

Oregon VOAD Meeting Minutes



July 18, 2017

Attendance: Dean Alby, Oregon Food Bank; Brent Carlson, Church of the Brethren; John Colvin, Mennonite Disaster Service; Christian Burgess, Disaster Distress Helpline; Larry Johnson, UMCOR; Mike Johnson, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; Charlene Larsen, Lutheran Disaster Response; Joseph Murray, Oregon Office of Emergency Management; Karen Layng, Oregon Office of Emergency Management; Laura Pascoe, Adventist Community Services; Stephen Sirkin, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland; Nika Herford, FEMA; Robert Worlock, Church of Scientology Disaster Services; Sage Limpp, All Hands Volunteers; Kate Castenson, Mercy Corps; Louise Hernandez, PGE; Tim Lambert, Operation BBQ Relief; Les Miller, Private Professional; Tom Hogan, Clackamas County COAD.

Dean Alby, ORVOAD President, welcomed the participants (approximately 5 minutes).

- **Secretary's Report (position is currently vacant)**

The May 23, 2017 Member Meeting minutes were provided previous to the meeting.

Motion and vote: Mike Johnson moved to accept these meeting minutes without correction or update, Brent Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

- **Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's report was provided by John Colvin (as Wendy is deployed) \$7,459.84 balance in account. There have been a number of dues received but the checks have not been deposited yet.

As this report is incomplete, there was no vote to accept Treasurer's Report.

- **Registration for Charitable Organizations (RFC):**

Dean Reports that Oregon Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster is now "registered" as an organization under the Oregon Charitable Trust and Corporation Act. This is the groundwork for moving forward on our 501(c)(3) designation.

- **Pursuing a 501(c)(3) designation for OR VOAD:**

A short discussion developed the framework for a sub-committee to work on attaining a non-profit designation for Oregon VOAD. The following members agreed to be on the sub-committee:

- Dean Alby, Chair
- Mike Johnson, participant
- Wendy Colvin, providing fiscal/treasurer information
- John Colvin, subject matter expert
- Dan Moseler, participant

Discussion: Dean stated we hope to have an update at the next meeting to show the membership progress towards this goal. Completion date could be as early as the first quarter

of 2018. John Colvin added that as long as we have a federal EIN (we do) and have bylaws updated and a conflict of interest policy in place we should have the foundational documentation. He added that we need to know exact date that organization started. Dean reports that we have very accurate documentation to this affect. We have a wonderful history that is well documented starting in the 1980s – date, meeting, who attended and also have info on meetings for the next 12 years. John added we need \$850 for the filing of the paperwork and we can do the IRS short form for taxes as long as we haven't handled \$20K a year in last five years. Dean said that Charlene Larsen would know the history. We probably haven't gotten to that amount. A meeting of this group will be planned ASAP and reported to the membership at the next ORVOAD meeting.

- **Mountain West VOAD Conference Planning 2018:**

Dean reports that we had an initial meeting of the Mountain West VOAD Conference Planning Committee last month. The group agreed to have the conference here in Portland to limit driving for attendees. We want to have a very Oregon (NW States) centric event highlighting Oregon organizations, places and people.

- ***Planning Assumptions:***

- Conference attendance of between 120-150 participants
 - Need a large conference room with audio/visual capability
 - 3-4 breakout rooms
 - Food for breakfast (probably fruit and pastries, water, coffee), lunch (sandwiches, soda, water, fruit) and a light snack in the afternoon.
 - We want to provide ample information to the conference attendees about:
 - Community activities and site of interest
 - Oregon Locations of interest such as Astoria, Lincoln City, Multnomah Falls, etc.

- To that end we have a couple of locations that will work to host the event:

- ***Adventist Community Services Conference Center in Gladstone*** – the facility has plenty of space for the event and is free for our use.
 - ***McMenamins Kennedy School or Edgefield*** – There is plenty of space, there are rooms available for attendees, it's close to the airport, it is uniquely northwest.
 - ***Concordia University, Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Program*** – *Dean is currently in discussions with Laurie Holien, Director of the program, to see if they can partner/host our conference. Dean will link back with Laurie in the coming days to pursue this prospect.*

- We need to develop a "Theme" for the conference as well. Robert Worlock will reach over to Utah to see how they developed the theme for the 2016 Mt. West Conf.

- **InStove Report:**

Dean states that Adam Creighton of InStove has provided information about a couple of grants they have received to provide a number of their stoves to non-profit organizations here in Oregon. Some stoves can be provided to ORVOAD members and some can be provided to Oregon Food Bank and to their Network of organizations. He will ask Adam to provide written information about the stoves he can place in a weekly update.

