



Minnesota Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

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General Meeting Minutes

Date: December 12, 2019

Venue: American Red Cross, Minneapolis

Attendance: Ryc Lyden, ARES; Ruth Talford, LSS; Dick Anderson & Tom Anderson, LDS; Ed Olson, MWBC; Dennis Walter and Brian Olson, HSEM; Dan Christophulos & Dan Hoeft, IOCC; Steve Hartman, American Red Cross; Andy Labs, WBL CERT; Richard Urdahl-Pierce, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; Phil Jacobs, Team Rubicon; Marie Putnam & Maj. Rae Doliber, Salvation Army; Lucy Angelis, City St Paul EM; Gary Bochman, MN United Methodists; Nathan Zerbe, Mennonite Disaster Service; Earl Wilson, Footprint Project; Lauren Lombard, Headwaters; Tom Fitzhenry

Via Phone: Mary Hatcher, United Way 211; Ron McCarthy & Maj. Tom Fitzhenry, MN Civil Air Patrol; Tzu-Jing (Jenny) Pan, Tzu Chi; Kevin Schmidt, WBL CERT; Allen Kemp (sp?), Christian Aid Ministries; Jeanne Moran & Sarah Jensen, FEMA Reg 5

Welcome– President Ryc Lyden called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Welcomed all and went around room and did brief introductions.

Approval of Minutes – Tom Anderson motioned and Marie Putnam seconded to approve the September '19 General Membership Meeting minutes; PASSED. MNVOAD financial report shared

HSEM Update – Brian Olson, Preparedness & Recovery Bureau Director, presentation on this year's reorganization of HSEM and basic operations overview (slides to be shared with entire membership after the meeting). Brief discussion on pilot project to start building local voluntary agency liaison capacity. Also shared updated MOU between MNVOAD & HSEM.

Board Report – Announcement of board vacancy with Kim Dettmer's resignation, board appointed Steve Hartman (ARC) to fill vacancy until next term elections in March. Ed Olson motioned and Dan Christophulos seconded to approve this temporary appointment. MOTION PASSED.

Ryc introduced several actions planned to prepare MNVOAD to anticipated response needs for 2020 flooding:

- Use a new Organization Info Form to survey membership, to be emailed with follow-up phone conversations
- Try a stream-lined process for receiving (new Assistance Request forms) and handling requests for aid (more efficient coordination calls limited to action discussion and using ICS info-sharing)
- Improve Reporting to substantiate impact of our work by reinforce use of Trip Reports, tracking of volunteer hours tracking, MNVOAD start generating After-Action Reports

Annual Conference Input- Shared outline of anticipated schedule and session focus for upcoming MNVOAD Conference (Saturday, March 21, 2020 at Best Buy HQ in Richfield); This year's theme, "Help for the Helpers...we're in this together". In addition to setting up a mock Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC), plan on having several informational sessions on how to build response capacity, care for our responders, and improve collaboration efficiency for our members. Also hoping to attract more emergency management partners and community members to this event so enhanced opportunity to showcase member agencies in the MARC demo. MNVOAD members with session suggestions,



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questions or interest in joining the conference planning committee should contact Laura Fruci
mamafrooch@comcast.net

Member Agency Updates –

MWBC- Held a Disaster Relief Training in partnership with a local Hmong Church

NVOAD- MACP Grant secured to add a National staff member to support state VOADs; new website coming in 2020, will offer a shared resource for state website use; working on expanding availability of new Disaster Recovery platform, DART, beyond Hurricane Harvey area.

ARC- Busy with lots of house fires past few months in addition to assisting the 150+ families displaced by the fatal Cedar Riverside Fire and support for the recent ANG helicopter crash. Still on track to merge the Dakotas and MN region this spring.

LDS- introduced new official rep, Dick Anderson replacing Tom Anderson; had great response for tree removal in Duluth

Headwaters- deployed to NC & TX recently; have a new response trailer; new initiative on human trafficking post-disaster; published their 7th book for kids; heading to PR in Jan 2020.

PDS- developing new teams or responding to human-caused disasters; offering 2 workshops on resilience and renewal for responders

Team Rubicon- deployed to WI and SD recently; shared success story of connections made during last MNVOAD Conference enabled TR and IOCC volunteers to address outstanding needs for chainsaw crews in SE MN

IOCC- recent deployments in TX & FL for home rebuild; provided a team lead training; got new 3rd response vehicle

UMC- provided ~300 volunteer hours in MN over recent months (Kasson and Duluth); building local teams, now 110 volunteers trained and offering several upcoming trainings

MDS- National MDS conference held in Mpls last month, thank you to Kim for speaking on behalf of MNVOAD; local team assisted with home rebuild in Morton this fall

CAM- local teams assisted with home rebuild in Morton and with clean up efforts in Red Lake this fall

Salvation Army- several local canteening operations for fires; continued work on building volunteer corps; adopted new QR badging to help track volunteer qualifications

Footprint- recent deployments in WI & PR; scaling up operational resources and response capacity

WBL CERT- recent member retention initiatives

Civil Air Patrol – preparing for spring flood assessment missions with drones.



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Lutheran Social Service – Wrapping up disaster case management for flooding SWMN and storm damage on the Red Lake Nation; participate in Catholic Charities AIDE Conference in FL this month (thank you New Ulm Diocese for the invite).

FEMA Reg V – Introducing new FEMA VAL (Voluntary Agency Liaison), Sarah Jenson, former WI State VAL, replacing Sara Echols

Other Business

Reminders to:

- Advocate for the Disaster Volunteer Capacity Building Bill with state legislators before February (tip sheet will be resent)
- Watch for member agency dues invoicing in January
- Send any stories or year-end stats to William Heegaard willheegaard@gmail.com for MNVOAD promotion
- Consider MNVOAD for any employer volunteer match opportunities

Announced free training opportunity: MGT 409 - Community Healthcare Planning and Response to Disasters, Jan 8-9 in Maple Grove (registration details will be sent)

Next meeting: at Annual MNVOAD Conference, March 21st, 2020 at Best Buy HQ in Richfield.

Phil Jacobs moved and Dan Christopulos seconded to adjourn; Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:10p.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Talford
MN VOAD Secretary