



**MARIN OPERATIONAL AREA
DISASTER & CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL**
1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 200, San Rafael, CA 94903-4189 (415) 473-6584
FAX (415) 473-7450

Minutes of the March 14, 2019 Meeting

The Regular meeting of the Marin Operational Area Disaster and Citizen Corps Council (DC3) was held Thursday, March 14, 2019.

Council Members Present: Judy Arnold, Katie Rice, Frank Cox, Mike McDermott, Keith Kennedy, Ed Schulze, Lisa Santora, Chris Choo, Catherine Way, Jason Weber, Denis O’Leary, Mike Grant, Jack Baker, and Peter Mendoza. **Council Members Excused:** Bill Tyler, Joe Chinn, Garry Lion, Mohamed Osman, and Vincent Valenzuela

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.

APPROVAL OF December 13, 2018 MINUTES

The Chair asked for a Motion to Approve the December 13, 2018 minutes. As submitted to the Council, with no corrections or additions, the Minutes were adopted.

**Motion: Schulze / Second: Mendoza
AYES: ALL**

2. CHANGES TO AGENDA: None.

3. PRESENTATIONS: *February Storm Report & County Emergency Proclamation, by Chris Reilly – OES Manager.*

Marin had two major storms in February. The first occurred on the 13th and into Valentine’s Day and the second was around February 25th. The EOC was activated, along with the Public Works Department Operating Center. Some fire and police departments increased staff to support their individual field operations. When the EOC is activated, it also supports field operations, assists with obtaining resources and situational awareness, and provides public information. The EOC was activated for a couple days, but not throughout the night.

The storms subsided, but the County did proclaim a State of Emergency. It helps us with special provisions for emergency contracting. We submitted this to the State and requested assistance through the *California Disaster Assistance Act* and requested the Governor to request a Federal Declaration. The Governor did proclaim an emergency for certain counties that were affected by the storms and Marin was included. We sent our initial damage estimates to the State, including the county, cities, towns, and districts’ totals and easily met the threshold. For the first storm, we calculated countywide, a total of upwards of \$9.2 million. This includes countywide damages and emergency response costs. We are now waiting for the Federal Declaration. We met with FEMA and CalOES officials for a preliminary damage assessment. This is the Federal government’s assessment to see if we have met the Federal

threshold, which is under \$ 1 million dollars for us. People have asked about assistance for private properties and businesses. We do track those damages, but the threshold is pretty high and is unlikely we will get assistance for that.

Major damage areas:

- Novato levies that were damaged and destroyed the freight railroad in that area.
- Tiburon – Vistazo West, half the road and utilities were damaged.
- Fairfax – minor road damage and slides.
- San Anselmo – Major failure on Summit Rd. which is the only access in/out of town for about twelve homes.
- Sausalito – mudslide that damaged houses, also having issues with debris management.

There will be many steps before we get to the reimbursement process. Hopefully we will be granted the Federal Declaration and then we can begin the reimbursement application process with CalOES and FEMA.

Questions:

Catherine Way, Marin Council of Mayors & Councilmembers Representative, asked about any damage in West Marin. – There was a lot of damage to roads that was caused by the second storm. These areas were toured with FEMA and CalOES during their assessment. She also asked about any lessons learned from the public notifications that were sent out. – Multiple agencies sent out notifications. They were sent out in Sausalito and Southern Marin Fire sent them out since they were evacuating certain areas. There are recurring lessons learned in terms of notifications. Since agencies tend to have their own Nixle accounts and other types of social media, we have to work on coordinating amongst each other to make sure we are providing the public with the same information.

Ed Schulz, Consumer Representative District 5, asked if radio systems were used. – They were and with no issues.

4. OLD BUSINESS: Update on Wildfires Lessons Learned Subcommittee Meeting, by Chief Jason Weber.

The meeting was productive and the subcommittee will be wrapping up and taking action items forward. A lot has been worked on by many municipalities already. Out of the sixty-four recommendations, some topics were broken into major sub groups. One of them focused on code enforcement and code application. Our fire prevention officer group is tasked with getting as much consistency as possible across the County. They will also be looking at what the State will require. It will be a combined effort and we will look at code adoption for most of those changes. We will also look at vegetation management, creating more defensible space, community outreach, grant funding, and especially at the Access and Functional Needs and aging communities, and how we address this moving forward.

