



## Minutes of the September 13, 2018 Meeting

The Regular meeting of the Marin Operational Area Disaster and Citizen Corps Council (DC3) was held Thursday, September 13, 2018.

**Council Members Present:** Judy Arnold, Frank Cox, Anne Sands, Ed Schulze, Bill Tyler, Lisa Santora, Eric Steger, Catherine Way, Joe Chinn, Jason Weber, Trish Seyler-Campbell, Mike Grant, Garry Lion, Mohamed Osman, Peter Mendoza, and Jack Baker. **Council Members Excused:** Mike McDermott, Keith Kennedy, Denis O'Leary, & Debbie Yee.

### I. CALL TO ORDER

**Marin County Supervisor Judy Arnold ("Chair")** called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. The meeting was held in the Board Chambers, Marin County Board of Supervisors, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Admin Building, Third Floor, Room 330, San Rafael, California 94903. Supervisor Arnold welcomed new Board Member, Jack Baker and welcomed back Mike Grant to the MCOE seat.

**Supervisor Arnold** also welcomed **Tom Engdahl**, who is a pilot, to speak about his involvement in recent disasters. Being a part of a mitigation committee for 2 months drew his attention to Marin County having an aviation community that could provide help in times of disaster. Last October, Tom made a Facebook post, offering transport assistance across Highway 101 due to its closure during the fires. He received many responses and was flying at least three times a day, for a few days, mainly helping elderly citizens. He also assisted during the Redding fire with two flights where he picked up more elderly citizens. During the Ventura fire, he flew two dogs and a cat that were to go to relatives up north.

Tom found that Gnoss Field was a good local resource since the Petaluma Airport was closed for helicopters delivering water to the fires up north. He noted the Gnoss Field Community Association has approximately thirty pilots who are interested in transporting people during disasters. He also found that the California Pilots Association has a group aimed at aviation resources in times of disaster. He suggested the Council should consider aviation as another means to assist during disasters in Marin County.

Supervisor Arnold thanked Tom for his presentation and said we'd look into this.

### APPROVAL OF June 14, 2018 MINUTES

*The Chair asked for a Motion to Approve the June 14, 2018 minutes. As submitted to the Council, with no corrections or additions, the Minutes were adopted.*

**Motion: Schulze / Second: Lion**

**AYES: ALL**

**2. CHANGES TO AGENDA:** None.

**3. PRESENTATIONS:**

**Dillon Beach Emergency Response Team (DBERT) Manager, Ted Melden**, addressed the Council and provided a brief background about himself. He is retired after thirty-four years of combined fire and law enforcement experience and at the time, had a bit of emergency management expertise. Thus, he was requested to participate in DBERT.

A lot of training has been conducted since he joined DBERT and since then, they have received funds from the County. They have also worked closely with the Marin County Fire Department and the Board of Supervisors and have been able to boost readiness supplies in Dillon Beach. They have six emergency sheds that are storage points for all emergency supplies. There is limited access into town, so it could take any means of assistance a while to respond so the town must be prepared.

As a community, there are approximately fifty to sixty people CERT trained. Not all are full time residents, but they have a core group who are there on a full time basis who can open sheds and assist the community. There are about 300 to 400 full time residents, and on holiday weekends, the numbers increase to about 4,000 to 5,000 people. DBERT recognized immediately that they need to train more people and get more individuals on board, and further hone in on their skills. They work a lot with mutual aid –fire, law, EMS, CERT, but now they are trying to bring all of West Marin CERT groups to collectively work together and train together, to be able to help each other in times of need.

On April 28, 2018, DBERT held a successful disaster drill. They invited the Tomales Emergency Response group (TERN) and the San Geronimo group (VERG) and requested whatever resources they could and were specifically looking for SAR assistance/management. The drill involved some Dillon Beach residences, with staged live victims where injuries were triaged. There was one rescue location of a real-life scenario where there was a language barrier with Spanish speaking only victims; a very realistic possibility. During the drill, participants realized that they would need separate radio frequencies in the future, for operations and management, as it was difficult to find airspace among the radio chatter. Also during the drill, the team was able to showcase their new utility vehicle that was obtained through the Marin County surplus vehicle auction, through **Supervisor Rodoni**. The vehicle has a trailer that is outfitted for patient transport in order to take them to triage locations

During debriefing, the group identified areas to improve. It also helped neighboring CERT groups in identifying their needed areas of improvement as well. The main lesson was that they needed to continue to practice.

