NC VOAD Quarterly Meeting

July 17, 2018

Swannanoa, NC

The NCVOAD held its quarterly meeting on July 17, 2018 at the Hearts with Hands Center in Swannanoa, NC

An invocation was given by Jon Wallace of the United Church of Christ.

The minutes from the quarterly meeting on April 17, 2018 had been sent to membership by e-mail. Jon Wallace moved to approve the minutes as submitted and Wendy Pulley from NCEM seconded. The minutes were approved.

There was no treasurer’s report.

**Old Business**

LTRG workshops went well and covered topics on case management.

Ann Huffman gave an overview about VOAD for the benefit of anyone not familiar with VOAD. She also gave a summary of the response to and recovery from Hurricane Matthew.

* Prior to Hurricane Matthew, Tropical Storm Julia caused flooding in the town of Windsor in Bertie County. Conference calls began
* Hurricane Matthew produced historic flooding to much of Eastern North Carolina including Bertie County and other counties.
* Many national VOAD partners began responding and participating in conference calls. Partnering with FEMA and NCEM, a FEMA conference call line was used which provided a platform for communication.
* LTRG’s formed and case management began. LTRG’s requested case management training.
* NCVOAD sponsored two case management trainings.

A goal is to always have active LTRG’s that become local VOADs to be ready next time. The question also arose about the number of VOAD groups by county.

There was no Board of Directors report.

**From NCEM Update**

Abby Cameron gave a hurricane outlook. The forecast was that we might anticipate a season similar to 2017, however, the forecast doesn’t mean much but El Nino may cause fewer, less intense hurricanes.

Wendy Pulley, Human Services Branch asked that when a hurricane is forecast for the Carolina Coast, that mass care organizations have supplies and equipment in place so that shelters can open and mass feeding can begin immediately post impact.

NCEM has a pre-plan for a worst case scenario with responders ready to respond. They are hoping that all organizations will plan for worst case.

Agriculture – responsible for pet sheltering and crops. Pet sheltering is a huge need followed by assessing crop damage/

Disability Intgration – Looking at how to best serve people with access and functional needs to ensure that people have full access to services.

State IA works as an advocate in declared disasters. Currently working with unmet needs following April tornadoes in Guilford and Rockingham Counties.

Looking at PDA’s in Western NC and may request an IA declaration. Trying to hit declaration threshold. No one county has enough damage to meet threshold for SBA declaration

**FEMA Update**

Currently there are 14 active LTRG’s. One county has expressed interest in forming a LTRG for Hurricane Matthew. Faye Stone will be working with county emergency management who requested the LTRG.

Hurricane Matthew was officially turned over to FEMA Region IV.

FEMA has been selling some MHU’s at online auction.

There are six FEMA staff at a staging location.

Faye Stone’s deployment will end at the end of September when the disaster transitions to the region.

Stats –

* 297 LTRG meetings held. May be a larger number
* 61,711 volunteers provided 722,835 volunteer hours October 8, 2016 -June 15, 2018, value approximately $16,279,273.
* Trying to determine the number of homes being repaired.
* The number of homes rebuilt by VOAD organizations 752 committed, 340 completed, 223 in progress and 189 unsure.

In June, FEMA released new information for faith-based services. FEMA will also be doing readiness visits to states. Brock Long envisions locally managed disasters.

**Other Reports**

Guilford County will not have a LTRG by their request because of existing housing groups (Continuum of Care and Partners Ending Homelessness). They do want to engage in structured disaster case management using CAN.

Also, from Guilford County – people do not understand the FEMA appeal process. Housing is not being repaired for undocumented renters. Alliance is helping people to relocate, and NC Legal Aid will assist with renter’s rights issues. Faith based organizations are active in Greensboro.

Buncombe County – A geologist has assessed areas most vulnerable to mudslides but the report has not yet been released. Also, Buncombe County Emergency Manager expressed concern about whether or not people impacted by the mudslides will receive assistance.

Caldwell County expressed appreciation for VOAD. Currently they are working with the Baptists. They are dealing with flood plain management and home ownership.

Hearts With Hands – began working in 1992 following Hurricane Andrew by the pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Asheville. Their new facility is under renovation. They have 200 volunteers per week during 2017 storms. They provide Western NC a place for staging and distributing resources.

Lunch was provided by Operation Barbeque Relief to demonstrate the types of meals they provide in times of disaster. They typically provide a protein and vegetable, and try to provide bread and snacks. They are based in Kansas City, MO. The team from Caldwell County NC provided lunch for the meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 followed by lunch

Respectfully Submitted

Anita Cline

Substituting for Larry Marks