

WAVOAD General Meeting

February 7, 2023,

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

In Attendance

Marty Grisham – LDS Charities, WaVOAD President	Tom Link - SVdP
Kathy Bryson – PNW UMC Disaster Response, WaVOAD Vice President	Christian Burgess – Disaster Distress Helpline –Vibrant Emotional Health
Dave Zablony – Habitat for Humanity - WaVOAD Secretary	Ashley Butenschoen – Whatcom County LTRG
Ray Shjerven – SWWA ELCA - WaVOAD Treasurer	Shawna Jepson- Oregon Department of Emergency Management
Jim Mahon – Church of Scientology - WaVOAD Member-at-large	Todd Holloway – WA Emergency Management
Christie Merrill – Red Cross – WaVOAD Member -at-large	Shaun Jones – Salvation Army
Rick Wallace – Skagit County CERT	Geri Chumley – Whatcom County COAD
Mike Richter – Operation BBQ Relief	Her Kait Seet – Tzu Chi Foundation
Jim House – WA State Independent Living Council	Carlene Anders – ED – Disaster Leadership Team
Kristi Kasper – Island County Emergency Management	Kim Vogel – United Church of Christ
Lisa Arellano – Salvation Army	Cindi Barker – Seattle Emergency Communication Hubs
Larry Mays – Adventist Community Services	Tom Sharp – King County OEM
Quinn Butler – WA OEM	Jill Watson – Seattle Human Services Dept.
Forrest Wilkinson – Church of the Brethren	

Meeting called to order by Kathy Bryson for February 7, 2023, at 10:02am

Minutes Review

The minutes from the December 6, 2022, general meeting were presented with no edits. Ray Shjerven moved to accept. Christie Merrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Review

Ray Shjerven presented the following review of the 2022 year end financials:

WAVOAD financial Statement for 2022

Jan. 1, 2022	Segregated Savings	\$5,489.01
Withdrawals	Whatcom LTRG reimbursement	(400.67)
Interest earned		\$7.00
Dec. 31, 2022	Segregated Savings	\$5,095.34

Jan 1, 2022	Operational Checking	\$20,693.73
DUES	(28 organizations)	\$3360.01
Transfer from Savings		\$400.67
Expenditures	NVOAD dues	(35.00)
	LTRG Whatcom reimbursement	(400.67)
	Checks	(20.75)
	NVOAD reimbursement	(4089.17)
	SOS filings	(70.00)
Dec. 31, 2022	Operational Checking	\$19838.82

Tom Link moved to accept. Christie Merrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report/General Information

Marty Grisham advised the group that there has been limited activity to report on since our last meeting. He has connected with the WA State OEM and with a focus on preparedness. He encouraged an individual and organizational focus on preparedness.

Agency Spotlight: Operation Barbeque Relief – Mike Richter

Mike mentioned the origins of the organization. Began in 2011 in response to the Joplin, Missouri tornados. Over an 11-day period they served 120,000 meals and recognized the need for an organization like this. Since then, they have deployed over 90 times in 32 states.

Mike said their Disaster Response program could involve serving of meals, drop off or pick up. He shared two short videos with the group – one with a recording of a call from a person in Kentucky, thanking the organization for the work they recently did there noting the importance of this work for people who have lost everything. In response to questions, he noted they would feed at exercises and also noted they are looking into doing more international work. They have done work in the Bahamas in the past.

Report Outs:

Long term Recovery Updates:

Okanogan County LTRG – Carlene Anders reported that they currently have a team in from Montana framing their eighth home. They hope to have their ninth (final) home framed in March and to have that home completed by the summer. They will be taking volunteers through at least May. She

thanked all those who have provided support including Red Cross, UMCOR and Mennonite Disaster Services.

Carlene also mentioned that the Disaster Leadership Team (she also represents) has provided support recently in Whatcom County.

Whatcom County LTRG – Ashley Butenschoen mentioned that they recently passed the one-year anniversary of the flooding there and noted it was a difficult time. She thanked Carlene for her support and said that the outside input was helpful.

They had a setback with their volunteer housing when that facility experienced flooding due to burst pipes. They hope to be back in that space soon. She said they have six volunteer groups scheduled (church and youth) to work on their “Top 55” projects. She noted that they recently signed a contract with the county for funding but there is still need for additional volunteers with a wide variety of skill sets ranging from clean up to skilled labor (mechanicals).

Clallam County – Quinn Butler (WA OEM) mentioned the role of State VAL is being shared. They are having trouble finding a PT Disaster Case Manager. Also, they are working with Olympia Community Action for support.

Skagit County – Shaun Jones (Salvation Army) noted that a Case Manager has now been hired and they have about 30+ cases that are currently being handled.