DBERT typically conducts exercises twice a year, but decided to have an open house on October 27<sup>th</sup> instead of another drill. The group will open up an emergency shed on Tiki Way and will have all the equipment on display for both residents and the general public to see.

**Catherine Way, Marin Council of Mayors & Councilmembers Representative**, posed a question about having plans with the expanded population on weekends, holidays, etc. Ted responded they have been able to boost supply levels in the last couple years, including first aid, triage tents, MREs, and other equipment in preparation of this. They have enough supplies to sustain visitors and residents for at least a couple of days. There is also information

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available to both residents and visitors via social media, Next Door, on the Get Ready Dillon Beach website, and via email. Residence owners have also been provided emergency information to put in their guest books.

**Fire Chief Jason Weber, Fire Chiefs' Association Representative**, thanked Ted and DBERT for their efforts. **Supervisor Rodoni** spoke and explained that DBERT organized Dillon Beach and also helped Tomales organize their own emergency preparedness group. They have been a star and he was glad Ted was able to speak at the DC3 meeting.

**4. NEW BUSINESS:**

**OES Manager, Chris Reilly** reported on the *Yellow Command* exercise that was held throughout the Bay Area, on September 6, 2018.

The Marin EOC conducted a full scale exercise, with upwards of seventy members of the EOC staff participating. The goal was to evaluate the ability to provide care and shelter in the event of a catastrophic earthquake. We will be evaluating ourselves on several capabilities, including:

- Mass care services – housing and feeding people,
- Public health healthcare/emergency medical services,
- Situational assessment – finding out what is happening in the field and sharing that information with authorities,
- Public information and warning,
- Logistics and supply chain management – Bringing in what we need to provide that care for people we are evacuating and providing shelter.

We look to base plans on how to organize around an incident/event and what the key responsibilities are. In this case, the State and FEMA catastrophic earthquake plans are what were used during the exercise.

Overall, the exercise was a good experience and we are gathering feedback now. We will write an after action plan to figure out what worked well and what needs improvement.

**Anne Sands, District 4 Consumer Representative**, asked if there was any CERT participation in *Yellow Command*. Chris responded that they had their own exercise, *Green Command*, which **CERT Director, Maggie Lang** had involvement.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**Marin County Fire Chief Jason Weber** addressed the Council regarding updates from the Board of Supervisors Wildland Fire Sub-Committee. Chief Weber stated that the report was adopted September 11, 2018 and is a proactive approach to fire safety. There are not a lot of counties who have taken advantage of this to identify gaps in their plans and fill them. He said the environment was changing and that fire season is approximately seventy-eight days longer than it was historically, partially due to climate change. He gave a detailed fire history dating from the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire to the 2017 fire siege that occurred in Northern California. Because of recent events, the Board of Supervisors established the Sub-Committee that we are speaking about today.

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There are three primary elements covered by the sub-committee:

1. Wildland fire protection/prevention,
2. Vegetation management,
3. Emergency notifications and evacuations.

Participation included fire departments, law enforcement, OES, land management agencies and the scope of work was to interview in a panel-style interview, leaders in the North Bay agencies on what worked well and what didn't; if they could go back to October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, what would they have done differently? It provided us with what impacted those affected and we were able to come back with inventoried programs that existed in Marin County. We identified our gaps and made recommendations from them.

The following are highlights from the recommendations:

- Increase number and capacity of fire crews. In part, this is due to legislative changes. With AB109, inmate population has dwindled significantly which had been a great resource for the state of California for fire crew use;
- Code adoption from fire agencies and building agencies;
- Focus on seniors and those with access and functional needs;
- Development of mapping and modeling products;
- Increase FireWise communities;
- Funding for Disaster Coordinator position;
- Increase community outreach during red flags;
- Expand support of FireSafe Marin;
- Consideration for dedicated funding source for vegetation management, inspection, and enforcement programs;
- Land management –
  - Increase in fuel reduction work,
  - Focus on risks identified in CWPP,
  - Matching investments from HOAs and communities
  - Investment in Lidar vegetation mapping across the County (MMWD is utilizing their investment plan,) and
  - Coordination of land closure restrictions during high fire danger and transition zones around communities.

**Chris Reilly** spoke more on emergency alerting and notification and the changes Senate Bill 833 is proposing. Recommendations will soon be announced. Some of these include:

- Counties/OAs need to have more than one or two operators who can send out emergency alerts and warnings;
- Adequate testing/training of systems. Marin will add to that and have more operators trained to add to redundancy.
- Having functional equipment/software, like AlertMarin;
- Development of best practices and standards and provide training.
- Big proposed changes for wireless emergency alerts – i.e. Amber Alerts – Federal program run by FEMA/FCC and will have the ability to send out longer messages through wireless messages; it will provide links/photos/maps, etc., to be more informative and will also include language translation and will be able to send out messages in Spanish.

