

DRAFT

WAVOAD General Meeting

August 3, 2021, 10:00 am

Zoom Meeting led by Marty Grisham, WAVOAD Vice-President, LDS Charities

In Attendance

Marty Grisham – LDS Charities, WaVOAD Vice-President	David Zablotny – Habitat for Humanity
Kathy Bryson – UMC/UMCOR, WaVOAD Secretary	April Dembeck - NVOAD
Dave Baylor – Episcopal Relief and Development, WaVOAD Treasurer	Cindi Barker – Seattle Emergency HUBS
Andrew Chadick – Jewish Federation/SAFE Washington	Patty Marsh – Adventist Community Services
Eric Williams – Second Harvest	Carlene Anders – Okanogan Co LTRG
Bill Gillespie - SARC	Scott Hokonson – Pine Creek Community Restoration
Jim Mahon – Church of Scientology	Hank Cramer – Pine Creek Community Restoration
Kathleen Voss – American Red Cross	Lauren Hazen – Salvation Army
Christian Mercer -	Shaun Jones – Salvation Army
Jim Mullen – Center for Excellence, Homeland Security Emergency Management	Jill WJune atson – City of Seattle
Gerry Bozarth – Spokane Co EMD, Pine Creek LTRG	Ann Forrest – City of Seattle
Randy Bode – World Renew Disaster Response	Patty Baker – Episcopal Relief and Development
Christian Burgess – Vibrant Emotional Health	Dave Brauer-Rieke

Meeting called to order by Marty Grisham for August 3, 2021 at 10:01am

Minutes Review

Kathy announced that the meeting minutes are posted on the WaVOAD website prior to the next meeting. The minutes from the June 1, 2021 general meeting were presented by Kathy Bryson with one correction. Dave Baylor moved to accept. Jim Mahon second the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Financial Review

Dave Baylor presented the financials from January 1 – July 31, 2021. Total deposits from dues paid were \$3480.00. Disbursements were \$180.85 including a \$100 NVOAD registration sponsorship. Account balance as of July 31, 2021 is \$20,693.72 in the checking account. The savings account year start balance is \$5,488.03. There was .62 of income interest for a July 31 balance of \$5,488.65. Kathy Bryson moved to accept. Andrew Chadick second the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Guest Presenter

Jim Mullen, Center for Excellence, Homeland Security Emergency Management, presented on “The Value of the Volunteer”. He has used volunteers a lot and pointed out the different motivations people have for volunteering – want to help fellow human beings, helps self-esteem. It varies from person to person but they’re empowered to contribute something. It’s a

form of payment that compensates for their time and stress that goes along with volunteering in a crisis. He said we should look for ways to help them advance. Some people like to transfer their skill sets or life experience from their job to their volunteerism. Volunteers help emergency managers, those in the emergency operations centers. Jim mentioned the volunteers during COVID such as the people at the inoculation centers. They were capable, professional and eased anxiety. He mentioned Malden volunteers are another example. Volunteers provided moral support, physical labor, time, energy and love for the community. He also mentioned “crisis fatigue” and the impacts. Jim made recommendations to nurture the desire to get back into volunteering including reach out to local and state emergency managers. He suggested the Cascadia Rising 2022 training event as an opportunity. He mentioned Kevin Wickersham as the State volunteer point of contact for the Cascadia training. Local emergency manager reach out is important, too, as they may be staff limited. When reaching out, know your skills sets to provide, show a desire to be useful to them. See if they can plug you into other agencies or agencies that might need support. He encouraged volunteers to engage in a pre-discussion with the agencies before diving into the support function.

President’s Report/General Information

A new member presentation for SEWA International was tabled until the next general meeting. Meghan O’Hara will have the complete information for the organization’s membership presentation. (Online member applications can be accessed at: <https://www.wavoad.org/wavoad-organization-resource-page/>)

There was general discussion about the membership email “clean-up”. The purpose is to get the contact information current. Members have been requested to visit the WaVOAD website at: wavoadinfo@gmail.com with names, organization and email address to help get our database current with contact information.

Long Term Recovery Group Report Outs

Pine Creek Community Restoration LTRO (PCCR LTRO) - Scott Hokonson, representing as the **Project Director for the Pine Creek Community Restoration**. He reported that the state of their recovery is quite strong though they have heavy smoke and heat at the moment. It’s taking a toll on their community.

