Minutes of the March 9, 2017 Meeting

The Regular meeting of the Marin Operational Area Disaster and Citizen Corps Council (DC3) was held Thursday, March 9, 2017.

Council Members Present: Judy Arnold, Katie Rice, Frank Cox, Steve Tulsky, Keith Kennedy, Anne Sands, Ed Schulze, Heather Ravani, Eric Steger, Joe Chinn, Denis O’Leary, Mike Grant, Miles Julihn, Garry Lion, and Amy Van Doren. Council Members Excused: Bill Tyler, Jason Weber, and Catherine Way.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Marin County Supervisor Judy Arnold ("Chair") called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held on the Main Floor of the County’s Emergency Operations Center, located in the Marin County Sheriff’s Headquarters, 1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 301, Third Floor, San Rafael, California. A quorum was present. The Chair introduced Supervisor Katie Rice who was in attendance, and also the Chair’s Aide, Tanya Albert.

2. APPROVAL OF December 8, 2016 MINUTES

   The Chair asked for a Motion to Approve the December 8, 2016 minutes. As submitted to the Council, with no corrections or additions, the Minutes were adopted.

   Motion: Schulze / Second: Cox

   AYES: ALL

3. CHANGES TO AGENDA: None submitted.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

Recent Storm Coordination

Tom Jordan, OES Coordinator, spoke about the recent storms to hit Marin, the County’s response in the field, and the activated Emergency Operations Center. The County’s EOC activated five times (12/15/2016, 1/7-8, 2017, 2/7/2017, 2/9/2017, and 2/20/2017) to support field operations and do resource coordination. There were two federal declarations of emergency for the January and February storms. The storms were caused by several “atmospheric rivers.” Many road closures resulted, as well as trees down, power outages, and localized flooding. Activities stemming from the EOC included the following:

   - Public alerting and warning (public and internal groups both)
   - Monitoring of road conditions
   - Conference calls / Weather briefings with Cities, Towns, Special Districts and volunteer agencies
   - Supporting County Public Works
These Minutes were approved as presented on June 8, 2017 by the Disaster Council.

- Social Media coordination using Facebook, Twitter, Nixle, and Next Door (#Marinstorm). Once the EOC was activated, the County tweeted out from @marineoc.
- Contingency planning for Evacuations and Care & Shelter
- Sirens & Horns coordination with Ross Valley Public Safety

Also very helpful was the fact that WebEOC, Marin's web-based incident management system, had new boards in place, which tracked road closures and school closers and other critical status information. County Public Works also put WebEOC to great use.

Eric Steger told the council that there was widespread damage to Marin (roughly 8.8 million dollars). Public Works crews were very active in cleaning up roads, doing flood control, and maintenance. Public Works activated their DOC (Department Operations Center) and used WebEOC to share information. EOC staff also included Public Works employees.

The Marin OA OES team and the OA EOC staff were complimented (for their coordination and communications efforts) by several meeting participants, including Joe Chinn, on behalf of the Town of Ross. Tom Welch, on behalf of the Marin Fire Chiefs Association, Steve Tulsky for the Red Cross, and Mike Grant for the Schools.

Chris Reilly (OES Manager) concluded the presentation by saying that we are now in the "Recovery Phase" of the January / February Storms. OES, the EOC Finance Section, County Public Works, and other County staff, and local jurisdictions and districts are very busy with damage assessment work as part of the multi-step process of getting reimbursement.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Red Cross Capabilities

Mike Conroy, Senior Disaster Program Manager with the American Red Cross (ARC) addressed the council. His territories reach northward from Marin to Del Norte County and inward to Solano and Lake Counties. He said that the Valley Fire in Lake County (started September 2015) taught many great lessons to the ARC, one important one being that they can draw strength through partnerships with other community based organizations and government, rather than trying to do everything themselves. They have also started to respond using Red Cross resources across a region, rather than just within the county affected. Also ARC has been reorganizing their districts so that disaster program managers only have responsibility for two counties (rather than three). For example, Marin and Solano Counties form one district, and Sonoma and Napa Counties form another. Ninety-five percent of the ARC organization is volunteer based. Sheltering is ARC's "bread and butter," but they also respond regularly to house fires where they help people displaced by fire find short term lodging and do mental health work. They also train people to work in shelters. Conroy complimented the coordination efforts of Steve Tulsky (DC3 Consumer Rep District 2) and the Operational Area EOC during the recent storms; Tulsky worked in the EOC as the ARC representative during those events.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Status of Grants Administered by Marin County OES

Please email OES at oes@marinsheriff.org for a copy of Margaret Speaker Yuan's report, which was shared with the council at this meeting.
7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Disaster Education & Preparedness (PDE&P) - Handouts

Committee Co-Chair, Frank Cox, addressed the council about the report that his committee submitted to the council back in December 2016. Cox gave a brief history of the Get Ready Program in Marin, from its roots in 2006 in the Town of Tiburon and City of Belvedere. The original program, which trained around 2,300 people in just the first year, was organized by Dr. Tom Cromwell and Tiburon/Belvedere Emergency Coordinator, Laurie Nilsen (both introduced from the audience). Cox emphasized that this program was successful because it had both volunteer and paid staff and funding. The following year, the Get Ready program was adopted by Kentfield, Corte Madera, Larkspur, Ross, and Ross Valley Fire Departments, who pooled staff and funding together, along with the County.