Chris also spoke about an updated evacuation plan that was already in place. Training for this is in development. We are refining the emergency transportation plan as it relates to evacuation plans; it is in progress and needs to be finalized.

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We are also adding other ways to inform the public through media messages due to the vast number of information outlets. We intend to market AlertMarin more and develop a system to track opt-ins for the system. We want to reach out to senior populations regarding the alerting system as well. We will continue to develop best practices for addressing the needs of the whole community and work with cities/towns/districts on revising the sheltering plan. The Board of Supervisors did approve funding for various initiatives and some will be spent on WebEOC enhancements, improving checking staff in and out in the EOC, marketing AlertMarin, and accessing language translation.

Chief Weber added that the County did make some sizeable investments. CAO is working on DSW training and implementation across the county, and will look to extend this to our cities and towns. The Board did approve a half million dollars for one time priority expenses that were recommendations from the report. He also noted that the County recently expanded our relationship with the National Park Service, adding an additional fire crew and staffing on the coast. In addition, a grant was accepted to assist with seniors and those with access and functional needs in order to create defensible space around their homes. This will also include assisting those with financial challenges. The Board approved the County to match funds as a trial program to match this grant. Other grants/funding include:

- Application for a Local Hazard Mitigation grant for \$250,000, with pre-fire initiatives within the grant,
- The Get Ready program and SHSGP grant,
- \$584,000 investment in Lidar mapping,
- \$200,000 in Cal Fire grants – One of them is a countywide education campaign by FireSafe Marin, supported by the fire agencies,
- \$40,000 to FireSafe Marin to support their operations.

Chief Weber then discussed the highlights from the Irving Fire that occurred the other night. One of the key challenges was communication. We had a fulltime PIO updating multiple social media outlets and OES updating AlertMarin which feeds into outlets like Nixle. He spoke about the difficulties with changing environments, especially at night when there isn't enough information. We are working on implementing some changes with a few ideas that were gathered from the incident. He expressed his thanks to **Laine Hendricks**, who was on-scene the whole night as the PIO and the Valley readiness group. VERG was essential for quickly opening the shelter. Red Cross and Salvation Army were there to support as well. There were approximately 100 to 150 people at the community center, with ten staying overnight, and one staying for approximately twenty-four hours.

**Supervisor Arnold** wanted to add that when the sub-committee started, it became apparent how far along the County really was. At the end of the report, out of sixty-four recommendations that were made, only six were not accomplished. We set aside \$150,000 for a contract position for a disaster coordinator. We will ask the cities to pitch in for that in order to get a lot of community work done in the next two years.

**Catherine Way** had a couple of questions. First, going back to the recent fire, Verizon services were down during the incident. Has communications redundancy been talked about in terms of alerting or is it already part of the structure? Chief Weber responded that we cannot rely on one piece of equipment, whether it is a siren, police officer, or cell phone/landline. We may have catastrophic failure in our communications systems. This fire was caused by power lines which caused an outage at the fire lookout which has several cellular towers at the top. When AlertMarin was engaged, we had a coordinated effort with law enforcement, going door to door, advising residents. We got 100 to 150 people to the community center within minutes, and this demonstrated how efficient the system was even with a cell tower down.

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Catherine had another question, asking if anyone had reached out to those who were house bound during the fire. Chief Weber said there were calls regarding those with their elderly parents who needed assistance. In this case, an ambulance was sent to assist. In preparation, individuals need to make several plans in the case one fails. **Peter Mendoza, AFN Representative**, added that it is important to plan, though some may not have family or others to support them nearby. Depending on the situation, EMS may need to be called to assist when your support group isn't able. Chief Weber highlighted that those who can evacuate early should do so. This way we can take what limited personnel is on hand, both law enforcement and fire, and send them to those who require assistance and have exhausted their plans.

**Anne Sands, District 4 Consumer Representative**, stated they rely a lot on knocking on doors in West Marin. You take care of yourself and then check with neighbors. AlertMarin is wonderful, but knocking on the door is often what gets it done. You can't always rely on social media as an alerting method.

