

**Central Naugatuck Valley Emergency Planning Committee/Citizen Corps Council
Special Meeting**

**Watertown Fire Department
Conference Room
935 Main Street
Watertown**

**Thursday, December 11, 2014
5:00 pm**

Present: Mike Devine, Bethlehem; Steve Savage, NWCT Public Safety; Richard Mortensen, Prospect; Fran Dambowsky, Naugatuck; Scott Pelletier, Oxford; Chet Sergey, Wolcott; Barry Riekert, Southbury; Ken Hanks, Naugatuck.

Staff: Joanna Rogalski and Virginia Mason, COGCVN

Ken Hanks called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There was no public comment.

Discussion began with the question of the continuation of the Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) as the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley (COGCVN) dissolves and a new nineteen (19) member council of governments, i.e. the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG), begins operating on January 1, 2015. COGCVN planners have been involved with REPT Region 5 emergency planning efforts. It is unknown if NVCOG will continue facilitating emergency planning. The EPC members present discussed the value added of COGCVN emergency planning involvement and of the EPC in general. Members found the networking element of the meetings valuable. COGCVN involvement has helped facilitate communication between the EMD's and the Regional office. The EPC is a means of conveying strength in numbers and presenting a united front in the face of decreasing funds available for emergency planning. EPC members cited that the COGCVN provides representation for many towns on the REPT steering committee; without the COGCVN, the ESF chairs would be the only point of communication for the EPC members, and that channel of communication has not been as reliable as the COGCVN. COGCVN provides the REPT with feedback from the EPC members. It was agreed upon that a system for each ESF chair to respond to individual members – a list of each chair's contact information would be a good start. The NVCOG will be

comprised of members from REPT regions 5, 2 and 3, which may be problematic. There was reiterated concern that the EPC members will not have representation at state agency meetings if the COGCNV/NVCOG ceases involvement with emergency planning.

The EPC members present agreed of the value added of the Emergency Planning Commission and GOCCNV involvement in emergency planning. A suggestion was made to write a strongly worded letter to the incoming NVCOG Executive Director, Rick Dunne, endorsing the continued involvement of NVCOG in emergency planning efforts. A motion was then made by Scott Pelletier and seconded by Fran Dombowsky, and thus it was unanimously voted:

MOTION: “To remain an active emergency planning group and to continue regional staff support from the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments for administrative activities, attending EPC meetings, and carrying out DEMHS Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) 5 functions.”

Joanna Rogalski, COGCNV regional planner, will collaborate with Ken Hanks, EPC chair, to draft a letter to Rick Dunne. A suggestion was made that Ken Hanks attend the NVCOG Transitional Executive Meeting (TEC).

The discussion turned to grants with particular concern that less funding would be allocated to emergency training.

Q: Can money be requested for a particular class?

A: More likely to get funding if training is open to a region not just a particular municipality.

Member Towns should send a proxy to REPT meetings. A COG staff member could be a contact person. Members found a verbal meeting reminder helpful, along with a letter to the Emergency Management Director to follow-up with the Chief Elected Official (CEO).

There is money available in Citizen Corps grants; application is encouraged. What is allowed for funding varies from month to month. There is a CERT meeting next week – more information on training opportunities may follow from that meeting.

In other business, the Everbridge system was discussed following a question as to why multiple information mediums were used in succession for Code Red situations. The need for a long term care plan was also discussed. If the EPC will continue into the next year, it would be good to add a conference call option for future meetings.

On a motion by _____, seconded by _____, the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna B. Rogalski

Regional Planner, COGCNV