

Minutes Hope Coalition  
September 3, 2024  
6pm  
297 Vine Street, Berlin Vt

9 Attending  
Meeting opened at 6pm.



John Stewart FEMA and Terri Wood FEMA VAL attending,

New Monday platform (integrated tracking program for LTRGs) is up and running. Still working on making minor adjustments to the system for optimal use and efficiency by Hope Coalition. This will allow access to case information to staff, with a platform for construction access and needs; linked but blocking personal data. Stormwise is working to update and integrate the system with enhancements and link different operating platforms. Stormwise is also numbering all the 2024 cases that have been previously loaded for consistency. Dan and Liz (Stormwise) have been in contact to improve the system for use of Hope and other VT LTRGs.

Steve Barth has been hired by Hope Coalition to work on all initial assessments for the 2024 flood victims and work up job scope estimates of work crews needed.

Larry and Kevin from MDS have offered to have winter crews available if there is enough work. It has been noted that particularly in the Washington/Orange region in many cases land/road/bridge damage was the issue rather than the extensive interior flooding seen in the 2023 flood event. Plainfield home damage resulted in complete home loss and may require ground up home rebuilds outside the current flood zone area. The town is considering possibly location and funding sources.

John (MDS) and Ty spent two days visiting bridge sites that had washed out. (MDS) has offered very reasonable rates for engineered bridge plans and teams to come in and help build in the future. Dan and Jon Stewart and working together to come up with some federal funds for estimating the scope of the project statewide. Then it will be a matter of identifying where the money is available to fund these projects. Jon shared that FEMA has changed some rules and if the access, either by private bridge or road, is to a person's primary home and they are disabled or may need emergency access there may be funding available that previously has not been there. Jon also asked if the private bridges accounted for homes affected or the bridges themselves-at this point there are 42 private bridge structures -some impacting multiple homes. There may be some that have not yet been reported. Jon and Dan will cross reference their lists to verify all known bridge outages are accounted for.

<b>To</b>	Pat HopeCoalition dan.molind@yahoo.com  Person
<b>Cc</b>	 Person

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<b>Bcc</b>	 Person
<b>Subject</b>	

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Ty and Jon (MDS) completed sight visits for 7 bridges with 5 engineered fully measured/sighted jobs ready for plans to be drawn up. One of the bridges mentioned was a private bridge in Richmond that services 10 families.

Presently the Vermont Community Foundation has said they will not fund repairs of private roads and bridges for the 2024 flood event. FEMA shared that Devin King and Doug Farnham are working at the state level to address this issue. Meanwhile FEMA will try to direct funds for the initial assessment and engineering specs for all bridge repairs, The cost or bridge repairs may be significantly lower than the cost of home buyouts since without repairs the homes are unlivable as there is no access. Pat did ask if there are people from FEMA or the state level reviewing the dredging of rivers and conservation of wildlife when it has possible devastating effects on communities.

Dan reported there are 26 cases still to be completed from the 2023 flood. A few are excavations and will be done by next week. Some are complex cases and will be turned over to Bridge Case Management. Some are in the hands of Kyle Komline for VDRF review. A few cases are held up by permits or clients not being ready to engage in the process. A push by all excavation and construction will try to close these prior to the October meeting.

Steve Barth has 5-6 small, short term teams lined up for this fall to assist with 2023 case closure and 2024 emergency needs.

A quick overview of the 2023 cases remaining was done with discussion of work to be completed. It was agreed some due to the extent of damage, condition of dwelling, lack of funds, that these jobs would not be completed this year.

Dan said of the 350 report VT 211 cases 70 have since reported back they are OK. Flood damage has been repaired and they are "all OK". This reflects the VT 211 for Hope Coalition's cities and towns. There may be some unreported damage that may come to light through FEMA reports or claims.

We will continue to maintain the 297 Vine Street location for incoming teams and storage of relief goods. The Plainfield location is being finished as a camp/mission house and could be utilized for back up teams.

Jon Stewart from FEMA said that he hopes to have an in depth video meeting next Thursday or Friday regarding all of the policy changes at FEMA. He will keep us informed.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.