

Minutes of the 7-16-07 VT WARN Leadership Team Meeting

Attendees: Heather Young (WSD), Elizabeth Hunt (WSD), Shaun Fielder (VRWA), Phil Acebo (VRWA), Alan Shelvey (Rutland City), Dick Pratt (CWD), Paul Tice (CWD), Rick Keeney (GMWEA/Hartford Water Dept.), Ed Savage (Rutland City), and Peter Coffey (VEM), Lynn Gilleland (USEPA) and other USEPA representative.

Lynn Gilleland spoke about how the USEPA can facilitate the WARN setup in Vermont through an existing contract with the Horsley Witten Group.

Updates—Heather Young mentioned that Elizabeth Hunt has been unable to get a hold of Jessica Hill, Executive Director of the Vermont League of Cities & Towns. In addition, Elizabeth said there could be an opportunity to have a WARN booth at VLCT's Town Fair in the fall.

Peter Coffey (Emergency Mgmt) mentioned that they are currently drafting a mutual aid agreement, which won't require a state declaration. This agreement includes public works, in addition to private utilities. This mutual aid agreement needs to go to VT Legislature. A draft copy can be found on the VT Emergency Management's website. He also mentioned that the VT WARN mutual aid agreement could be an addendum to the VEM agreement.

Network updates:

Discussion of difference between and EMA and WARN setup

Water Operators are considered First Responders under Title 23 VSA

To date, Vermont Emergency Management hasn't talked to VLCT concerning mutual aid.

AWWA-researching interstate issue on utility-to-utility across state lines—still up for debate

Peter Coffey remarked that 'traditionally' whoever asks for help pays for it. Typically, FEMA reimburses 75%, if covered.

Dick Pratt talked about the necessity of a phone list.

Alan Shelvey provided an article concerning the benefits of the WARN.

Shaun Fielder asked about possible money available for WARN website, etc.--directed to USEPA rep. He also mentioned VRWA has an on-line operator list.

Dick Pratt-mentioned sample agreement to show other water systems before it's official.

Also, Dick said that maintaining could be less than \$10.00/month, by using the same person who runs the Champlain Water District website. This would include secure membership area/password, etc.

Dick Pratt raised the question concerning a paid position for the leader of VT WARN. Also, there was discussion concerning other associations to be used as the leadership role.

Shaun Fielder plans to talk to other state Rural Water Associations concerning their WARNs.

Dick Pratt reviewed the draft mutual aid agreement he had customized to Vermont.

Shaun Fielder asked how this mutual aid agreement compares to that of a fire department. Peter Coffey responded that the utilities helping utilities mutual aid agreement is much more detailed.

Lynn Gilleland said that she would forward VT's draft agreement to Horsley Witten for comment.

Rick Keeney pointed out the importance to begin passing the agreement to municipalities and water systems..to sign them up...the quicker the better. VLCT-good contact for the municipal side.

Alan Shelvey noted that the mutual aid agreement should not be a stagnant document

Things to do:

Shaun Fielder requested to have the CalWARN and TxWARN hand outs in electronic form.

Elizabeth Hunt and Peter Coffey to meet to discuss VT emergency management's mutual aid—and how it compares/contrasts with the WARN agreement.

LEPCs—need to be educated on the WARN concept/benefits.