. Mike shared that he and Sue Bolen are working together to finalize the outstanding shelter agreements. The State Functional Needs trailer is moving to Groton Town and will be an additional resource for us to utilize from the State of Connecticut.
RESF 7	Resource Support	No report.
RESF 8	Public Health and Medical Services	Stephen Mansfield shared that this group met last week and discussed the impacts Covid-19 has had on the State. This meeting also successfully fulfilled all of the RESF 8 grant deliverables. All of the other organizations were invited to attend this meeting, and many shared how Covid-19 has affected their organizations with staffing issues and mental health, etc.
RESF 9	Urban Search and Rescue & Special Operations Working Group	Richard Waselik reported that this group met last week and discussed the goal of providing smaller training opportunities in-house with a goal of conducting larger training sessions in the future.
RESF 10	Oil and Hazardous Materials Response	Chair Tony Ruggiero reported that his group is working with Scott Wright to obtain more radios for the RESF 10 group and will eventually do so for all of the State RESF Teams.
RESF 11	Agriculture and Natural Resources	Chair Richard Willner shared that this group will meet in early March to try and reboot this group. The goal is to have one meeting per month with an educational opportunity across the 5 Regions. Richard explained that Doctor Conserva still conducts large animal training rescues; consequently, it is now possible that we can conduct an exercise before the FY2019 grant expires.
RESF 12	Energy	T. J. Magnoli reported that he has been attending quarterly meetings with liaisons regarding storm response and load shed. He also reported that during the last storm, many municipalities did not provide a full description of fully blocked roads. T. J. shared that this information helps Eversource understand the details of the situation before arriving so he reminded everyone to provide the descriptions. Toni Berlandy also added that they should include "Blocked Road" in the "Comments" section as well.
RESF 13	Public Safety and Security	Mike Caplet reported for this group because Sergeant Tom Lazzaro was not present. Mike shared that there has been some turnover at the Law Enforcement Council and they are expecting a new Director soon. The administrative staff person has also retired; consequently, we will update you when these positions are filled.
RESF 14	Long Term Community Recovery and Mitigation	Mike Caplet reported out for this group. He said the group continues their work and there is a chance that there will be another Recover Steering Committee meeting in a few months.
RESF 15	External Affairs	No report.
RESF 20	Marine	Chair David Bradley shared that the Port Security CT project is moving forward. The contractor has been established will begin in

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		April. The concept of operations plan has been updated and David thanked Nicole and Kimberly for their help in getting it accomplished.
	Exercise Planning Committee	No report.

Update from the DEMHS Region 4 Coordinator: Mike Caplet provided his briefing to the Committee. He shared that Region 4 is still conducting monthly RESP meetings, and DEMHS continues providing Rapid Covid Testing Kits with a focus on providing them to vulnerable populations and School Districts. We had a POD scheduled for Friday; however, with the storm coming, this has been rescheduled for early next week. The Covid-19 case rates continue to drop.

Our office continues preparing for the storm and if you are staffing your EOC, please be aware that we have new user forms for WebEOC. Our new DEMHS Director will be starting soon and we will share that officially with you soon. There are more DEMHS vacancies and we expect to learn about more in the Division soon. Please keep your eye out for any position openings if you are interested in any of these opportunities.

Mike also shared that EMDs can update their Emergency Operation Plans with a new template. Please reach out to Mike Caplet or Carla if you are interested. Mike also stated that DEMHS is in the process of completing CERT/MRC annual activity reporting and is in the process of compiling these stats by March 23, 2022.

Old Business: None

New Business: Mark Paquette reminded the RESF groups that they need to build their budgets for the FY 2022 grant period. Mark will send out his spreadsheet in July for the groups to complete.

Mike Caplet also stated that as everyone knows, there is a surplus of PPE equipment at the State warehouse in New Britain. After the first wave of people viewing and taking the left over equipment has occurred, another inventory of items will be conducted. If there are additional items available, I will send out another email advising you the details on when to procure them. Lastly, the Committee had a brief discussion regarding the next REPT STC meeting for March 23, 2022. Mike Caplet shared that we could also hold hybrid meeting because his office has the capability to do this. He has been using it for RESF 4 and it is working very well. The Committee agreed to meet on March 23, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. at the Colchester Town Hall and also provide an opportunity for others to join via Zoom teleconference.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 2:15 p.m.

Meeting Handouts:

Meeting Agenda

Previous REPT STC Zoom Meeting Minutes for 1-26-2022

Respectfully Submitted by: Darlene Richards, DEMHS Region 4 Secretary