Hank Cramer, the PCCR LTRO Unmet Need Table Chair reported that the delay for the decision for a FEMA declaration created an six month gap between the immediate relief agencies and longer term recovery agencies. “Crisis fatigue” set in, personal layoffs set in. After the FEMA (public assistance) declaration was made, SBA eventually arrived and clients (survivors) were able to make applications. USDA were also made loans available. They’re now stepping up to a formal Unmet Need Table (UNT) after an initial “immediate needs table” that started to meet weekly since January. Christian Air Ministries of Southern Montana came in last Spring and built tow homes. Material costs for home was around \$40,000 per home, CAM found donors on their own. The UNT table kicks off this Friday (August 6) and will then drill down on housing need during the following meeting. New members invited include the Innovia Foundation, United Way, Salvation Army. Catholic Charities and United Way were already monitoring the immediate needs table. Looking at 9 or 10 cases to approve. CAM has indicated they can build

5-10 houses this winter. Cost of building materials went from \$40,000 last winter, peaked out at about \$140,000 six weeks ago, now looking at \$100,000 for building materials for a modest home. The UNT will be looking to marry up donors with funds at \$1000,000 per unit. The four case managers have been working with their clients. Filters for home consideration are people that were home owners, uninsured or grossly underinsured (of the homes lost in Malden about 1/3 were fully insured, 1/3 underinsured, 1/3 not insured. Finally, they'll look at the final SBA determination if they can get a loan or not. SBA home limited is \$200,000, which is a challenge for rebuild. September 7 is the anniversary of the fire.

Gerry Bozarth, Spokane County Emergency Management, mentioned that there's a lot of clean up progress though it's slow going.

Scott added that challenges remain. He said volunteers inspire the residences. People are still living in RVs. 93 percent of the damaged homesites have been cleaned up as well as many of the damaged trees removed. 11 households have been identified as the most needy. 20-30 houses will be considered for next year.

Okanogan County LTRG – Carlene Anders, representing **the Okanogan Long Term Recovery Group**, reported that they've been holding their unmet need table weekly. Their builders table is separate from the table. There are 63 open cases. They just had a rebuild meeting including partners from UMCOR, Mennonite Disaster Services (coming this winter for a bi-national deployment), Red Cross is providing a rebuild grant. 6-7 homes will start in September. All permits ready to pull, client contracts starting, dirt work and foundations start this September. Hoping to dry homes in by November. MDS will come in January and February for interior work. Total of 12 homes to rebuild. Note that these homes are spread out about 100 miles. They're budgeting at \$120,000 per home including lots of dirt work and travel that adds to costs. Restoration Hope is doing the dirt work. Looking for volunteers this fall for dry in. Their North Creek Presbyterian partners who did the dry in and framing packages (did 16 packages for the 2014/15 fires) are willing to help but need volunteers to help (October in November).

Member Report Outs

Kathleen Voss, representing **American Red Cross**, reported that they have been monitoring the Eastern Washington wildfires. Currently there is a standby shelter in the Methow Valley Elementary School for evacuees from the Cedar Creek and Cub Creek 2 fires. They're monitoring the Summit Trail fire and Pioneer Fire.

Marty Grisham, representing **LDS Charities**, reported that they're in the middle of doing some major communications restructuring within the church so be a better resource for situational awareness. He mentioned that lots of members have amateur radio licenses so building that structure to help the communication process.

Jim Mahon, representing **Church of Scientology**, reported that've been working with the crisis of drugs. They've got the "Truth About Drugs" campaign with an open house to get information out. Had a recent human rights open house. Helping with volunteers through the Lower Queen Anne food bank, Food Lifeline, Mary's Place.

Patty Baker, representing **Episcopal Disaster Relief**, reported that she's been involved in interviewing and hiring a missionary for recovery and resilience in Northern California. They're dealing with fires in Northern California and along the border. Have grants to help with high risk disasters. Dave Baylor added that Patty's congregation pass along about 500,000 pounds of food distributed through the USDA program in the Snoqualmie Valley area. Patty's church had an article published on their sundries program for those in need: <https://ecwww.org/locally-centered-ministries-essential-ministry-from-st-clares-snoqualmie/>

Dave Zablotsky, representing **Habitat for Humanity**, reported that the Palouse affiliate of Habitat is evaluating their ability to participate in long term recovery efforts in Pine Creek through a task force just assembled. They build about two houses a year.

Andrew Chadick, representing from the **Jewish Federation**, reported they are still engaged in preparedness measures. They just finished the non-profit security program roll-up during this grant cycle and are now notifying agencies of those awards to prevent major incidences towards their community.

Bill Gillespie, representing **Search and Rescue Advisory Council for Washington State (SARC)**, reported they've been involved in four counties providing evacuation traffic control, notifications and working with law enforcement. Primarily the smaller counties in Eastern Washington that don't have law enforcement groups to do the work. They're supporting three counties with COVID-19 vaccinations, testing and manning traffic. Been a challenge because of the PPE they need to provide for their staff. They've found some grant funds and supplies from larger counties. They've developed a training program in several counties where CERT no longer exists as there's no money to support. They were working with Bill Loki, Tom Minor, Rick Lobala and Richard Smith to develop this eight-hour program until COVID hit. They're just starting to come out with it. Bill will try to have Bill and Tom come to the WaVOAD next meeting. They're also supporting WaSART (animal support team) in Spokane, Yakima, Ferry County. They've a number of people with large four-wheel drives to help evacuate animals. They're seeing a lot more people being fire-prepared this year. They've cadaver dogs in Oregon to help searches. Bill sits on the Washington Emergency Management Committee (Wa State EMC).

