

Minutes of the 8-21-07 VT WARN Leadership Team Meeting

Attendees: Heather Young (WSD), Elizabeth Hunt (WSD), Phil Acebo (VRWA), Dick Pratt (CWD), Paul Tice (CWD), Rick Kenney (GMWEA/Hartford Water Dept.), Ed Savage (Rutland City), Peter Coffey (VEM), Linda Boccuzzo (VDH), Paul Olander (WWD) and Tom Noble (Horsley Witten Group)

Tom Noble from the Horsley Witten Group gave an informal presentation regarding WARN

Tom Noble reviewed WARN happenings in the region:

CT- larger utilities attend meetings

Atlantic States Rural Water Association is part, Wastewater utilities, CT Dept. of Public Health, Emergency Mgmt Agency, Dept of Homeland Security, Chair is the South Regional Water Authority—private company,
19 members of steering committee, with 12 typically show up, State reps don't vote.
Used FlaWARN as a template
Hope to have CT WARN fully operational by December '07

RI-Paul Titzmann (Providence Water)-chair
No legislature that prevents WARN agreement (now)
State primacy agency is a non-voting member

MA-Marcus Kempe.. defacto-chair
MASS-DEP member
Use mostly conference calls/meetings for getting together
Made sure they had representatives through out the state.

NH-currently has statewide utility mutual aid program, but doesn't currently include private utilities. Already has 100 communities signed up, and will link WARN into this,
Hired a circuit rider to encourage sign up/outreach.

Ways to maintain a WARN..
Through workshops
Fair/meeting booths
Website updates (including databases)

Vermont's proposed intrastate mutual aid agreement-(planned to go before the VT Legislature this winter)
Doesn't have to be a declared disaster in order to be activated.

National news:

There is work being done on a National WARN website
EPA funded.. private contractor called. CSC is working on it.
Encourage utility to utility contact

ILWARN has a non-paid consultant runs IL WARN, in turn, provides good press for consulting company.

Dick Pratt mentioned we are moving forward by splitting up duties, and moving towards a steering committee.

Peter Coffey said the VT WARN Mutual Aid Agreement needs to be in-line by Fall because of the Legislature.

Tom Noble said that the Horsley Witten Group's EPA 'WARN contract' ends on Sept 15th.

To do's

Pamphlet edits—need associations/departments approval

Database houses? Maybe: Vermont Technical College, UVM, or Norwich Univ.?

Where did TXWARN and FlaWARN) get funding ??

Elizabeth Hunt to ask VLCT to look at draft mutual aid WARN agreement

CWD to look at draft mutual aid WARN agreement

Peter Coffey mentioned that it is wise to have pre-set prices for equipment rental, etc.-- and to use FEMA rates. Also, FEMA splits the remaining 25% reimbursement from the 75%.

Tom Noble will look for any legal disputes that may have been raised by other states.

VT WARN Regional Discussion

Different regions for various departments/agencies
For the VT State Police-there are quadrants (state split in four)
Advantage-localized help/knowledge

Pros/Cons

8 utility reps with four quadrants?

Regional Reps-- Need to decide who's going to be on it.

Paul Olander suggested that smaller communities should have some representation in the WARN.

Tom Noble mentioned that a state's rural water association often acts as a circuit rider to promote WARN.

If we have four regions: need to have water/wastewater representation, VRWA can serve has smaller system representation, in addition to, continue to have one VT WARN committee

Good idea to meet at pre-existing meetings once VT WARN is formed

Paul Olander mentioned that there are few wastewater representatives 'out there'

Rick Kenney mentioned by smaller systems (about 14 connections) can still sign WARN agreement .Ultimately-- it becomes an insurance policy.

Tom Noble-to arrange for temporary passwords for other states' WARN systems

Dick Pratt would like a VT WARN package to be developed to show potential participants.

Paul Olander said there is a "Green Book" from Wastewater Mgmt--that has an operator list.

Next meeting:

To do items

Decisions for direction

Should VTWARN require a fee?

Regional Approach for VT WARN?

Formal voting vs. non voting members

Get VT WARN pamphlet ready for fall's GMWEA meeting