

WAVOAD General Meeting

June 7, 2022

Zoom Meeting led by Marty Grisham, WaVOAD President, LDS Charities

In Attendance

Marty Grisham – LDS Charities, WaVOAD President	Eric Williams – Second Harvest
Kathy Bryson – PNW UMC Disaster Response, WaVOAD Vice President	Taylor Hennessee – WA State EMD – Guest speaker
Dave Zablony – Habitat for Humanity, WaVOAD Secretary	Tyler Verda – Snohomish County Human Services
Dave Baylor – Episcopal Relief and Development, WaVOAD Member-at-large	Tom Link – St. Vincent DePaul
Andrew Chadick – Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle – SAFE Washington, WaVOAD Member-at-large	Ashley Butenschoen – VP Communications Chair - Whatcom County LTRG
Jim Mahon – Church of Scientology, WaVOAD Member-at-large	Patrick Niles – WA State EMD – Guest speaker
Cindi Barker – Seattle Emergency HUBS	Jill Watson – City of Seattle Human Services
Carlene Anders – ED – Disaster Leadership Team	Lisa Arellano – Salvation Army
Chad Hammond – Whatcom County LTRG	Larry Mays – Adventist Disaster Services
Bill Gillespie – WaSARVAC	Tom Sharp – King County Emergency Management
Christian Burgess – Vibrant Behavioral Health	

Meeting called to order by Marty Grisham for June 7, 2022, at 10:03am

(Kathy Bryson, VP, assisted in facilitating the meeting since Marty's availability was limited)

Minutes Review

The minutes from the April 5, 2022, general meeting were presented with no edits. Dave Baylor moved to accept. Andrew Chadick offered to second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Review

Financials as of May month-end were reviewed by Kathy Bryson. The balance in the checking account is \$19,738.82 reflecting \$360.00 in dues received and expenses paid out for the NVOAD Conference of \$4079.17. These were expense reimbursements for attendees. The savings account balance is \$5088.77 which reflects .08 in interest credited. Dave Baylor moved to accept. Andrew Chadick offered to second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report/General Information

Marty Grisham talked briefly about refugee resettlement efforts. Many agencies/organizations have stepped up to meet this need. There have been no official requests for help to WaVOAD at this time. Will continue to update as needed.

Marty also mentioned that the leadership team is working on database cleanup. He asked members to advise of any changes in the voting member for their respective organizations.

Marty and Kathy both shared thoughts on the NVOAD Conference held last month in Baltimore including the following:

- Strong participation from WaVOAD including, Marty, Kathy, Dave Baylor, Ray Shjerven, Christian Burgess, and Larry Mays.
- Useful content with Diversity being an important topic.
- Seemed to be a greater emphasis on wildfires than at past events.
- Kathy noted that Christian Burgess led a great session on Self Care.
- Dave Baylor noted that the meeting with the FEMA VALS was very helpful and also mentioned that representation from WA EMD (Taylor Hennessee and Quinn Butler) was important.

Agency Spotlight: Church of Scientology – Jim Mahon

Kathy introduced Jim noting that the Leadership Team thought it would be good to highlight one agency at each meeting to share some brief highlights about the work they do.

Jim mentioned that they are active in most states and many countries around the world. He said that the past few years have been challenging through Covid with the focus on keeping the public and staff safe and well. They bring organization skills and mental and spiritual support. He touched on the Stay Well Prevention Resource Center. He mentioned their association with the Salvation Army and Mary's Place for whom they made masks and distributed other items (mostly food and hygiene products). He also talked about their focus on cleaning up the streets following civil unrest in 2020 and recent parks cleanups. There have been at least 70 projects since the Covid shutdown including work following natural disasters in Kentucky, Colorado, Florida and Haiti.

Their message is to help people to help one another.

Report Outs:

Long term Recovery Updates:

Okanogan County LTRG – Carlene Anders reported that progress continues to be made there. There are currently eight homes in progress. Four are nearing completion with work being done on the interiors. Three others are now dried in, and one has just had the foundation poured. They are looking forward to volunteer support this summer from UMCOR volunteers. MDS will send volunteers in August, and they have also had support from Mill Creek Presbyterian. They still need additional volunteers with construction experience. The goal is to complete these houses by October 31, 2022.

Carlene also mentioned that three families have recently been displaced by mudflows in recent fire impact areas. They are monitoring these areas closely.

Pine Creek Community Restoration – Kathy Bryson reported that case management is being wrapped up. Hope to have complete within a few weeks. Of the 84 original referrals, 34 cases were opened. The fires occurred on Labor Day weekend in 2020 so it is nearly two years since this effort began.

