

STATE OF VERMONT PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE

Regular Meeting No. 41 – Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2024

Via Microsoft Teams

11:16 AM - Call to Order

Co-Chair Morrison brought the meeting to order and conducted roll call for Task Force members and noted the absence of Co-Chair Barbara Neal. Co-Chair Morrison reminded the attendees that the meeting was being recorded.

The following were in attendance:

Task Force Members Present

Jennifer Morrison, Vermont Department of Public Safety Commissioner, Co-Chair

Paul White, Vermont Regional Dispatch Working Group, Vice-Chair

James ‘Jim’ Mack, Shelburne Dispatch

Ron Kumetz, Alburgh Volunteer Fire Department Chief

Michael Wright, CALEX Ambulance Service Chief Executive Officer – Joined at 11:27 AM

Others Present

Emily Mullaney, Task Force Clerk

Dominick Arcuri, Televate

Rick Burke, Televate

Jason Malloy, Mission Critical Partners

Bonnie Maney, Mission Critical Partners

Douglas Farnham, Chief Recovery Officer

Approval of Agenda

No changes.

Approval of Minutes

- 12/04/2024 – Regular Meeting No. 40

Motion: At 11:18 AM, Jim Mack moved that the Task Force approve the minutes as written; 2nd by Ron Kumetz. Motion passed unanimously.

Remarks from Douglas Farnham

Co-Chair Morrison introduced Douglas Farnham, Chief Recovery Officer.

Doug reviewed the recovery team's intent to create regional recovery networks. For this purpose, Erik Filkorn from BGS and FEMA are creating regional schemes that may be insightful for the Task Force. Erik Filkorn will be available to act as the operational link. Doug showed the map FEMA had curated and listed the layers that informed it. The recovery team found the VTrans maintenance districts and the watersheds most impactful for their purposes. Doug discussed details of the recovery team's regional scheme. He discussed the drawbacks of the Regional Planning Commission's map boundaries and the need to reorganize for recovery purposes. He also discussed the cultural differences between regions that cannot realistically be ignored in creating new boundaries.

Co-Chair Morrison asked if topography was included in any of the map layers.

Doug said he thinks there is a topography layer but if there isn't it can be added easily. He explained that topography did play a role in their decisions to follow or not follow county lines. He provided Hardwick and the Lamoille River as an example. He explained topography was one of the drawbacks of using the AOT maintenance district lines.

Dom asked if the Task Force could have access to the map and its layers.

Doug said yes, it could be made available to the Task Force, but there is no public website to view it.

Co-Chair Morrison suggested a meeting between Erik Filkorn, Task Force project managers, and up to three Task Force members to review the map and layers. The team agreed.

Doug mentioned that the Regional Governance Study Committee will put together their own regional schemes eventually, noting that their work is paused for now but may resume in six months' time. He acknowledged that the recovery regional schemes are only informational for the Task Force.

Rick Burke of Televate asked where the data for the map layers originated.

Doug explained the data was taken primarily from 211 and FEMA claims.

Co-Chair Morrison added that the data gathered from 211 and FEMA pertains to property damage, not life safety.

Doug concluded that, while the purposes of response and recovery overlap, time-sensitive response issues should take priority over recovery. He reasoned that response more often impacts life and safety, whereas recovery usually does not.

Co-Chair Morrison asked Task Force members and project managers if the team should continue taking the opportunity to hear how other organizations carve up the state. The team agreed.

Public Comment

Co-Chair Morrison opened the floor to public comment. No public comments.

Project Updates

Dom Arcuri from the Televate project management team provided the following project updates:

- Televate is reviewing the updates MCP made to the inventory and assessment report.
- Workshops have been held for Lessons Learned, Dispatch Operations, Technologies, Governance, and Wireless Coverage.
- The third and final Community Listening session was held on December 6th.
- MCP has provided a draft outline for the system planning document, and Televate is working to provide feedback on that. The initial draft is expected on January 10th.

Co-Chair Morrison and Dom discussed a timeline for feedback on the system planning document.

Jason Malloy from Mission Critical Partners added that the feedback regarding the length of the inventory report was received and understood. They are aiming for 30 to 50 pages, roughly.

Co-Chair Morrison suggested that MCP keep the detailed information available in companion documents such as training standards or appendices so that those details are available to those who want it but not necessary to read through for those who don't.

Vice Chair Paul White asked for clarification on the documents requiring feedback at this time. The team clarified. Jason Malloy redistributed the updated inventory and assessment report.

Rick Burke, Jason Malloy, and Co-Chair Morrison discussed the timeline for feedback on the inventory report and when to send the relevant sections to agencies. Dom suggested using a standing meeting to review comments on the report.

New Business

No new business.

Confirm Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

A special meeting will be held Wednesday, January 8th, at 11:15 AM. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15th, at 11:15 AM.

Motion: There being no further business, Jim Mack made a motion to adjourn; 2nd by Paul White. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Emily Mullaney, Clerk

12/18/2024
Date