

# Minutes

## WAVOAD General Membership Meeting April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 at NOAA facilities, Seattle

DATE	April 1, 2025
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TIME	10:13 AM
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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Kathy Bryson
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### IN ATTENDANCE

Kathy Bryson, UMCOR; Jim Mahon, Churches of Scientology Disaster Response; Carlene Anders, The Disaster Leadership Team; Christie Merrill, American Red Cross; Lisa Arellano, Salvation Army; Shawn Jones, Salvation Army; Chris Aronen, FEMA Region 10; Taylor Dietz, WA EMD; Jill Watson, City of Seattle; Reid Wolcott, NOAA (host); Terri Cooper, Spokane Region LTRG; Mike Reidy, Sound Transit

**THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY MEETING HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY SENT OUT AND REVIEWED. JILL FROM CITY OF SEATTLE HAD A FEW REVISIONS WHICH KATHY WILL MAKE. CHRISTIE MOVED TO ACCEPT, LISA ARELLANO SECONDED. MINUTES FOR FEB. MEETING APPROVED AT 10:20**

### FINANCIALS

Via email Treasurer Ray Sherjven presented the balances; Savings - \$5,148.70; Checking - \$17,542.83.

One new expense is WAVOADs own business Zoom account, moved over from Jewish Federation account we had previously used.

Jim Mahon moved to accept the financials; Christie Merrial seconded, financials were approved.

### REPORTS

President Kathy Bryson thanked everyone for attending and NOAA for hosting. All in attendance introduced themselves and the group they represented.

She also updated us on past President Marty Grisham's condition, still fighting Influenza A, some days are better than others. He should be in our prayers and well wishes.

Next to discuss was the upcoming NVOAD Conference in Louisville, May 19<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>. WAVOAD is granting 2 scholarships, one for Lisa Arellano and one for Ray Shjerven. Also attending will be Carlene Anders, Kathy Bryson, Larry Mays, Christie Merrill, & Jim Cooper.

The Mountain West VOAD conference will be in Idaho. Jim Cooper from United Way will be attending. It will be also attended by our Salvation Army reps as the conference itself will be on a Salvation Army site. Joava Good from Utah Church of Scientology will be the Mountain West VOAD chair.

The Partners in Emergency Preparedness are having their conference on May 15th through the 17th. It had been slated to be an in person event but was changed to a virtual event still at the same price. Christy Merrill from the American Red Cross was planning to attend representing WAVOAD.

Washington State Emergency Management association will have their conference on September 22nd through the 25th at Northern Quest resort and casino near Spokane.

There will be a fire recap May 12 -13 in Ellensburg with WA St. DNR, a free event that is also hybrid.

Report outs:

Jill Watson from City of Seattle – NIH HIS conference was cancelled. Accessibility and Functional needs Conference, free, May 6-7 in Seattle.

World Renew – Randy Bode has moved and Jay DeBoer returns.

Our new member at large is Lary Mays from Adventists. We look forward to having Larry on the Leadership team.

Next we had a report out on our government resources. Taylor Deitz from Washington EMD told us of an e-mail delivery system at the bottom of the Emergency Management website where you could subscribe for information on Washington state.

LTR report from Terri Cooper from SRLTRG regarding 8-12 more homes are looking for funding and help thru government funding.

The WA state legislature has a wildfire caucus working on more fire detection, prevention as well as recovery period funding.

Shawn Jones from Salvation Army said they will be at the Mountain West VOAD Conference since they were Co hosting. They will have their own conference in Montana in September, also one for Southern Idaho and Eastern Orgegon. DCM project is ending in June. There are also preparations for internal COOP (Continuity of Operations) – plan that should be ready in a year or so.

American Red Cross is begining in June and with their smoke alarm program plus education on wildfires for the rest of the state.

Jim from Churches of Scientology Disaster Response updated us on their ability to deliver CPR training. The process now in an online course that must be done prior to the in-person training, which makes for a much shorter time to deliver.

Kathy updated us on UMC activities. They had an Early Response Team class for about 20 people. They're still waiting to hear back on the Spokane LTR grant. They have hygiene and muck out kits that they can share. UMC Still very active on the LA recovery and Maui.

Jill Watson from City of Seattle reported that the all the long range planning is for the World Cup in 2026. There will be many components and they must have teams picked by June 7<sup>th</sup>. They're also going to involve more counties than just King County to get a plan for the region and building off of each other's experiences.

Chris from FEMA told us of several changes of course in their agency; lots of freezes though not on IAs. Not sure exactly when grant review gets done. There is an engagement freeze and he must get logistics and financial approval before engaging or even coming to a meeting like ours. Internal budget is frozen and there is a hiring freeze. No permanent administration changes. They may be doing a survey meeting talking about the future of FEMA.

Taylor from Washington State EMD told us of the state budget deficit and the new governor was reducing funding 6%. There is hope that they'll be able to use an Emergency Management fund set up by the legislature. Funding for the bomb cyclone is being stretched up to June 30th the end of the fiscal year. They are also involved in preparations for the World Cup in 2026 extreme weather grant has expired. Zach from the department will be going to Mountain West VOAD conference.

Mike Reidy from Sound Transit reported that they are involved in preparations for the World Cup dealing with mass care, heat, and hydration and setting up cooling stations. They are looking at setting up incident command system certification and establishing a COOP. Anyone can attend their next board meeting at Union Station, Seattle, in May.

Our host from NOAA, Reid Wolcott, noted they were holding heat workshops on May 14th and 15th. The outlook is for moderate drought, June through September we'll have an increased risk as usual. Re: the Alaska volcano eruption he directed us to the NOAA website. The wildfire outlook is normal for Washington state. There is no good signal right now, hard to predict the timing. He explained that the winds following the bomb cyclone were downslope winds that did the damage and not the cyclone itself which occurred several hundred miles off the coast.

He shared with us the 24/7 support for on duty meteorologists at [nws.seattle@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.seattle@noaa.gov). And also his information [reid.wolcott@noaa.gov](mailto:reid.wolcott@noaa.gov). He shared a new PDS red flag warning system for Particularly Dangerous Situations When conditions are extreme as in above the 99th percentile. This will require collaboration with as an emergency managers to make sure there is a consistent message appropriate to the situation.

We then all got to go out onto the floor and see the facilities. Each person has five monitors in their workstation to stay on top of any activities or events. We were all impressed with the scope of the facilities and the agencies ability to coordinate with other stations in real time to get a handle and prediction on weather events since the weather knows no boundaries. NOAA was recognized by our president, Kathy, for hosting us and being part of our resources. With that the meeting was adjourned at noon.