**Supervisor Arnold** recognized all who worked on the report. Chief Weber announced all those involved: Supervisors Arnold and Rodoni, Sheriff Doyle, City Manager Jim McCann, OES Manager, Chris Reilly, President of FireSafe, Marin Rick Shortall, Police Chiefs' Association and Chief Jackie Graff, Fire Chiefs' Association and Chief Bill Tyler, myself (Chief Jason Weber) and Christie Neill with County Fire, Crystal Yezman and Mike Swezy with the Water District, Max Korten and Mischon Martin with Parks/Open Space, Brie Castle and Cindy Shaeffer with State Parks, Jordan Rieser, the Fire Management Officer from NPS, and Charlotte Jourdain from the Administrator's Office from the County.

**Chris Reilly** gave an update on the DC3 strategic initiatives that originated from one standing sub-committee, and PDEP. These included the disaster service worker program, a countywide coordinator position, and the re-energization of the Get Ready program – this includes CERT and disaster council coordination.

Analysts from the County Administrators Office, **Yvonne Shu and Melissa Crockett**, gave an update on the DSW sub-committee. Yvonne provided some background for the sub-committee, which was conceived by the CAO after the North Bay fires, in response to developing the FY 2018 to 2019 County Performance Plan. The DSW working group, comprised of key County partners, determined that educational gaps existed with employees serving as DSWs. They realized there was a need to develop informational tools for employees. Since the creation of the group in July, they have been meeting monthly. The group includes Chris Reilly with OES, Chief Jason Weber, Dr. Lisa Santora, Jason Balderamma with County IST, Laine Hendricks, PIO, Dean Joyner, Safety Manager, and Chris Shaw from Human Resources.

Melissa added that a baseline survey was conducted with County staff to establish existing DSW knowledge. They are still looking at responses and nearly a quarter of all regular full-time personnel took it. This information will help inform how the working group will progress. It will also identify educational gaps and augment current DSW training. The working group will meet for a year, but will continue on after that. At the end of the year, a survey will be conducted to check progress. They hope to see change in the understanding of knowledge after the committee was established. They know there is a need for online training to augment the in-person training that is already being conducted. MCSO OES has organized online training materials and we will be adapting that to more specific platforms. Human Resources signed a contract with a company to develop a platform to support the future online training. Further production work will go into this and there is another sub-group working on these details.

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**Status of Grants Administered by Marin County OES**

In addition to the grants report, Margaret announced she would be leaving the County on October 4, 2018. She thanked the Council for all of the support she received while working in the County. She has enjoyed working for the Board and OES. Margaret stated her replacement would be **Therese Gorostiza**, who was already working in the OES division.

**Peter Mendoza** and **Supervisor Arnold** both extended their thanks for Margaret's work and expressed she would be missed.

*Please email OES at [oes@marinsheriff.org](mailto:oes@marinsheriff.org) for a copy of the grants report, which was shared at this meeting by **Margaret Speaker-Yuan**, OES Grants Specialist.*

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Public Disaster Education & Preparedness Committee Report**

**Catherine Way, Marin Council of Mayors & Councilmembers Representative**, addressed the Council and spoke about updates from recent meetings. After seeing what happened in the October fires, we saw lessons learned from our perspective in regards to mass sheltering. We are recognizing the enormous amount of volunteers that came to help – both members and non-members of the community. She discussed their relationship with CVNL and noted that Elaine Tokolahi and Jim Wickham from PG&E both spoke to PDEP regarding these matters.

PDEP is focusing on learning about volunteers. We are starting to meet with other volunteer organizations like RACES, Marin SAR, and the Medical Reserve Corps. One key question was how does CVNL manage spontaneous volunteers and how can they assist in times of disaster? They have also been speaking to Denis Leary and MIDC, who are hoping to organize non-profits and congregations. PDEP wants to see how this information can be collected in order to present to DC3 in hopes to figure out a way to manage volunteers before a big incident occurs.

**Frank Cox, Consumer Representative District 1**, added that volunteers are a critical part of the reality of disaster management. There is a critical need to prescreen and have an infrastructure for identification and management of volunteers, including training them. The Civic Center alone has 700 active volunteers. We have active members woven into the community who haven't received proper training. We will need DSWs who are properly trained to act as guides who understand protocols. Frank also welcomed **Quinn Gardner** as a new PDEP member. She was able to deliver a presentation during their last meeting.

Minutes from PDE&P meetings are posted online on the [www.marinsheriff.org](http://www.marinsheriff.org) website.