Whatcom County Floods – Ashley Butenschoen reported that they have hired a Volunteer Coordinator and are looking to hire a Construction Manager which is a critical hire. Ashley shared information about this role and asked that we spread the word. She noted that more than 200 homes have been impacted and as rains continue through a wet spring mold has become a major issue. Qualified help is needed to muck out structures. She also noted that in Sumas about half the people are back in their homes so much work still needs to be done. She said the major challenges getting enough qualified volunteers and hiring of a Construction Manager. Chad Hammond also mentioned that another challenge is figuring out how they can best help people until buyouts can occur.

Clallam County – Dave Baylor reported that Unmet Needs Committee has been set up. They have a need for a PT Case Manager for about a three-month period and have identified a possible candidate. They will gauge interest and hope to make a decision soon.

Skagit County – Dave Baylor said they are just beginning to make progress. A hybrid meeting was held recently which was a good step to get things moving.

Guest Presentation

Taylor Hennessee and Patrick Niles - WA State Emergency Management

WA State Cascadia Rising Exercise Overview:

The focus of the exercise will be on Critical Transportation and Mass Care Services

Critical Transportation includes:

- Evacuation
- Debris Clearance
- Debris Removal
- Establishing Access
- Airspace Management
- Facilitate delivery of Response Resources
- Facilitate Re-entry to Affected Area
- Transportation Safety and Condition Assessments

Mass Care Services includes:

- Sheltering
- Ensuring Access
- Feeding Hydration
- Pets
- Resource Distribution

- Relocation Assistance
- Family Reunification

Daily Schedule:

- Day 1 – June 13 – Critical Transportation Tabletop – 7 hours – Open
Examine and assess coordination of activities between entities – Coordination of damage assessments – Coordination of prioritized critical transportation needs – Needs for development of a plan for re-opening statewide transport systems
- Day 2 – June 14 – Crossover Event – 2 hours – Planning team
Prepare facilitators, subject matter experts and support staff to guide discussion within breakout rooms
- Day 3 - June 15 – Mass Care Services – 7 hours – Open
Assess shelter, hydration, and nutritional needs of communities – Describe sheltering, hydration and nutritional strategies/operations – Effective coordination of needs across jurisdictions
- Day 4 – June 16 – Hotwash Events – 6 hours Open
Discuss strengths and areas for improvement – Gather information for development of After-Action Report (AAR) and Improvement Plan (IP)

Registrations:

- 476 total as of 6/6/22 – Includes Federal, State, County, City, Tribal, Private Sector, NGO, International and Other
- 13 of 29 WA State Tribes and Nations have registered
- Tabletop breakout rooms will be divided based on comparative geographical and planning factors
- Three regions – Coastal, I-5 Corridor and East of the Cascades
- Reimbursement eligibility for State Agencies, Tribal Governments, Local Jurisdictions including Fire, Sheriff, County/Local EM, and Public Works
- Emergency Protective Measures are covered as well as Fire Suppression costs (labor and equipment)

Kathy Bryson asked Patrick if there would be benefit for WaVOAD members to participate. He recommended that we make a decision based on whether the core capabilities of the organization are pertinent to the exercise focus.

Member Report Outs

Larry Mays – Adventist Disaster Relief – there has not been a lot of activity in the NW recently but there has been some focus on training events. There has been some activity around hurricanes in Louisiana. Larry has been doing some work on CERTS teams focusing on insurance issues they deal with. Their in-house insurance provider has agreed to cover their CERTS teams and individual members.

Eric Williams – 2nd Harvest – Eric noted that things seemed to normalize in 2021 following the pandemic but activity has picked up in 2022 based on the inflation surge. Seems to hit those on the margins especially hard. Fundraising has been good, so they have been able to supplement food donations with purchased items.

Cindi Barker – Seattle Emergency HUBS – not much to report but because the Red Cross Safe and Well website was not renewed this year, they are working on assisting with getting the agreement in place with the Amateur Radio League of America that the Red Cross would typically handle.

Jill Watson – City of Seattle – Jill mentioned they will be participating in the Cascadia exercise. Currently focused on two takeaways from the 2016 exercise – damage assessments and a resource request drill in the EEOC.

Carlene Anders - Disaster Leadership Team – they continue to provide support to the Whatcom County LTRG.

Christian Burgess – Vibrant Behavioral Health – the organization is committed to equity and inclusion in addressing mental and behavioral issues. They are holding their 2nd Annual Symposium on June 9 & 10. Bridging the Gap – A symposium on Disaster Behavioral Health Access for All. They also have a National Disaster Distress Helpline – 1-800-985-5990 – for anyone experiencing distress or mental health concerns relating to the recent shootings or any past incident of violence.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 2, 2022 – 10am via zoom

Meeting adjourned by Kathy Bryson at 11:35 am.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Zablony, WaVOAD secretary