- **Fires Season Report Out – Karen Layng (OEM):**
 - Karen reports they are predicting an average fire season.
 - Very dry and no precipitation this week or next, so vegetation is quite dry.
 - Severe fuel condition in eastern Oregon. With thunderstorms we will see more fires. Not likely to get weather to dampen fuel.
 - No major fires in state so far with the exception of one in Klamath and one near Portland which were taken care of quickly and contained in 24-72 hours. V
 - OAD may be called to provide mass care services and/or help people impacted by fire.
 - Dean reminds all VOAD members to know what services your organization provides and how long it takes to provide services. We will triage fires as needed. Good opportunity as a liaison to know exactly what organization is capable of providing during response and/or during the long-term recovery phase to address unmet needs. It can take months to know, and resolve, what is needed. Be prepared to have answers for the VOAD and the local, state and federal agencies as needed.
 - Les Miller asked “what about increasing the defensible space around people’s homes?” John Colvin (Mennonites) reminds us there is no plantings 100 feet from house. AmeriCorps can help with clean-up and plantings. And Seventh Day Adventists have done this, brought up a chain saw crew after 2014 & 2015 fires. Laura, do you know anything about that? Yes, went up once and was requested again, but wasn’t available. We have equipment but don’t have team ready to go. She is looking for a leader for that, so not currently operational. Larry Johnson (UMCOR), part of a crew from Washington and Idaho conferences, after fires and sites were cleared and they’re getting ready to build and needed vegetation removed. Jim Truitt is a contact for this new chainsaw crew. Need to develop a location for local fire-fighters to put a snorkel in creeks and wonder if this is part of a group. Put in a temporary dam or access for trucks to get in to fill up trucks. In California, depending on county, homeowner is responsible for water source for fire. Amount of water depends on county requirements. New sprinkler systems are required inside and outside for new construction in California. In Oregon, we will rely on Oregon fire marshal and local jurisdictions on those requirements. Each county is different and it’s “interesting” John says. Good opportunity for mitigation efforts.

- **Solar Eclipse 2017 – Karen:**
 - Karen reported as many as one million visitors will in Oregon to experience the total solar eclipse on August 21st. Most visitors will come for the eclipse and stay to visit other sites around the state. Currently it is impossible to find camp sites and hotel rooms in path of totality.
 - There is a growing concern this very large number of visitors within such a small area will create some problems during the height of fire season. Getting fire response vehicles and crews to fires may be difficult due to traffic congestion.
 - The State ECC will be open for a couple of days before, and after the 21st and is sending liaisons out to Deschute, Baker, Lincoln and possibly Marion and others in the path of totality.
 - Fill up gas tank and limit driving on gas tank. Fuel status could mean long lines.

- Impact to VOAD? If ECC open, VOAD representative can come. If we have to shelter, a higher number of people will be transient if they are forced out of hotels and campgrounds. Very possible we will have fires.
 - Mike Johnson reports that in Benton County the new COAD is working really hard to prepare to help where needed with the large influx of visitors.
 - Dean – place for VOAD regarding possible fire response, people plucked off of hillsides. Good opportunity to listen to needs. Dean won't be able to participate. He is going to the Annual National Mass Care exercise in Utah from August 22-24th.
- **Members & Training Updates:**
 - July 25-26, 2017: L0548 Continuity of Operations (COOP) Planning Program Manager Course (Wilsonville, OR)
 - July 24-27, 2017: L0312 *Fundamentals of Building Science* (Lynnwood, WA)
 - August 15, 2017: *OpsCenter and RAPTOR Application Trainings* (Salem, OR, or webinar)
 - August 23-25, 2017: L0348 *Orientation to Mission Assignments for FEMA Staff and Interagency Partners* (Camp Murray, WA)
 - September 19-21, 2017: *Oregon Emergency Management Association Conference 2017* (Eugene, OR) – for more information <http://www.oregonemergency.com/2017-conference/>
 - November 7-9, 2017: G0290 *Basic Public Information Officers Course/G0291 Joint Information System/Center Planning for Tribal, State, and Local Public Information Officers* (Salem, OR)

This meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Next Oregon VOAD Meeting is **Tuesday, September 12th, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.**, location TBD. (the date is not typical for us but the OEMA Conference is the week of the 17th and many of us will be at the conference.)

Notes taken by Nika Herford, FEMA