According to Cox, the Get Ready Program in Marin as it is today (also Get Ready for Fifth Graders) has been underfunded and understaffed substantially in recent years. Also the Marin Business Resiliency program (M'BER), which started in Mill Valley, remains unfunded, despite the PDEP Committee's efforts to raise awareness. Disaster preparedness efforts in Marin are driven now solely by volunteers. There is no lead agency. The DSW program that Cox teaches to new County employees is running thin with no Human Resources supported program in place. County EOC staffing is also thin with no depth to handle major, long-term events. County employees are not required to be EOC staff members (it is voluntary). And, EOC training for EOC staff is not mandatory. The problem, as Cox sees it, is that there is no central coordination. Coordination is disbursed. The County has ultimately not taken charge of this mission.

Cox said that in June 2013, PDEP made two proposals, which were passed by the Disaster Council, and based on a 2012 survey: a) disaster service workers throughout Marin (roughly 10,000) need training, and b) a coordinator is needed to support Get Ready and CERT programs (and other programs such as M'BER). PDEP has been working on these proposals ever since. Cox concluded by saying that we need a lead agency, which could be the Office of Emergency Services, or some other solution. We need funding, and we need staff. He mentioned a recent report by a Marin geologist on how big a threat to Marin catastrophic earthquake would be. Also Marin is at risk for a very bad fire season due to abundant rain following years of drought. We are not doing enough. Somebody here needs to take it to the Board of Supervisors and to Cities and Towns. "Otherwise, it will die on the vine."

For more information about this committee's activities and copies of the handouts, please email OES at oes@marinsheriff.org.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anne Sands (Consumer Rep. Dist. 4) - Handouts.

Anne described the activities in West Marin since the last council meeting. Progress is being made on getting a tsunami siren at Muir Beach. Anne thanked County Public Works for their help with road closures during the storms and also for keeping White Hill open! They will be getting volunteers training on how to direct traffic in times of emergency since traffic management can be very dangerous. Please email OES at oes@marinsheriff.org for copies of the November 17, 2016 and February 23, 2017 minutes of the West Marin Disaster Council quarterly meeting, which were shared at this meeting.

Keith Kennedy (Consumer Rep. Dist. 3). Kennedy said that, inspired by Tom Cromwell and Maggie Lang, local disaster councils from Marin met together in January 2017 at the Central Marin Police Headquarters to get to know each other and to help each other with similar challenges. It was such as success that they plan to meet again in April.
These Minutes were approved as presented on June 8, 2017 by the Disaster Council.

Mike Grant (Schools). MCOE and County Emergency Medical Services is working on a pilot program at the high schools where CPR will be a high school graduation requirement. MCOE is also working on a Get Ready program. Mike thanked Ursula Hanks (OES Coordinator) for her great participation at this morning’s Marin County Schools Preparedness Committee meeting.

Ursula Hanks (OES). Marin County Board of Supervisors officially recognized March 27-31, 2017 as Tsunami Preparedness Week. Whether we live, work, or recreate along the coast or Bay Inland areas, we should know how to protect ourselves in case of a tsunami, said Hanks. She recommended that everyone know their tsunami zone by checking the online map at www.tsunamizone.org. Also sign up for emergency alerts and potentially life-saving instructions on www.alertmarin.org. Hanks said that on April 6, 2017 OES will host a tsunami workshop and tabletop exercise. Subject matter experts from State OES, the California Geological Survey, and National Weather Service will be there.

Tom Welch (Mill Valley Fire Chief). Mill Valley will be conducting its annual community evacuation drill on Saturday, May 20th from 9:00 am to Noon. The evacuating neighborhoods this year will be Edgewood and Homestead Valley. An Evacuation Drill Preparedness Fair will be held at Tamalpais High School and is open to everyone.

Ben Berto (Community Development Agency). Said that he is working on a Post Disaster Recovery Ordinance that will likely function as an annex to the Marin Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Berto is pulling together a committee.

9. ADJOURN

Being no further business, the Chair asked for a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 4:23 PM. 
Motion: Schulze/ Second: Grant. Proposed and passed.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 8, 2017, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., 1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 301, Third Floor, San Rafael, California, in the Emergency Operations Center’s Main Room. Enter the building through Lobby A and go to third floor.

10. CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Marin Operational Area Disaster and Citizen Corps Council meeting, held on March 9, 2017.

[Signature]

Eva Denegri Baker, Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services

June 8, 2017 Date