



**Central Texas
Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disaster**

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

**Minutes of Meeting
August 2, 2018**

Attendees:

Dan Knauft – American Red Cross

Matt Bissaca – American Red Cross

Veronica Maas – ADRN

Karsten Darden – Central Texas Food Bank

Cathy Norman – Church of Scientology Dis Response

Jill Smith - City of Austin

Sara Record – Disability Rights Texas

Anna Tangredi – DLT,TARG

Denise Treadwell – Hays County OEM

Damian Morales – OneStar

Sheila Lowe – Bastrop Cty LTR

Kate Johnston – OneStar

Shelby Thomas – OneStar

Taylor Wolter – OneStar

Alan Ford – Presb Church USA

Charles Baker – Tx Baptist Dis Recovery

Dick Perrone – TARG

Jiann-Ping Loh – Tzu Chi Foundation

Betty Learned – Volunteer Extraordinaire

Ed Sackett – Mission Presbytery PDA

Eric Carter – Travis County Emerg Mgmt

Dan Knauft called meeting to order at 10:04 am. Introductions were made around the room.

Minutes from 06/21/18 Meeting:

Dan presented the Minutes from the 6/21/18 Meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as written by Matt Bisacca. Second by Damian Morales. Motion carried unanimously.

Central Texas Social Media:

Website: <http://www.centrltxvoad.org>. In process of updating information. Shelby Thomas from OneStar does their website and would be willing to help us. Would like to proceed with getting her assistance for this role. Formerly held by Taylor Wolter who is transitioning out of the Communications role because he is over Volunteers now.

Damian: It's not a lot of work. Hardest part is getting information.

Anna: Thanked OneStar; our website will only be as good as the info Shelby gets. Everyone will need to forward information to Shelby. Suggested highlighting an organization every month.

Twitter Account: We have a Twitter account.

Dan will help Need to create a Facebook account. Dan encouraged us to create and update all.

Suggestion was made to use video as we could. It's a driver to getting information out.

Alan Ford can give us links to videos that could be applicable to all. Done by PDA and Red Cross. They are filming another one in the Valley next week.

Action Item for all:

Send a URL to your website, including a donation URL (if you want) to Dan Knauft. Include local and national links. You can also send your Facebook link if you have one.

Send information and any photos to Dan.knauft@redcross.org

Jill noted that Anna and Dick Perrone doing LTR.
Jill and Betty – Case Mgmt.
Sara will update the contact page on our website.

Committees:

Adding the following committees: Donations, Volunteer Mgmt, Emotional/Spiritual Care/ Case Mgmt. Committees will be effective in helping us during a disaster by providing coordination. All will be developing their mission statements in the weeks to come. Using committees as a way to bring info to the larger group.

Alan Ford: Talked with Dan Franklin, Texas VOAD Em/Sp Care Chair and received some documents from him. He will review the docs he sent with the group once he has a chance to review. Jim Eller is also on that team.

After Action Review – City/County has a big section on donations management. Would like to tap into that committee.

Staffing the EOC:

City/County. We have a presence, but want to confirm what we are supposed to do. Dan talked to the folks in Emergency Mgmt. Received a 265 manual which contained 2 pages on what we did. Focuses more on procurement – how they can get things they need during disasters. Dan will send the 2 pages with the minutes for everyone to review.

How do we train people to work in the EOC? Background/classes, etc. Classes are offered through FEMA, State of Texas, and a hands-on class at CTEC. May want to include CASHP training.

CASHP is the shelter system we have for Travis County. We have agreements to put people on buses and bring to shelters. Only meant for a few days, then they go to a mega shelter. CASHP shelter manager training is to train people to be shelter managers. And explain the process we have with Red Cross, schools and local government to run the shelters. It's complicated how they work together, so it helps to understand the process. Red Cross is over the people portion; Schools over facilities, etc. Provides a good understanding of everything.

We will put together a list of mandatory trainings, and a list of optional trainings. Dan will flush out the two pages and get the info to us. Damian said we also need to know what we DON'T do. For example, when does it go from a VOAD request to a STAR request for the State to fulfill the request? Need clarification. Also, some people don't understand that VOAD isn't a responder.

There is a State of Texas class (610) – Emergency Mgmt Workshop. If enough people are interested, we can request that they offer a class. Need a minimum number – Anna will check and find out how many are needed. (Unofficially, Anna remembered it to be 10.) Next regular class will be offered in November, but we could request. Crestview Baptist might be a possible location for these classes.

