

# WAVOAD General Meeting

August 2, 2022

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

## In Attendance

Marty Grisham – LDS Charities, WaVOAD President	Geri Chumley – Whatcom County COAD
Kathy Bryson – PNW UMC Disaster Response, WaVOAD Vice President	Chris Aronen – FEMA Region X VAL
Ray Shjerven – SWWA ELCA, WaVOAD Treasurer	John Perry – Whatcom County LTRG
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	Jim Truitt – GNW Episcopal Area UMC
Jim Mahon – Church of Scientology, WaVOAD Member-at-large	Patty Baker – Episcopal Relief & Development
Dave Zablotsky – Habitat for Humanity, WaVOAD Secretary	Jill Watson – City of Seattle Human Services
Cindi Barker – Seattle Emergency HUBS	Laurie Boss – Episcopal Diocese of Spokane
Randy Bode – World Renew Disaster Response	Leslie Romaly – UCC Disaster Management
Bill Gillespie – WaSARVAC	Tom Sharp – King County Emergency Management

***Meeting called to order by Marty Grisham for August 2, 2022, at 10:00am***

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

## Minutes Review

The minutes from the June 7, 2022, general meeting were presented with no edits. Dave Baylor moved to accept. Randy Bode offered to second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Financial Review

Financials as of May month-end were reviewed by Ray Shjerven. The balance in the checking account is \$19,738.82. There was no income or expense recorded since the last report. The savings account balance is \$5088.85 which reflects .08 in interest credited. Dave Zablotsky moved to accept. Patty Baker offered to second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## President's Report/General Information

Marty Grisham provided a brief report since things have been fairly quiet recently. There has been some activity around both Afghan and Ukrainian resettlement efforts with various organizations stepping up to assist.

Marty thanked those who assisted with the recent Federal Way fire where 39 families were impacted.

We have been monitoring the wildfire situation – thankfully there has been minimal activity thus far in 2022.

### **Agency Spotlight: Operation Barbecue Relief**

Postponed since presenter was called out to Kentucky to assist with flood response.

### **Report Outs:**

#### **Long term Recovery Updates:**

**Okanogan County LTRG** – Kathy Bryson shared a brief report out from Carlene Anders who was unable to attend. There are currently eight homes in various stages of construction. Four are scheduled to be completed by year end while construction on the other four will carry over into 2023. They are still looking for volunteers to assist in these efforts.

**Whatcom County Floods** – John Perry shared that World Renew has now completed estimates for repairs for 55 properties. They are awaiting the written reports of these estimates. The hope is to begin rebuilding efforts by September. He also noted that they now have 465 open cases right now being handled by eight case managers. They expect another 150 cases as they move forward. They are currently looking for a bilingual case manager. They should know more about unmet needs by September.

Randy Bode (World Renew) shared that the reports should be completed soon and that they will include material needs and resource needs.

Kathy Bryson noted that UMCOR has done some damage estimates and muck outs in Whatcom County as well.

Ray Shjerven (Lutheran Relief) and Dave Baylor (Episcopal Relief) both mentioned they may be able to assist with smaller purchases (such as dehumidifiers) with some limited funds they have available. Dave also noted that backup detail is needed for reporting on any purchases they might fund.

**Clallam County** – Dave Baylor reported that a meeting took place about two weeks ago. Needs Committee has been set up. They have a need for a PT Case Manager for up to a six-month period and have funding available from the State.

**Skagit County** – Dave Baylor noted there is a meeting scheduled on August 9. Several different organizations are involved. Also noted they also have funding available to hire a Case Manager but are having a hard time finding qualified candidates.

### **Guest Presentation - Chris Aronen – FEMA Region X VAL**

#### **Introduction and WA State Cascadia Rising Exercise Follow up:**

Chris began by introducing himself as the new FEMA Region X VAL. He is originally from WA State but most recently worked in Philadelphia and has been with FEMA for about eight years. He also has background in AmeriCorps and Peace Corps.