Eric Williams, representing **Second Harvest**, reported that in 2019 they distributed 28 million meals, 2020 they distributed over 44 million meals. This year they'll probably be halfway between. He mentioned things are getting a little better on the hunger front. He mentioned he's recently learned three things: 1) they pulse extra food and water to their partners (280) because sometimes food agencies get inundated with fire fighters, 2) the Washington Wheat Commission just made a generous donation of Franz fresh bread and, 3) the LDS provided them with two semis of food during the pandemic.

Shaun Jones, representing **Salvation Army**, reported that they're working with Carlene's group on the long-term recovery. Will be part of the Pine Creek Community Restoration long term recovery upcoming meeting. They're ready for potential movement of fire.

Kathy Bryson, representing the **PNW United Methodist Disaster Response**, reported that they are active in all three of the current long term recovery groups. They're administering a significant UMCOR grant for the Okanogan Co LTRG rebuild. Kathy is partnering with Hank to co-chair the PCCR LTRO unmet need table. They're providing relief supplies in the wildfire area – recently launch a campaign to put together “cleaner air kits”. They're piloting an UMCOR Zoom training for the Connecting Neighbors preparedness program.

Christian Burgess, representing **Vibrant Emotional Health** provided a written summary of his report: Vibrant Emotional Health, administrators for the national [Disaster Distress Helpline](#) (DDH) for the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, are excited to announce the launch of a new resource, **DDH Online Peer Support Community (DDH OPSC) for Healthcare Workers Impacted by COVID**. DDH OPSCs are private, members-only, moderated groups on [Facebook](#) where survivors and responders of disaster can offer and receive mutual aid and peer support from people who have gone through similar experiences and from similar backgrounds. The DDH OPSC for Healthcare Workers is open to any healthcare worker in the U.S./territories, working (or who has worked) in any healthcare setting. Members will be able to connect with trained DDH Peer Supporters who help keep the OPSC safe & interactive, as well as access 24/7/365 DDH crisis counselors through Crisis Support Over Messenger. Check out this 2-minute PSA video to learn more <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9j8WqgKTACo> or visit DDH Strength After <https://strengthafterdisaster.org/peer-support/>. For any questions, email ddh@vibrant.org and please share this new resource to your social media and with your networks!

Randy Bode, representing **World Renew**, reported that they are in discussion with five Oregon counties to do need unmet needs assessment surveys and are progress. They're figuring out how to staff unmet need survey teams in light of COVID. It's an ongoing project.

Cindy Barker, representing the **Seattle HUBs**, reported that the HUBs are doing field exercises this year. Two locations on two weekends – first one is September 18 in North Seattle, maybe at a park in the morning. The second one is Saturday, September 25 in South Seattle. They'll bring all the HUB captains into one location that will be a mass exercise to focus on best practices. She invited WaVOAD members to attend to be their “citizen actors”. They've been updating their process during COVID by creating a pandemic exercise. They're finished an “ad hoc” shelter scenario under the assumption that the City of Seattle will take a couple days to set up shelters and what would they do with neighbors who are afraid to return to their houses. She may tap WaVOAD members for their input.

Other Report-Outs

Jill Waston, representing **City of Seattle**, reported that on July 20 Seattle Office of Emergency Management hosted a webinar on Seattle Earthquake Response: Emergency Shelter and Feeding. A recording of the webinar is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBpbUMIZMRs>. Presenters included Deborah Witmer and Jill Watson. The next session in the monthly Earthquake Response webinar series is tomorrow 8/4 at 6:00 pm on Utility Restoration. Registration is at <http://www.seattle.gov/emergency-management/about-us/event-calendar>. The previous webinars are also posted. They're preparing for the Cascadia 2022 earthquake exercise in June 2022. They're working at the State level of planning and developing internally for the City of Seattle. They're also following up from the recent heat wave and preparedness for future events.

Dave Baylor, on behalf of the **NVOAD**, added that the Recovery Tools Workshop webinars in March feedback noted that there was a need for something on financial management, grant writing or donations development. The NVOAD put that in as one of their goals for the LTRG committee. The Board just approved that goal. They're going to develop a new recovery tools workshop on financial management for local LTRG, grant writing and communications. They've had conversations about developing a national long term recovery group registry so they can pull together in one place the information of what groups exist, stage of development, needs.

Next WaVOAD General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, October 5, 10:00am. Information will be sent out at least a week prior.

Additional information can be found on the VOAD calendar at <http://www.wavoad.org/cms/node/147> or the affiliate links listed on the agenda.

Future General Meeting Dates and Locations

- **October 5, 2021**
- **December 7, 2021**

***Meeting adjourned by Marty Grisham at approximately 11:58am.
Respectfully submitted by Kathy Bryson, WaVOAD secretary.***