Proposed Bylaws Changes:

Added Betty to the Bylaws Committee. Not ready to present. But some of the changes are simplifying and clarifying language. Looking at modifying jurisdiction so we are Travis County supporting other counties. We as a body can't respond in Bastrop as we do in Travis Cty. But we support them (Hays, Williamson, etc.), so it won't change what we do, but will better represent what we do.

Will suggest changing membership terminology – Partners, Members, etc. Want to mirror State VOAD. Add new Standing Committees to Bylaws.

Cathy: Doesn't mean that we wouldn't accept their membership. While we have *active* involvement with City/County governments in Travis, it's hard to do this in other counties.

All changes will be proposed to the group at large.

Will allow us to connect more effectively with other area organizations.

Multi-Agency Resource Center Workgroup:

Started by public health department in Austin. Setting up policies and procedures for a MARC. Started with a doc created by ARC, etc. Looking at what types of agencies we'd want to be part of a MARC. Looking at policies and procedures for those who will participate. Consensus points were developed by National VOAD, so trying to integrate into our processes. Flushed out things we need to consider. Hope to have final product in the next few weeks.

Education of Elected Officials – what it takes to set up a MARC, etc., was discussed at early meetings. Need to keep this on the front burner. Meetings are open to whoever would like to attend. Let Jill Smith know if you want to be part.

Updates LTR Groups

Bastrop County LTR – Sheila Lowe. 42% completion of originally approved projects from Harvey. Have 8 new cases for this month. DCM still hasn't contacted us, but we are still moving forward. Still need volunteers. Board voted for them to be able to use paid labor which has helped get projects completed. Starting community preparedness workshops this month. County COAD is moving along with engaged members. Working with getting MOUs in place with members who want to be part of assisting when disasters happen. We received a grant through Austin Community Foundation to offset costs for paying handyman services. This has helped move us along.

Hays County – BR3T. 100% done as of June with 2015 floods. Recovery Team still stands and helping people with fires. Want to thank VOADs who helped with the resource center to get students financial assistance. Dan said it was a well-organized RC. Still working on a COAD.

TARG: Focusing attention on City Councils who maintain flood mitigations proposed by the watershed. Upcoming vote in late August.

Membership – Cathy Norman

Have membership requests that have recently come in. But nothing to propose right now. When new bylaws are ready, will have a new form.

Education & Training – Matt Bisacca:

T610 Class. Matt took a poll – at least 7 people were interested in taking. Matt will send a poll email survey what they want in terms of E&T. This will help him offer trainings we want/need.

Conferences: Directors of Volunteers in Austin is tomorrow. Will also present other conferences as they come up.

Next regularly scheduled T610 – November 9-10.

Question: Is there a role for our VOAD to promote general public preparedness training? Presbyterians have a broad preparedness program. Matt will start gathering preparedness trainings and put on website. Bring in private sector partners who have a presence in the Central Texas area. Ask them what they can provide, what they need, etc.

Cathy liked the idea of having a Preparedness Committee. Damian said he would CO-Chair. We really need a broad-scale approach of preparedness.

Update on The Valley Flooding:

50% FEMA denial rate in the Valley. Quoting pre-existing damage, deferred maintenance. 7-8,000 have registered. Only two grants have been awarded so far. Massive amount of work to be done. All Hands and Hearts says they have never seen the type of devastation that is down there (they work internationally). EMC was saying everything is okay. So Anna went out to see if this was true. Visited addresses and no one had ever contacted them. Total devastation INSIDE of houses. The Valley is more poverty-stricken than Appalachia. The problem is how far away the media is. It's where they choose to be. Having trouble getting volunteers in The Valley.

Communications:

Taylor talked about transferring to another committee. Shelby may be interested in serving. She was on the phone and agreed.

LTR:

Betty: Nothing to add.

Announcements:

Did we decide Damian would be Chair of Preparedness/Resilience? Yes. Cathy will add to Bylaws recommendation.

Dan Knauft – last year Netflix had a segment on hurricanes for 2017. Hurricane Harvey was a 500-year flood.

Another one on Animal Planet – episode following game wardens who were evacuating animals from Harvey. Shriners College in Kerrville has an equine program and will take in horses from disasters.

<https://www.animalplanet.com/tv-shows/surviving-harvey-animals-after-the-storm/>

Executive Board talked about doing a visit to CTEC. Is there any interest in doing that?

Eric Carter – Travis County Chief Emergency Management Coordinator. Making rounds to meet people. Always welcome to call up individually or by VOAD to get a tour. Meet Emergency Managers. Open invitation. Wants to be sure we have people from City/County participating in these meetings from now on.

Meeting adjourned 11:22 am.