



Central Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

Minutes of Meeting June 21, 2018

ATTENDEES:

Dan Knauft – American Red Cross	Shelby Thomas – OneStar
Matt Bisacca – American Red Cross	Taylor Wolter – OneStar
Bob Andrews – Austin Baptist Assn.	Ricky Reedy – Texas Cons Corps
Michael Gardner – ADNR	David Bock – Texas Cons Corps
Karsten Darden – Central TX Food Bank	Alan Ford – Presbyterian Church USA
Cathy Norman – Church of Scientology	Annie Harton – TARG
Jill Smith – City of Austin	Dick Perrone – TARG
Sara Record – DRTx	Roger Wines – Travis Cty
Anna Tangredi – DLT, TARG	ARES/REACT/ARRL
Courtney Goss – Hays Cty OEM	Jiann-Ping Loh – Tzu Chi Foundation
Scott Rowe – LDS Church	Jim Street – UMCOR
Damian Morales – OneStar	Shay Mooney – United Way
	Charles Baker – Crestview Baptist

Dan Knauft called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

Introductions were made around the room.

Anna Tangredi made a motion to approve minutes from last meeting. Dick Perrone - 2nd.
Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Executive Committee Elections – The following people are being presented for officer positions:

Chair – Dan Knauft

Vice Chair – Anna Tangredi

Secretary – Sara Record

Membership & Growth – Cathy Norman

Education & Training – Matt Bisacca

Dan asked for any nominations from the floor. There were none.

Bob made a motion made to elect all nominees in the group. Damian – 2nd.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Dan Knauft noted that new positions take effect immediately per our Bylaws.

Dan recognized Damian and all the work he has done in the last few years as Chair.

Long Term Recovery Updates:

Bastrop LTR – No one was present.

Blanco River RR – Courtney. The LTR will remain in place but Hays will also be developing a local VOAD to increase capacity. They have 2 homes to complete in the next 45-60 days

Anna: Added that she had spoken to one of the groups about what they can do when they are finished with their homes. Gave them suggestions about getting to know people before disasters. They will move forward with having a COAD.

TARG: Dick Perrone gave a report on Upper Onion Creek. 2 year window to purchase homes. Onion Creek is 100% complete. Had it not been for TARG, those homes would not have been bought out. Pressure, advocated for people in Onion Creek area so these people could go forward and find other housing. They were able to help people find fair value for their homes.

Central TX VOAD Draft Service Matrix (handout):

Thanks to those who responded. 25 organizations are included, and the services they provide. Please look over these papers and reply by June 29th with any edits/revisions. Then we will send to members of organization, plus City/County emergency managers.

Discussion:

- There are LTR groups on the sheet not from our area. Decision was made to leave them on there so everything was together, but to put them at the bottom of the list.
- Suggestion: Baptists didn't respond because they don't do these things. But we do have shower and laundry support for shelters. Need something that says shelter support on the list. Dan will add this column.
- Damian: Suggested that we add contact info in the matrix so people don't need two lists.

MARC Report:

Jill Smith: A workgroup is started for MARCs. Met once and another meeting scheduled on July 2. If you are interested, let Jill know. They are working on a common Intake Form, as well as operating procedures. Talking about doing a tabletop exercise in September. Will meet more frequently because of this. Jill will send minutes from last meeting. Will have a large scale exercise AFTER September.

Discussion:

- Anna: Denise and Courtney from Hayes County attended. If we need further assistance, they have experience and we can call on them. We also talked about a timeline for how long VOAD orgs may need before opening. We are looking at a 72-hour period of time. Immediate needs are met in the shelter. Orgs need time to get volunteers out to a MARC. It will be an education process for the City.
- Damian: Suggested we could potentially do a survey of VOAD members – how long would you need to attend a MARC – this way we have concrete information to present to City. Jill: Also, what is good for the people (survivors)? It's not a good practice to give everyone everything up-front. We need to time things to make them meaningful.
- Dan: Multiple disasters could present another set of challenges.
- Anna: This is more about education for the City.
- Betty: We should ask what the best practices ARE – City makes assumptions.

Proposed Bylaws Changes:

Cathy – we aren't quite ready to propose actual bylaws, but here are some key changes.

1. Over the years, we have changed categories of membership. The main voting members have been called Partners in the past. The National VOAD changed that a couple years ago. Under their example, Governance attendees would now be Partners (not volunteer orgs). We are planning to change this language. Members will be called Members. Government, businesses, orgs outside our jurisdiction will be called Partners.
2. We will clarify we are Austin Travis County, but work in cooperation with neighboring counties. We **support** Bastrop, Hayes, etc., not that we “cover” those areas.
3. Executive Committee thinks we should only have two categories of membership. Damian stated this was easier for people to understand their roles. We want to be realistic in our Bylaws what our capacity is. We do need a County-based COAD model.
4. Dan asked for other volunteers for this committee. No one volunteered. Cathy said they could do it, allow Exec Committee to review and send out prior to any vote/meeting.