We did find sizeable gaps that we aren't able to fill with existing resources from the County, cities, towns, or fire agencies. A lot of this is centered around major fuel reduction work that grant money alone cannot tackle. These are ongoing capital investments in terms of fuel reduction. We can partner with public land management agencies for economies of scale. Community engagement is high but overwhelming. Most communities are doing some kind of forum and we have a large countywide forum on May 4th, Wildland Fire Awareness Day. Other events are occurring simultaneously because of the energy behind Firewise communities, thanks to Chief Welch's work. But we still do have some gaps that we will have to address

creatively and need community engagement to move that forward. **Supervisor Rice** and FireSafe Marin have been good partners with engaging the community.

The Disaster coordinator position has been finalized for a two year term and we are looking to onboard the program on July 1st. We are hoping to get someone to reenergize the *Get Ready Marin* program which was one of the three major goals of PDEP. Ross Valley Fire Department will be host agency for employment. The position will answer to the Marin County Fire Chiefs Association and the Marin Managers Association, hand in hand.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

Status of Grants Administered by Marin County OES

Please email OES at oes@marinsheriff.org for a copy of the grants report, which was shared at this meeting by Chris Reilly, Marin OES Manager.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Disaster Education & Preparedness Committee Report

Catherine Way, Marin Council of Mayors & Councilmembers Representative, addressed the Council and thanked **Mike Grant** for attending the meeting to give a report on what's happening in the schools. He spoke about the re-energization of *Get Ready 5th Grade*. We are also pleased to see that the *Stop the Bleed* kits are being incorporated in training our youths who might have to face this situation.

At the March meeting, **Todd Lando** came to give a FireSafe Marin update and updates in Firewise communities in Marin. There were three points to take away – 1) how embers work and how they affect fires, 2) vegetation management and hardening structures, and 3) how devastating fires follow weather patterns and the importance to pay attention to that in our communities. This also includes red flag days. PDEP would like to recommend the *Haywired* presentation to DC3 to inform about bay Area earthquake risks.

Frank Cox, Consumer Representative District 1, also wanted to thank **David Peery** upon his retirement from the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD.) David served as the MMWD representative to PDEP. He also noted the first appearance of **Vincent Valenzuela**, the new Red Cross representative. Vincent made a presentation on shelters, shelter management, and preparation. Frank mentioned updates provided by PDEP members that they do monthly.

For further detail on these updates and more information, refer to the Minutes from PDE&P. Meetings are posted online on the www.marinsheriff.org website.

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

Questions:

Are EOC trainings open to the local cities and towns? - **Chris Reilly** responded that we are in the process of conducting our EOC section trainings. We also have MOUs in place with each city and town that allow for local municipalities to receive training from us.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS/ PUBLIC COMMENTS

Maggie Lang with CERT reported on the request for CERT members to the Camp Fire over the holidays. We coordinated with Chris Reilly and OES and the Marin Fire Chiefs, since we had no process of sending volunteers out of County. Marin sent seventeen CERT members to assist out of county and they worked anywhere from one to ten days, about 500 hours. Seventy total CERTs assisted and we are proud of our members who helped during the holidays.

Janice, a member of the public, had a question about the prioritization of fuel reduction and what is being done about it in the county. **Chief Weber** responded and said that fuel reduction is one of the main priorities and is both expensive and not a one-time investment. The State has recognized this and has invested about \$1 billion dollars for a five-year, \$200 million per year grant opportunity and Marin agencies have submitted applications. Much of the work is based on priorities identified in the *2016 Community Wildfire Protection Plan*. Policy makers recognize the importance of this and have given clear direction. We know that this is bigger than the resources we have today. This is why we are engaging our communities and talking about how we are going to do this. About ten years ago, the Board of Supervisors invested in the Tam Fire Crew, a twelve person fire crew focused on fuel reduction work. This doubled last year in partnership with the National Park Service. There are seven major grants that were submitted to CalFire in the last year, based on County priorities and we are confident that we will receive some funding.

Supervisor Arnold also added that County Parks and Open Space is looking at this very seriously and are making some changes and improvements this year.

8. ADJOURN:

Being no further business, the Chair asked for a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 3:48 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 March 14, 2019.

Date

Therese Gorostiza, Office of Emergency Services