# NCVOAD Large Logo

# Minutes of Quarterly Meeting

## October 22, 2018

## Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 by president Ann Huffman. Ann stated that the purpose of the meeting was to introduce NC VOAD to the NC Emergency Management Association (NCEMA). She observed that we had a smaller crowd than usual and attributed that to the ongoing disaster response/recovery. A speakerphone was used to include those who called in.

## Minutes

Larry Marks moved approval of the minutes as submitted. Daniel Altenau seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Gene Ziemba read the Treasurer’s Report. A copy is attached. Jere Snyder moved approval. Larry Marks seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## Old Business

Ann Huffman stated that we had planned to review the Disaster Case Management Plan (DCMP) for the future, but are now working on the plan for Florence. The Request for Proposal for DCMP has been issued. We will continue to look at our own plan.

Ann stated that Matthew reports would be covered during Updates.

## New Business

**NOMINATIONS**

Ann Huffman opened nominations for the Nominating Committee. Cynthia Bradley stated that Greg Mack had expressed a willingness to serve. Gene Ziemba nominated himself. Cliff Harvell nominated himself. John Robinson nominated Daniel Altenau. Larry Marks moved, Al Foote seconded to accept the slate of nominees. Passed unanimously.

## Organization Reports

## FEMA

No representative present.

## NC Emergency Management

No representative present.

## NC Emergency Management Association

Mary Beth Newns stated that she was here to assist with anything we need in Response Phase.

**Long-term Recovery Groups**

George Strunk stated that new LTRGs were coming together. Phil Triplett has been sending a list of all meetings. Let him know of additions or changes. NC VOAD is providing mentors to groups that are forming and existing groups. VOAD partners should try to attend meetings in the early stages of formation. It is important to have the major groups attend.

**NC Department of Health and Human Services**

Carlotta Dixon stated that D-SNAP starts today in Anson, Orange, and Union counties for eight days. It has already closed in other counties. Greene County was the last to close.

**American Red Cross**

Lana Head reported that 7 shelters remained open with 280 overnight stays. 554 meals were served and 832 snacks. There were 26 Health Services visits, 106 Disaster Mental Health visits, and 58 Emotional/Spiritual care visits. There is no housing in the area. People are staying in the shelters due to inability to relocate. They are looking for apartments. Some have received TSA but have not moved in. Lana wondered whether the TSA vouchers expired and whether they could be renewed. The Damage Assessment is issuing Tuesday, when it will be complete.

**NC VOAD Mentoring**

John Robinson stated that he was continuing to mentor in Jones County and will go to Pamlico and Carteret on Thursday.

**The Salvation Army**

Ross Patterson reported that TSA feeding has mostly closed excepting a little in South Carolina. They have transitioned to recovery and are waiting for funds approval. They will work with local Salvation Army units which will partner with local LTRGs.

**Baptists on Mission**

Jack Frazier reported that mass feeding has closed. Fourteen recovery sites are open in the southeast. One rebuild site has been established. It is expected to remain for 2-3 years. 2-3 additional sites will open, in Wilmington, Jacksonville, and Wallace.

**World Renew**

Ben Dykstra reported that this will be their final year in Tarboro, rebuilding after Matthew. They expect to work until late Spring. They worked in New Bern with UMC for six weeks, doing muckout. Ben invited others to feel free to reach out for needs assessment or Long-term Recovery.

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**

Jere Snyder reported that they are about to conclude the efforts completing jobs from Crisis Cleanup. To date they have had 16.242 volunteers working weekends, performing 212,697 hours of service and closing 4418 work orders. This weekend may be the last major effort.

**Knights of Columbus**

Gene Ziemba reported that the work effort is growing during Florence. They are working with Catholic Charities to provide supplies. They will continue to grow.

**Wake Interfaith Disaster Team**

Larry Marks reported that they staffed the Volunteers and Donations position at the Wake County EOC. The Vice-President covered all the night shifts and Larry and a few other volunteers covered the day shifts.

**Team Rubicon**

Laura Block reported that they are still working in Wilmington, Lumberton, and New Bern. They will partner with others.

**NC Emergency Management**

Mary Beth Newns stated that she had been deployed to the Hawaii volcano event. She served as the liaison between the county and the VOADs. She thanked us for what we do.

**Catholic Charities**

Daniel Altenau reported that there were 26 distribution points open in New Bern, Wilmington, and Fayetteville, at Catholic Charities offices and within the county. They have partnered with Knights of Columbus and others at fifty sites. The distribution will shut down as they transition to re-housing.

**Cumberland Disaster Recovery Coalition**

Al Foote reported that the organization had stood up for tornadoes and for Matthew. They are still concerned about case management, particularly the cases turned over by Lutheran Services Carolinas. Now Florence will add more cases.

A new website, <http://www.cumberlandstrong.com>, has been developed.

During the Florence response, volunteers were directed to different agencies to make the best use. They were sent to Food Bank, Balm in Gilead, Manna Church, and other sites.

They are now figuring out what to do for Matthew. Funds collected for Matthew must be spent on Matthew damages. The Florence damage is in different areas, so it is easy to separate the groups and needs.

Jere Snyder asked about the cases turned over from Lutheran Services. Al explained that the cases were turned over to Emmett Wainwright and Bonita McClure on October 9 when the agreement expired. Ann will discuss this with Bonita on Friday.

Al was concerned that they did not have stable numbers for the damage. He is mentoring Columbus County.

**American Red Cross**

Cynthia Bradley reported that she has Florence information to pass out (attached) and for the minutes. Since the disaster they have gotten 6000 volunteers, many from other states and internationally. Shelters remain open. They are still working with clients. In the areas hit by Florence and Michael, they are providing shelter, feeding, supplies, and clean-up kits.