Standing Committees:

Anna: We have been talking about developing four additional committees and establish leadership for each one. Recommendations:

Case Mgmt – Jill Smith/Betty Learned

Donations – Robert Vidaurri

Emotional & Spirit Care – Alan Ford

Volunteer Mgmt – No lead yet. - Taylor said he could chair, but he was also on Communications.

Dan Knauft clarified these would be temporary standing committees until bylaws are changed. How do people envision these committees operating?

- Anna: My vision is that in a disaster, the Chair of these committees is contacted and they activate their committee.
- Betty: I see these committees activating during a disaster in whatever capacity they can. Serving the area as they can.
- Damian: Reminded us that we need to respect the fact that VOAD is not operational. Committee Leads have to make sure this happens.
- Anna: Instead of someone in the EOC contacting everyone about donations, we would contact the Chair of the committee. If we got word in the EOC we had three 18-wheelers coming in, we’d know who to contact. While we are not operational, the Chairs ARE.
- Taylor: Whoever sits in these meetings needs to be the person who knows the most. In the event a Chair needs to speak to the city, it needs to be done effectively.
- Cathy: ADRN chairs a Donations Committee and we can stay in touch with them about donations. He is the expert on Donations.
- Taylor: If someone can take Communications, I will take Volunteer Mgmt. Cathy suggested asking people outside of the attendees in the room – Taylor agreed to be Acting Chair until we found someone.
- Anna passed around sign-up sheets for committees. Dan suggested we reach out to others in our organizations for other committee members.

Marketing CTVOAD

- Suggestion was made to start advertising – sending something to the newspaper, Facebook presence, etc. - to get the word out that we exist. 90% of Austin doesn’t know who we are.
- Dan: Just got back from being deployed in Hawaii. They had an organization made up of nonprofits on the island. They had all dealt with people impacted by a disaster. There’s no

reason why we can't do that here. Who we are, what we do. We have a lot of large community events that go on. Doing advertising during tailgating events. SXSW, ACL, Rodeo.

- Dan: Or have an Open House and invite the media.
- Anna: We have so many tech companies, we shouldn't have a problem with communication during a disaster if we form relationships. This last time, we used Dell because we asked on FB. City Council, Commissioner's Court doesn't know who we are.
- Damian: For Harvey, a letter of support from the County Judge is being required by some funders. We really NEED this. Anna: When you have government engaged with nonprofit world, you are successful. Without it, it's more difficult.

Updates:

Membership / Cathy Norman: After the last meeting, the LTR Committee from Fayette County was here, and would like to be a member (non-voting). They submitted an application. Want to be connected to share resources. Cathy motioned we accept them for membership. Motion was 2nd: Shay Mooney. Discussion: Baptists have worked alongside them – good partnership. Damian: Do partners have to be sustainable? Cathy: The only category they fit is “other orgs active in disaster”. Anna: At one point they went dormant (until the next disaster). Unlike Hayes County will keep org and develop a COAD. Cathy: They are a 501c3, only being proposed as a Partner. Taylor: Supports from state side. Won't be dormant for 7-10 years. Motion passed unanimously.

Education & Training: Matt Basacca. Introduced himself.

- ARC will have a training later this month on Staffing. During Harvey, we had over 200/day coming in. We'd like to get our name out there. Asked if we had a one-page document on the MARC so we can share with trainees.
- Sara Record told about an upcoming webinar: Civil Rights in Federally Assisted Disaster Preparedness and Recovery. Information will be sent out to the group.

Communications: No Report.

LTR: Betty had nothing to report other than Denton County finished their last home first part of June. Alan Ford: Sheila Lowe with Bastrop LTR still needs volunteers.

Announcements:

- Roger Wines read proclamation from Governor for June 19-26 being Amateur Radio Week. Saturday at 1 pm to Sunday at 1 pm, they will be operating radios at American Red Cross. 2218 Pershing Drive. Last year they had 30,000+ places in the nation who participated. All are welcome.
- Basic Disaster Relief Training by Texas Baptist Men: July 28th, Crestview Baptist in Georgetown. 9-12 morning event. Box Distribution training at 1 pm.
- Alan Ford: Sheila Lowe will have volunteer opportunities updated on website.
- ADRN: I Am Ready Conference – September 27 – 29 at Riverbend Church in Austin. ADRN.org for more information.
- Dan will send out Matrix.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 2nd.
Meeting Adjourned 11:20 am.