



**MARIN OPERATIONAL AREA  
DISASTER & CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL**

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**Marin Operational Area  
Disaster and CitizenCorps Council Minutes  
December 10, 2015**

The Regular meeting of the Marin Operational Area Disaster and Citizen Corps Council (DC3) was held Thursday, December 10, 2015.

**Council Members Present:** Judy Arnold, Frank Cox, Steve Tulsy, Keith Kennedy, Jr., Anne Sands, Ed Schulze, Bill Tyler, Heather Ravani, Eric Steger, Joe Chinn, Jason Weber, Angel Bernal, Miles Julihn, Garry Lion, and Amy Van Doren. **Council Members Excused:** Katie Rice, Mike Grant, Crystal Silva, and Henry LaRoche.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Marin County Supervisor Judy Arnold (“Chair”)** called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The meeting was held in the Marin County Sheriff’s Assembly Room, located at 1600 Los Gamos Drive in San Rafael, California, Suite 200, second floor. A quorum was present. The Chair advised that since the last council meeting in September, David Weinsoff no longer represents the Marin County Mayors and Councilmembers, and the seat is vacant. The Chair also welcomed new members to the council, **Keith Kennedy**, representing Supervisorial District #3 (Cate Sears), and **Joe Chinn**, City Manager’s Association.

**2. APPROVAL OF September 10, 2015 MINUTES**

*The Chair asked for a Motion to Approve the September 10, 2015 minutes. As submitted to the Council, with no corrections or additions, the Minutes were adopted.*

**Motion: Julihn / Second: Kennedy.**

**AYES: ALL**

**3. CHANGES TO AGENDA:** None submitted.

**4. PRESENTATIONS:** None submitted.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**Update on El Nino and Flood Preparedness**

OES’ **Tom Jordan**, working closely with Public Works, gave an update on El Nino and Flood Preparedness in Marin County. As part of Flood Preparedness Week, Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District held a Flood Preparedness Fair on Saturday, October 24, 2015 at the Exhibit Hall, Avenue of the Flags. The fair included information on what El Nino could mean for the county and tips and training on protecting property from flooding (e.g., sandbagging demonstrations). The event drew positive feedback from the public. Tom said that OES was internally reviewing last year’s flood response in December 2014, and conducted a table top exercise with EOC staff and external partners.

*These minutes are final and were approved by the Disaster Council on March 10, 2016*

The scenario used was a King Tide on Christmas. OES will draw lessons learned from the After Action Review. In the fall of 2016, OES plans to conduct an EOC Functional Exercise with flooding scenario.

The Chair encouraged everyone to sign up for Nixle alerts (text your zipcode to 888777 to find your local police Nixle). **Chris Reilly** also recommended that they sign up for emergency alerts at the AlertMarin.org portal. These notifications are sent via multiple paths, including social media. You can also follow Marin Sheriff's Department @marinsheriff on Twitter.

**Frank Cox** asked if the Highway at Manzanita would be closed if there was a confluence of King Tides and rain. Chris confirmed that Cal Trans would close the Manzanita Parking Lot.

### **Report from the Marin Interagency Disaster Coalition (MIDC)**

OES' **Ursula Hanks** gave the Council the history of the MIDC, which dates back to 1989 and was formed as a result of the Loma Prieta Earthquake. MIDC's mission is to work towards the development and sustainment of a more disaster resilient Marin. Their focus is to increase partnerships between agencies and organizations throughout the county and to work together to identify resources and services. They also work to develop a network that will enable them to collectively respond to the needs of the community during disaster. MIDC is a collaboration of key agencies, such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Humane Society, OES, faith based organizations, Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership (CVNL), Health & Human Services, County Office of Education, 211, Cities, and Towns. There are over one hundred members of the MIDC.

Ursula added that MIDC is an official member of the Northern California Region of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD); California has forty-eight such organizations in two regions. She said that MIDC pushed hard to add a representative to the Marin Operational Area EOC staffing organization. **Margaret Melsh** and **Denis O'Leary** are currently assigned to EOC Shifts A and B respectively. Ursula introduced Denis to the council, and added that the Board of Supervisors is in the process of approving him to the Disaster Council's MIDC seat (currently vacant).

The current MIDC does not have an executive council. Instead, they are planning to rotate leadership. The Chair and several other Disaster Council members shared a concern that there is no formal leadership. The Chair asked that Ursula return at the next meeting to share with them how it is going now that Denis O'Leary is on board.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **December 2015 Update on M'BER Program Implementation**

**Garry Lion** from the Marin Economic Forum, was unable to give his PowerPoint Presentation due to audio-visual technical problems, but gave an update on the implementation of the Marin Business Emergency Readiness (M'BER) program since last September's meeting. *To receive a copy of Garry's presentation, please contact Eva at OES at [oes@marinsheriff.org](mailto:oes@marinsheriff.org).* The program is a collaboration between the Marin Disaster Council and the Marin Economic Forum. It began as a pilot project in Mill Valley based on the concept of essential business disaster resilience. It stands to benefit potentially Marin's 12,000 payroll employers, 110,000 employees, and 38,000 sole proprietors. The M'BER development team included **Garry Lion**, **Maggie Lang** (CERT), Mill Valley Fire Chiefs **Jeff Davidson** (retired) and **Tom Welch**, and **Ron Vidal** (MV Chamber + Emergency Preparedness Commission). M'BER was restructured around the American Red Cross' ReadyRating.org survey and scoring system. M'BER's goal is to provide toolkits to businesses containing emergency plan templates, reference sheets and help screens. They also hope to empower the local jurisdictions to support their local businesses, and to provide incentives to the businesses. M'BER also must measure and acknowledge progress made.