*For more information about this committee's activities and copies of the handouts, please email OES at [oes@marinsheriff.org](mailto:oes@marinsheriff.org).*

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

**Anne Sands, Consumer Representative District 4**, provided updates for West Marin since the last Council Meeting:

- PRNS and County Fire have an official professional working relationship now as Chief Weber mentioned. Funding is available to do perimeter work around the park boundaries for those who have homes nearby in Inverness and Bolinas. The park will put money into developing more defensible space and monitoring its boundaries.
- Radio systems continue to evolve. New repeaters are in Marshall and all over West Marin which are working very well. We continue to have daily radio checks.
- KWMR provided updates during recent fires, and have been reporting on the Irving Fire every fifteen minutes. They kept people informed and are a great resource.
- Muir Beach – tsunami siren project is still in progress.
- Stinson Beach held a wildfire meeting and showed a film, *Wilder than Wild*, which has received awards.
- Wildfire evacuation drills have been conducted for the last couple months.
- Local disaster shelter trainings and evacuation drills are going well in the area.
- Pt. Reyes and Inverness are having a joint mass casualty drill. CERTs will be involved and they will be opening West Marin School as a shelter.
- Nicasio has a FireWise community that is out of Santa Margarita. The fire chief there is developing a FireWise plan for entire town of Nicasio.
- DBERT and their open house on October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Tomales doing another CERT class in January as well as others in Pt. Reyes; Medical Reserve Corps is also holding first aid classes.
- A lot of joint drills taking place. Communities are sharing knowledge and resources and it has been very encouraging to see.
- CERT classes have been full for several weeks.
- San Geronimo has been great with the evacuation and monitoring of the evacuation center during this week's fire.

*Please email OES at [oes@marinsheriff.org](mailto:oes@marinsheriff.org) for copies of handouts provided by Ms. Sands to the council at this meeting.*

**Garry Lion, Marin Economic Forum Representative**, reported they received a \$5,000 grant from PG&E to roll out the EMBER program.

**Mike Grant with Marin County of Education**, thanked **Chris Reilly** and OES staff for the *Yellow Command* exercise. He also reported that the Marin Countywide School Safety Summit will be held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and will include eighteen school districts that include public, private, and parochial schools. The California Department of Education is emphasizing the importance of competence of school safety plans. Marin will be participating in the California Shake Out on October 18, 2018. 13,000 schools are registered to participate so far this year.

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**Peter Mendoza, AFN Representative** spoke about PG&E who was given authorization to de-energize power in certain areas during certain weather conditions that may cause fires. This affects people with access needs. People who depend on electricity for things like respirators, wheelchairs, getting in and out of their residences, etc. will be affected. In some cases, power may be turned off for several days. People with disabilities, advocates, and those involved with independent living centers have requested that PG&E hold hearings to talk to people who may be affected. They want to be able to give input on plans for people who rely on power for essential quality of life and life sustaining functions. The hearings will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> in two sessions. One is at 2 to 4 pm and the second from 6 to 8 pm at the Key Room, 1385 N. Hamilton Parkway, Novato. It is an important event to attend. We want to make sure people's needs are met, especially those who depend on power for everyday life. PG&E needs to work with the community. Members of the Council and other County Officials should attend because this is something that will affect us all. We need to work together in order to come up with a plan that works for all of us.

**Catherine Way**, also spoke about a disaster preparedness ad hoc committee she was part of, along with co-chair, Sashi McEntee, Councilmember from Mill Valley. The goal for the ad hoc committee was to get two elected city/town officials to talk about the same matters DC3 is involved in. Many councils are unaware of what is going on in the preparedness community. The first meeting that was held covered disaster councils themselves. They realized three cities have organized disaster volunteer and professional groups who have policy making councils. They also discussed neighborhood preparedness and found few groups exist within the cities and towns. They will look at three models: Tiburon, Mill Valley, and Central Marin, and will recommend having a paid coordinator within each city/town to aid with preparedness. The committee will meet two weeks from now and will examine volunteer roles. They will see how cities can harness volunteers should they need them, while coordinating them with the countywide organized plan. Lastly, we will examine Chief Welch's presentation he gave to the city of Mill Valley about opportunities for cities to create better coordination with the fire department with ordinances that harden our structures.

**Supervisor Arnold** invited the public to speak.

**Maggie Lang with CERT**, discussed their joint exercise with *Yellow Command, Green Command*. Marin CERT participated and was proud to be representing for first time. Ten CERTs participated in four modules, including first aid and search and rescue. There were approximately 100 CERTs from all over the Bay Area involved. She also reported that there would be emergency volunteer center training to be scheduled at the end of the month.

#### **8. ADJOURN:**

*Being no further business, the Chair asked for a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 5:31 PM.*  
**Motion:** None.

#### **9. 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 September 13, 2018.

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**Date**

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***Therese Gorostiza, Office of Emergency Services***