**NC Conference United Methodist Church**

Cliff Harvell (UMC Disaster Superintendent) reported that they have teams in 13 counties doing emergency response. They have distributed hundreds of flood buckets and health kits and opened many volunteer hosting sites. They are continuing to make assessments for unserved areas. They have three mold-spray trailers. Mold treatment in this disaster will be a big deal. Many areas were hit that were not hit before. People don’t know and some have rebuilt too soon. Pass the word to not rebuild before the structure is dry. Larry remarked that he had had this discussion the previous day with the New Hanover group. They were already looking for drywallers. He warned them to wait and test the framing with a meter. Cliff said the UMC is partnering with many LTRGs in early response and will do so on long-term recovery. The operations for Matthew continue with a center in Washington and rebuild/case management operations in Tarboro, Fayetteville, and Lumberton.

**Cornerstone Disaster Recovery Committee**

Curtis West reported that the people who had been working on Matthew recovery distributed aid. They assisted with the Florence muck and gut and provided supplies in Duplin, Pender, Samson, and New Hanover counties. They are continuing to give help to Matthew survivors.

## Programs

**LTRG BEST PRACTICES**

Ann Huffman announced that Al Foote would give some pointers on how to keep a group going and strong. Al described what he had learned working with the Cumberland Disaster Recovery Coalition.

1. It takes someone who is passionate to help
2. It takes a group willing to meet
   1. The group started in 2011
   2. Al joined in 2012 as part of his job
3. You need people willing to put in the time

Flooding is much more difficult than a tornado. It takes more time and effort. The group is now expected to work in Response phase as well as Recovery. They got a strong group together. The goal: be good stewards of money. People look toward CDRC as the leader.

You need a group willing to look outside what you are currently doing. They were able to activate right after Matthew.

Pull in city and county people right away. They can do things like waiving dump fees.

Look for grants that are out there. They were able to hire an executive director with grant funds. They got more money to replace the executive director when the first one left.

The United Way did volunteer coordination. CDRC sent requests to United Way; United Way got the people.

A problem occurred: two agencies tried to get the same grant. The grantor assumed there was weak organization and neither agency got it. This caused a 4½ month setback. To get grants, get all of the 501(c)(3) documentation straight and make sure you have a history of good stewardship. When the American Red Cross grants were available, they had no good history and had to get a fiduciary. Now they are getting small and big grants. Use partners—don’t reinvent the wheel.

Larry asked about a good relationship with your county Emergency Manager. Al stated that Gene Booth comes to most meetings and supports CDRC. It gives him an outlet for donations. The county has information on mitigation programs and CDBG-DR. They have good numbers and understand the definitions and rules. They have experience and a good reputation. They can help you understand that “Expedited Mitigation” takes 22 months and Mitigation latency is an unknown. CDRC could not work without its county partners. The county invites CDRC to community events.

**HOUSING**

Ann suggested a discussion on housing. 51% of the clients still in shelters don’t have housing. If you need money, <http://backathome.org> is available in some counties. The UMC expected 244 clients but will probably see more.

There are housing options from the state for undeclared counties. Contact [todd.brown@ncdps.gov](mailto:todd.brown@ncdps.gov) and [Stephanie.alsay@osbm.nc.gov](mailto:Stephanie.alsay@osbm.nc.gov).

Also consider the NC Housing Foreclosure Prevention Fund, 888-990-6521. This was started late after Matthew and only one person took advantage of it. The program is active now.

Cliff Harvell stated that people waited too long before asking for help and couldn’t get it. We need to get to them early. Encourage them to apply early.

Al Foote reminded people of <http://socialserve.org>. It is a list of available housing by state, city, and size. Rents are listed, including rates for people with limited incomes.

Anne Robertson (FEMA VAL) stated that in New Hanover County, 1200 people need housing. She stated that NC VOAD should encourage landlords not accepting Section 8 housing to do so. Larry thought that was a job for the city and county to do. Al Foote stated that in Cumberland County DSS does not do so but the city and county and HUD do. Ann Huffman stated that the North Carolina Realtors Association was also a good resource.

Ann explained the TWO-STEP program. She also said that 2200 homes were recommended for buyouts. Many more have applied; this is an initial number.

Cliff Harvell stated that STEP or Rapid Rebuild programs have FEMA approval. The details are still being worked out. FEMA identifies projects needing minimal repair, e.g., flooding below the level of the electrical receptacles. These are candidates for quick rebuild, getting the people out of TSA. It might be approved only for people in TSA, not others. FEMA and the state will cover the cost of materials. It will not be a complete repair—the home will be safe, sanitary, and secure—and the home will be finished later. Hopefully the details will be announced soon. Daniel Altenau asked who does the labor. Cliff stated that some will be done by volunteer groups and some by contractors. Thousands of homes will go to contractors and thousands to VOAD members. More details will be available in the next week or so. Ann cautioned that the whole house will not be completed, just the kitchen, one bath, and enough bedrooms to accommodate the residents. Cliff stated that the kitchen would involve a sink base, no other cabinets, and drywall without tape. Exact details are to be worked out. The grants for this program are not counted against the homeowner’s FEMA recovery grant.

## Date/Time of Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting will be held January 15, 2019. The program will be defined later. It might be the July program which had to be cancelled since the presenter was in a minor vehicle accident enroute. That program covered a GIS study on the effects of Hurricane Matthew in Robeson County. The meeting will probably be held at the state Emergency Operations Center in Raleigh.

## Adjournment

Larry Marks moved, Daniel Altenau seconded adjournment. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Marks

Secretary

NC VOAD