

Lower Connecticut River Valley Selectmen's Association
May 10, 2006
Minutes

Attendance

Chester:	Tom Marsh
Clinton:	
Deep River:	Dick Smith
Essex:	Phil Miller
Killingworth:	
Lyme:	
Old Lyme:	Tim Griswold
Old Saybrook:	Mike Pace
Westbrook:	
DOT:	Kasey Faraci
Staff:	Linda Krause, Janice Ehle-Meyer, Jean Davies, Wini Olson
Guests:	ETD: Jim Rode, John Forbis DEMAS Region 2 Mary Rose Duberek, Peter Carbone, Bill Richards of SCCOG, Bruce Watrous and Joel Severance Betty Wagner Representing Congressman Simmons

I. Vice-Chairman Dick Smith called the meeting to order in the CRERPA conference space at 455 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, at 8:42 AM

II. Minutes

Phil Miller moved that the minutes of the April 12, 2006 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Tom Marsh and unanimously approved.

III. Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Vice Chairman Smith introduced Mary Rose Duberek, Director of DEMHS Planning and Preparedness for Region 2. Mary Rose distributed maps of the regions that she described as "final for now".

Chairman Pace arrived and assumed the chair.

Ms. Duberek reviewed the rush to establish regional evacuation /shelter plans and noted that DOT and the State Police cooperated in the planning. A team from the Federal Homeland Security recently reviewed the Connecticut plan and considered it quite good. Ms. Duberek noted that each town has a local plan. The next area of awareness is special population groups. As an example, DMR has its own evacuation plan. Each CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) needs to be granted information on other special needs residents. The NRP (National Response Plan) seeks to coordinate local efforts.

It is essential to involve Public Works and establish reliable communication systems.

Ms. Duberek announced that Bill Buckridge is on the planning team. She needs another representative, preferably a CEO.

Ms. Duberek commended Joel Severance for beginning to create an animal evacuation plan even before the State Animal Response Team was formed. The state plan will include exotic animals and livestock.

Chairman Pace asked about the animal side of Bird Flu. Have the flight patterns been checked? They have been. All members requested more information.

Phil Miller asked about NIMS certification and commended Chester for the being the first town to achieve it. Joel Severance announced a NIMS training opportunity in Clinton.

Linda Krause mentioned that she finally has the feeling that the program is starting to come together.

Ms. Duberek distributed 2-1-1 Infoline packets and described how the emergency team is relying upon the system. CTN (Connecticut Television Network) has a camera permanently installed in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). It can be operated either by a news crew or by the Emergency Operations Team. It is included in the Basic tier of all Cable franchises.

Money from 2004 grants must be spent. The 2005-2005 MOU should be signed together with a resolution authorizing the signature.

There will be a hurricane Exercise in June.

Linda Krause referred to the maps and mentioned that Region 2 includes 4 RPOs, minus the Lyme and Old Lyme. The four RPOs are cooperating in DEMAS planning.

Joel Severance displayed a Red Cross "Go Kit". He recommended that all family units should obtain them or create their own version. They are available at ARC.COM

Phil Miller asked about the distribution of cots. Several plans have been considered. Currently, they are a state asset managed by the American Red Cross.

In parting, Ms. Duberek reminded members that she needs one more representative from this region.

IV. Workforce Alliance

Chairman Pace introduced Bill Villano, Executive Director of the Workforce Alliance.

Director Villano explained that there five workforce investment regions. He distributed packets that include a list of member towns for the New Haven based alliance. The Workforce Alliance functions with a seven member board of directors. Five of the seven members left office last November. Three of those were Killingworth, Westbrook and Middlefield. David Denvir still participates. There are four business vacancies.

Willie Fritz previously agreed to represent the LCVSA on the Workforce Alliance. Tom Marsh was appointed to join him on the board. The matter will be added to the agenda for the CRVCEO and another member will be sought.

Chairman Pace asked about money available for worker training. There is \$500,000 available to be divided between the five areas.

Mr. Villano has a power point presentation. It was agreed that it could be shown at the June meeting of the CRVCEO.

Mr. Villano mentioned the polarization of the economy. There are very few jobs between unskilled labor and high end jobs. The jobs that have been lost paid over \$54,000 plus benefits. They are being replaced by jobs in the \$27,000 to \$34,000 range. The 45 to 50 age group is rapidly increasing. The 34 to 45 age group is decreasing.

Chairman Pace suggested that the Alliance contact the Selectmen through Linda Krause.

V. Other Business

A. HHW- Westbrook

Linda Krause mentioned that the LCVSA has a problem with Westbrook. The initial invoice for Westbrook's share of the operation and maintenance costs for the regional Household Hazardous Waste Management Facility was sent in July 2005. It initially was not paid because the town had not approved a budget at that time... Two additional notices have been sent. Mr. Raffa is not sure that he wants to participate in the HHW program... Recently, Ralph Eno visited the town and discussed the matter.

Chairman Pace asked Linda to draft a letter on behalf of the Association to be sent collectively from all the Selectmen to the Chairman of the Westbrook Board of Finance, together with each Selectman and every member of the Board of Finance. It should remind them of Westbrook's obligation to participate in the HHW program.

Phil Miller mentioned that Westbrook residents use the facility, including 17 households at the collection this past Saturday...

Mike Pace volunteered to speak directly with Westbrook officials if more information is requested about the program.

B. Membership – Attendance

It was agreed that Selectmen who do not attend meetings of the Association remain unaware of many issues. It was also agreed that peer pressure is needed. A group letter will be sent to Mr. Raffa, Mr. Klein and Bill Koch, together with the other members of their Boards of Selectmen, urging them to either attend or delegate the responsibility to another member of the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy C. Griswold, Secretary