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As it turns out, the same day the Disaster Council approved M'BER's rollout (September 10, 2015), the American Red Cross revised the ReadyRating.org website resulting in the Emergency Plan Template no longer matching up with the survey/scorecard on the website. The solution was to simplify the Emergency Plan Template and to program a new M'BER score card in Excel. Another problem, with no current solution, is that the M'BER program needs about \$10,000 to support the one-year rollout to other cities, towns, and unincorporated fire jurisdictions. Garry spoke in detail about the implementation timeframe over twelve months, and activities needed. He specified that the program needs a part-time Program Coordinator to perform the estimated 280 hours of work (@ \$35/hour = \$9,800). Garry continues to investigate potential sources of funding. Garry refers to the first part of the implementation as M'BER 1.0, which he wants to get into the field expeditiously. Then M'BER 2.0 would be implemented when funding is available and there are lessons learned. The idea would be to consolidate screens into one integrated website within ReadyMarin.org.

### **Review of Current Strategic Planning Initiatives**

OES' **Chris Reilly** revisited with the council two strategic plan project proposals from 2013. The first proposal, which resulted from a PDE&P Committee survey, was to create and fund the position of Marin County Community Preparedness Coordinator. Chris met with **Len Rifkind** (former DC3-Marin County Mayors and Council Members) and the CAO, **Matthew Hymel** to discuss the proposal. Hymel was supportive of it and willing to contribute the county share, provided that the cities and towns provided theirs. OES brought the proposal to the cities and towns, but did not receive any support for the cost share. Len pitched the proposal to the Mayors and Council Members but was also not successful. The proposal was put on the back burner.

The second proposal was for the County of Marin to establish an ongoing mandated program of Disaster Service Worker Training (DSW) for all county employees, not just the newly hired. Chris also met with the CAO about this proposal, and also with County Human Resources reps. OES put together a proposal with various levels of training. The first option was to mandate refresher training at least every five years. Currently county employees only receive new hire training. Another idea was that DSW training would become part of the metric for employee evaluations. The second option discussed was to offer DSW training on-line and by video; this training would have to be verifiable with testing. County HR told Chris that they could build DSW training into their new software system ("ATOM"), which is due to be released at the end of 2017. As of now, no RFP has been presented for this project. Two phases are planned for ATOM, the first for Payroll, and the second, for Training. **Bill Tyler** and **Frank Cox** both appealed to Chris that the county should not sit and wait until 2017 with the release of ATOM to keep the momentum going on this goal and to keep taking simple steps moving forward. Bill also reminded the council that the vision of the PDE&P in making this proposal was to include *all* government workers, including, local jurisdictions. He pointed out that DSWs are sworn with this duty, and legislation requires regular training in SEMS. When the county gets this going, he feels, the locals could begin duplicating efforts. Frank added that if there is a regional disaster, Bay Area counties will compete for resources. Cities and counties will send their generic DSWs off to the field (e.g., to staging areas, Points of Distribution, Local Assistance Centers, etc.) Because these are generic, and not EOC DSWs, they will need training, certification, and exercises. Otherwise, their time may not be reimbursed later. He urges that this not be put off until 2017. The Chair told Frank and Bill that their comments were duly noted.

### **Status of OES Grants (Margaret Speaker Yuan)**

Email OES at [oes@marinsheriff.org](mailto:oes@marinsheriff.org) for a copy of **Margaret Speaker Yuan's** report, which she shared with the council during her presentation.

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Public Disaster Education & Preparedness (PDE&P)**

PDE&P Committee Co-Chair, **Bill Tyler**, told the council that the committee has met four times since the September DC3 meeting and benefitted from several excellent presentations from people such as **Mike Grant** (MCOE) and **Ursula Hanks** (OES), and learned valuable information about the Godzilla El Nino, the Lake County Fire, and lessons learned from the Red Cross. He encouraged everyone to review the minutes of the PDE&P, which is the only standing committee of the Disaster Council.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS / PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Anne Sands (West Marin)**. Thanks to **Richard Dillman**, many repeaters are up now, and everyone can talk to each other. They also have a newly renovated, permanent radio room with West Marin Disaster Council Radio System equipment, computers, and phones, as well as space for RACES at the Pt. Reyes public safety building/County Fire Station.

**Amy Van Doren (Marin Transit)**. Told the council about the formal understanding about how Marin Transit is to respond to requests from the EOC. More emergency operations training is planned. A paratransit contractor will be joining Marin Transit in January 2016. Drivers have mobile data terminals and MERA radios.

**Miles Julihn (County EMS)**. Advised that the Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC) deployed to the Lake County Fire (about fifty volunteers). They were honored on November 17, 2015 by the Board of Supervisors.

## **9. ADJOURN**

*Being no further business, the Chair asked for a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 4:14PM.  
**Motion: Tulsky/ Second: Lion. Proposed and passed.***

**Next meeting: Thursday, March 10, 2016, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**, 250 Doherty Drive, Larkspur, California 94939, in the Community Room of the Central Marin Police Authority - Larkspur Station.