Chris mentioned that just yesterday a guide was published on MOUs done with state, local and tribal entities. It covers the reimbursement process which Chris knows is important to all of our organizations. He will share with anyone who requests a copy.

Cascadia exercise focus was on how an earthquake and tsunami would impact Washington and the surrounding area including Canada. It involved federal, state, and tribal partners.

It was a three-day exercise with **Day One** being the event, **Day Two** covering days 4-7 and **Day Three** covering days 8-14.

The focus was on Critical Transportation and Mass Care Services including feeding, sheltering and other activities essential to recovery. Also focused on inter-connectivity between entities. The exercise allowed for review and update of the various plans in place.

Unfortunately, the exercise was held at the same time as the NVOAD Conference, so some key entities were unable to engage.

**Key questions raised included:**

- Water filtration systems – responsibility?
- How to support those with access and functional needs?
- How would entities work together in terms of coordination?
- What would “call-down” order be? (Federal to State – State to Local)
- Responsibility for child and animal management?

Chris asked that anyone whose organization is engaged in any of the above areas to please let him know.

A general discussion followed the presentation with the focus on the roles of the various entities involved including WaVOAD’s role in situations like this. Tom noted that there seems to be a lack of understanding about WaVOAD’s role and the role of the individual organizations that make up WaVOAD. Dave Baylor noted that this has been an historical problem.

A greater understanding of roles is needed and there also needs to be a focus on communications between entities.

Maty Grisham committed to Chris to make himself available to meet to have further conversations on this topic and to help clarify roles.

Tom Sharp from King County OEM said that they also would like a better understanding of roles and responsibilities and is willing to meet to gain a better understanding. Bill Gillespie noted this information needs to be pushed down to the local levels as well.

Chris mentioned that a final report would be issued on the exercise sometime in September.

## **Member Report Outs**

**Jim Mahon – Church of Scientology** – Jim mentioned that his Church was sponsoring a concert on August 2 in Lower Queen Anne (church parking lot) as part of the Neighborhood Night Out effort. Have not done for the past two years.

**Bill Gillespie – WaSARVAC** – Bill mentioned they assisted with a fire in Kittitas – support teams on standby. He also noted they were doing welfare check-ins during the recent heat emergency working with local organizations. Bill also mentioned they have some new program managers in place.

**Kathy Bryson – UMCOR** – Kathy noted that UMCOR recently sent 1500 cleaning kits to Kentucky for those impacted by the recent flooding. Kathy will be visiting Okanogan County to view some of the homes being built there. UMCOR also did damage assessments on 13 homes in Whatcom County in late June that impacted 24 adults and 51 children. Also did some muck out work there. Kathy will also attend an Idaho VOAD exercise on August 15 and will provide a report out following.

### **Jill Watson – City of Seattle –**

- Held Seattle Cascadia Rising 2022 (CR22) earthquake exercises in two priority areas: Damage assessment and EOC Resource Requests (particularly around ESF #6 resources).
- Heat response for previous week's heat wave included providing cooling centers, information, and outreach. Heat planning and response around the country is being strengthened. Seattle is developing City heat recommendations, and some were implemented for last week's heat wave (e.g., providing AC units to senior centers not air-conditioned). The city is also coordinating with the county on developing a Heat Plan.
- Responded to a June 12 fire at the Madison Apartment building, a 4 story City-funded low-income housing apartment building with 65 occupied units and 73 residents.

Jill thanked the many organizations that helped provide assistance (including WAVOAD members), such as the American Red Cross, Tukwila Clothing Bank, St Vincent de Paul, The Salvation Army, Tzu Chi, and St. James Cathedral.

Bill Gillespie asked about WaVOAD membership outreach. Kathy noted that we have not done any outreach that she is aware of but have seen increased interest in membership as a result of recent disasters (Covid, wildfires and flooding). Marty added that the leadership team should talk about this in the next meeting.

**Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 4, 2022 – 10am via zoom**

***Meeting adjourned by Kathy Bryson at 11:30 am.***

***Respectfully submitted by Dave Zablotny, WaVOAD secretary***