

CTX VOAD MEETING
December 12, 2013

The regular meeting of the Central Texas VOAD was held on December 12, 2013, at 10 am at the Austin offices of United Way.

Attending were: Bill Dorman, Toni Silver, Josh Jackson, and Katie Braymer with American Red Cross, Daniel Geraci and Paige Webb with ADRN, Kate Johnston with Bastrop Long Term Recovery, George Barnette with Blanco County Volunteers, Cathy Norman with Churches of Scientology Disaster Response, Kevin Christenses with LDS Church, Betty Learned with HAND, Chris Bugbee with One Star Foundation, Alan Ford with Presbyterian Church USA, Anita Strychalski and Ron Janke with Shoreline Church, Kimberly Lile with Texas Association of Regional Councils, Bob Andrews with Teas Baptist Men, David Stone and Michelle Acevedo with TEXSAR, Leonor Vargas with The Austin Project, Shantelle Dunn with Travis County OEM, Mark Shipman with TDEM, Manuel Jimenez with Travis County Constable PCT 4, Tom Herrea – Perkins Valle Resident, Janis Butler with BCLTRT, and Mike Marcellus and John Ogletton with First Church.

David Stone chaired the meeting and gave a welcome. Introductions were made of those present.

The minutes of the meeting of October 10 were not ready, and will be presented for approval along with the December minutes in February.

Presentation: Update on Central Texas Flood Response and Recovery.

Various agencies and individuals involved in the Central Texas Flooding that occurred over Halloween gave information on the disaster and the response.

A forming Long Term Recovery Committee has been meeting every Monday at 1pm at Shoreline Church South. It would be good to have a more central location.

Mark Shipman from TDEM reports that there were 608 homes that had major damage or were destroyed, and another 179 that had minor damage (which means they had less than 18 inches of water.) 54 % had insurance. 208 of the 608 major/destroyed were uninsured, and figures are not available on those that were under insured. He explained something of where we are at in the process of getting possible government assistance.

ADRN reported that 468 people (families) had requested help from ADRN and asked to be sponsored. Of those, 288 were not insured and the majority were renters. 86 homes are not on the buy out list and not insured, and so will need to be re-built. ADRN is looking to hire a construction manager to aide in rebuilding efforts. ADRN has a case management system in place to identify and fulfill needs. ADRN reported further details in their progress and said they are still accepting new cases.

Travis County reported that the OEM is back to normal working hours. The building that housed the Family Assistance Center that was operational for a time has not become the Volunteer Resource Center. 311 is the place to call for information.

Betty Hand, VOAD LTR Committee Chair, reported that she has been working to evolve an actual long term recovery committee for this disaster. She wants to reach out to neighborhood meetings.

ADRN has stepped forward and Daniel Geraci has expressed a willingness to be part of an LTRC and to fill a leadership role, preferably in a temporary or mentoring capacity.

Members of the Bastrop LTRC are also willing to assist in this way so that we can benefit from their experience.

Pastor Mike Marcellus brought up different issues that he and the folks affected by the floods are facing. He gave a long list of issues these include difficulties with volunteer interest waning, issues with permitting and the need for expert help, people continuing to live in homes that are destroyed, and more.

Leonor Vargas with the school district reports 400 students impacted by the floods. The district is engaged in efforts to reach out to those affected. She would like to be involved in the case management aspects of the LTRC.

On the issue of leadership, ADRN has agreed to assist to lead the LTRC in a mentor role and Pastor Mike Marcellus has agreed that he would be willing to take on a leadership role if mentored. Pastor Mike is willing and able to help communicate to the neighborhood to bring the community on board. Bastrop is providing people to help also, and AISD is a community partner in the effort.

Announcements:

Nominating Committee:

Volunteers are needed to serve on this year's nominating committee. The nominating committee is responsible for putting together a slate of officers to serve in the coming year. The proposed slate must be sent out to the membership by the second week in March, and the elections are in April. Katie Braymer volunteered to serve on the nominating committee. Other volunteers are needed.

Red Cross Disaster Assessment Training:

As a result of the Central Texas flooding events, the Red Cross has realized that there is a shortage of volunteers that can be deployed to do disaster assessments in the 2 or 3 days after a disaster hits. They are reaching out to other agencies for help in getting volunteers or groups of volunteers to do the Red Cross training in disaster assessment.

The Red Cross will come to your location and do this training. There will be an exercise on damage assessment on March 1 and so the trainings should be done before this.

Cathy Norman
Secretary