Guest Presentation

Quinn Butler – WA OEM – Individual Assistance Program Updates

Background:

- The Director shall prepare and administer a state program for emergency assistance to individuals within the state who are victims of natural, technological, or human caused disasters. (RCW.52.030 (9))
- 2020 Wildfire Household Appliance & Home Repair/Replacement Program
- 2021 Disaster Case Management & Temporary Emergency Housing
- 2022 Legislative Session - \$7.5 M Individual Assistance

\$7.5M is provided solely for the department to make grants for individual assistance to those impacted by extreme weather events and natural disasters in FY 2022 and 2023

State IA Grant Funding Criteria:

- Must be a WA political subdivision
- Local, tribal, state, or federal disaster declaration with damages occurring 7/1/21-6/30/23
- Identified unmet needs
- Exhausted local resources
- Recipient is a WA resident or member of a WA state tribe

State IA Grant Funding Request Process:

- Local, state, or federal declaration
- Resources exhausted
- Jurisdiction submits resource request
- Request reviewed
- Request Approved -> Agreement Drafted -> Funds Awarded
- Request denied -> Appeal submitted -> Decision on Appeal

Types of Assistance:

- Immediate Disaster Needs
- Housing Assistance
- Household Appliances/Home Repairs
- Disaster Case Management
- Recovery Staff Hiring

Approved State IA Funding: (\$5,209,264 awarded)

- Sept 2022 Bolt Creek Fire
- November 2021 Flood
- January 2022 Flood
- December 2022 Flood

Quinn then spoke briefly about State Individual assistance program research. This program is preliminary, and the proposed recommendations are subject to change.

Background:

- Authority – no permanent funding
- Increased recovery funding and attention
- Past legislative decision packages (unknowns, duplication, competing priorities)
- New approach – Legislative Session 2022 – funding awarded to hire contractor for state IA program research

Vision: Develop a state funded, IA program to support disaster survivors with remaining unmet needs

Project Goal: Identify IA gaps, receive stakeholder inputs, and deliver a report identifying the establishment, operations, and maintenance of WA state IA program

Timeline:

Project kickoff – July 2022

Research and outreach – August-October 2022

Draft program and budget recommendations – November 2022-January 2023

Validation meeting with stakeholders – February 2023

Closeout – March-April 2023

Washington's Model: Lean to start, adapt to needs, expand over time

- Phase 1- Immediate needs and sheltering – immediate needs assistance and extended sheltering
- Phase 2- Long term unmet needs – Housing assistance, disaster caused unmet needs
- Phase 3 – Case management and recovery support – Support to survivors with serious disaster caused unmet needs

Activation criteria:

- Local declaration/state emergency required
- Governor's emergency proclamation required
- 25 primary homes with major damage based on FEMA damage criteria (FEMA definition of primary home)

Application:

- 60 days from public notice to apply
- In person, phone, on-line, paper
- County/tribe initial review, state to support if needed
- County/tribe issues payment on approvals – state reimburses

Eligibility:

- Proof of residence
- Proof of insurance and claim settlement
- Present evidence of disaster related damages
- Proof of disaster assistance received from other entities for this event
- Household income equal to or less than 80% of HUD AMI
- Program specific eligibility applies

Award amounts and caps:

Damage Based:

- One person - \$375
- 2-4 persons - \$750
- 5+ persons - \$1,125
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Long-term Unmet Needs- Case by case

Max Cap:

- Housing – Match FEMA HA Max
- Unmet Needs – Match FEMA ONA Max

Member Report Outs

Larry Mays – Adventist Community Services – DR – Larry mentioned they will be holding training on February 23 focused on three topics: Thrift Store Training, CERT Training and Emotional and Spiritual Care.

Christian Burgess – Vibrant Emotional Health – Now offering on-line peer support for survivors and responders of the Covid 19 pandemic where people can receive mutual aid and support during recovery. Aimed at those who have experienced disproportionate stress (parents, care givers, healthcare workers, people who have lost loved ones or struggled with long haul covid impacts.

Also offering on-line peer support communities for survivors of mass violence or experiencing crisis or mental health concerns (can also connect with DDH crisis counselors 24/7).

Dave Zaboltny – Habitat for Humanity – Recently returned from a two- week deployment to Florida to assist a Habitat affiliate with development of a Disaster Repair Program to assist those in the community in need of help resulting from Hurricane Ian.

Carlene Anders – Disaster Leadership Team – They have recently added three new board members with a focus on capacity building and continuity.

Todd Holloway – WA EMD – Provided an update on recent personnel changes and connection with FEMA Region X.

Jill Watson – Seattle Human Services Department – Mentioned that recent work has been focused on the wind events and king tide flooding in South Seattle that impacted 30-40 households.

Kathy Bryson – UMCOR – Kathy noted they continue to be active in Whatcom and Okanogan Counties. They also performed some damage assessments in Island and Kitsap counties in December.

Miscellaneous:

Kathy Bryson mentioned that the Mountain West VOAD meeting will be held in Salt Lake City from April 12-15. She also noted the National VOAD meetings will take place in St. Louis from May 8-11.

A question was asked about a return to in-person meetings. Marty and Kathy noted that this has been discussed at the WaVOAD Leadership level. Attendance has been higher with the zoom meeting format but there could be consideration to having at least one in person meeting annually. Marty asked that if anyone had strong feeling either way that they reach out to him.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 4, 2023 - 10am via zoom

Meeting adjourned by Marty Grisham at 11:54 am.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Zaboltny, WaVOAD secretary