



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

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Minutes of the March 12, 2020 Meeting

The Regular meeting of the Marin Operational Area Disaster and Citizen Corps Council (DC3) was held Thursday, March 12, 2020.

Council Members Present: Dennis Rodoni, Ed Schulze, Adriana Rabkin, Vincent Valenzuela, Mike Grant, Jay Hubert, Chris Reilly, Stephen Marcotte, Chris Choo, Mike McDermott, Joe Chinn, and Catherine Way. **Council Members Excused:** Peter Mendoza, Bill Tyler, Jack Baker, Jason Weber, Frederick Stemmler, Garry Lion, Mohamed Osman, and Lisa Santora.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni ("Chair") called the meeting to order at 3:01 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 Rodoni wanted to thank Supervisor Arnold for previously heading the DC3 and was honored to take over the position. He introduced Lorenzo Cordova, his aide, as a point of contact if anyone had questions for him.

APPROVAL OF September 12, 2019 MINUTES

The Chair asked for a Motion to Approve the September 12, 2019 minutes after a quorum was met. As submitted to the Council, with no corrections and no additions, the Minutes were adopted.

Motion: Schulze / Second: Grant

AYES: ALL

2. CHANGES TO AGENDA: None.

3. Presentations:

New Countywide Community Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, by Michael Huynh

Michael Huynh introduced himself to the Council. He said that he would be working on *Get Ready Marin* as his primary focus and would act as CERT coordinator in the meantime. Michael requested comments on *Get Ready Marin*, and wanted to hear what everyone liked about it and what they didn't like about the program. He asked residents about three things the public should be aware about in terms of personal preparedness. The said that most people have come up with similar items, and wants to ensure everyone has a voice to help improve the program.

Questions:

Catherine Way, Marin Council of Mayors & Councilmembers, asked what Michael has learned in the last five months in his new role. Michael stated the public needs more clarity about communications – what’s Nixle vs. AlertMarin vs. Next Door. There are so many channels of information that need to be made clear to the public about what to use, and when to use it. He also learned that there are a lot of people that don’t have a household communications plan in case of disaster. This needs to improve. Another thing he has found is the ownership element, that there is a degree of personal ownership that the public needs to be responsible for their own needs. People need to plan for disasters and be prepared. Catherine asked how stakeholders could help with these three things. Michael welcomed any insight on how to best reach the people that the Council members represent. Any input from the people represented in these groups is helpful making these changes.

Joe Chinn, Marin Managers Association, asked what the timing of the rollout was on the public element of *Get Ready*. Michael stated that he is currently rewriting the curriculum and still getting input. The goal is to have workable slides that can be shared with presenters by the end of April. We already have had the “train the trainer” course to disseminate this information. The focus is on the existing group of people who are able to deliver the training. We need to give an update on curriculum for these trainers. Beyond April, we want to get online content available so people can access the information at home. We are trying to reach those who can’t get training in person. The *Get Ready 5th Grade* program is being prepared and will hopefully begin next school year.

Ed Schulze, District 5 Representative, had a concern about new CERT training. Michael said he wanted to make sure people who are committed to the program can continued to train. He wants to have a core group of people consistently trained. There are an increasing number of advanced trainings to maintain these existing CERTs.

Michael McDermott, District 2 Representative, asked how he was planning on getting a measure of how neighborhoods were getting ready. He wanted to know if there was a known baseline and how if it was known what areas were doing well or not doing well. Michael stated that he is meeting with someone in marketing to measure how this can be calculated. It could include having random sample surveys to measure. The biggest indicator would be to measure survivability – can people sustain themselves for five days?

4. NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Rodoni wanted to add information about the developing coronavirus situation but would wait until Dr. Santora arrived.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

Public Safety Power Shut Off (PSPS) Update, by **Chris Reilly, Emergency Manager**

The PSPS from last year was last time the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated. We have been doing a lot of preparation since then. We have had meetings with PG&E representatives and have told them our needs which focus on communication. PG&E has gotten better over the course of the last two shut downs in the county, but still needs improvement. We asked for early notification in order to get our plans in place to lessen the impact on the county. There were some breakdowns in communications last time which became a big issue. We also wanted to learn more about their systems so we can preplan for notification. If we have a better idea of their system and what towers will be down, we can get a better idea for what areas will be impacted. Knowing this will assist us in sending earlier notifications to the public. We also encouraged them to work on their customer resource centers (CRCs,) and identified locations that we thought were good for this purpose. They can be more turn-key in the future and can provide better services to the public.

PG&E is also currently working on service segmentation, something that we have encouraged. They are working on identifying areas they can isolate in the power grid, so instead of turning off the power to a huge swath of the county, only a small portion will be affected. This will allow for high hazard wildland fire zones to be shut off, while leaving power on for the more residential and commercial areas unaffected.

We've asked them to work on hardening five county sites that include the HH&S campus and the EOC building. We are looking for switching mechanisms so we can quickly get these buildings back online with alternative power sources. We haven't gotten a commitment yet for this, but PG&E is aware.

Another thing we've asked for is to harden their transmission and distribution lines. They have agreed to this and are working on it and it will take some time. This could include additions of new power poles, new wiring, or adding switching stations.

We are hoping they can enter into some kind of agreement where they can supply larger generators in order to provide larger generation. This could be providing diesel generators or more green alternatives in the case we have to open a shelter. We want micro grids to be established that have alternative sources of power in certain areas. This could be diesel generators, solar or gas that will provide power in these smaller areas.

Another thing to note is Marin County is a part of a coalition of other counties taking action with CPUC to hold PG&E responsible for a wide array of things. These include some of the aforementioned items. Outside counsel is involved in the legal effort. We provided testimonies as part of the consortium of other counties.

Overall, PG&E is making strides in improvement and there will be more shut downs in the future.

Questions:

Ed Schulze, District 5 Representative, stated the major issue was communications and cell towers. He asked if it was PG&E's obligation to provide power to these towers or the county. Chris replied that he testified at State Senate subcommittee on telecommunications and the effects on Marin County with the shutdown. He said Senator McGuire proposed new legislation to require cell companies to provide better back up power. The towers do have batteries but no back up power and they do run out in about a day and a half.

Joe Chinn, Marin Managers Association, commented on the proposed legislation that cell towers located in high threat areas are only included in this. An adjustment of language is needed for this proposed legislation. There are towers that are actually outside the high threat area but service high threat areas. There needs to be a change the wording.

Ed Schulze asked if the MERA radios utilized the same towers. Chris replied that he didn't know, but knew that the power generators are much more robust in these sites.

Catherine Way, Marin Council of Mayors & Councilmembers, thanked Chris and asked about vegetation mitigation that PG&E should be conducting in Marin. It seems they haven't started. Chris replied that they have started and continue to do so. There have been helicopters being used for more vegetation assessment.

Supervisor Rodoni added they are doing a lot of vegetation work in west Marin, but are still working on finishing the 2019 plan. They will be going to east Marin and will continue to central Marin and Mill Valley after. Currently, PG&E has a lot of different contractors working

for them. When they start the 2020 plan, they will go back to having one contractor for Marin.

He added that the County of Marin has hired consultant to assess buildings to see how we can retrofit in order to accommodate generators or other power sources. We are hoping to have a lot retrofitted by the fall.

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 Therese Gorostiza, OES Office Specialist/Grants Management.

Public Comment:

Nancy with Whistlestop asked the Council if there was an effort to raise funds for community businesses that needed to improve their worksites to add alternative sources of power. **Chris Reilly** replied that there weren't any and that PG&E had no commitments to do so. He added that the County was doing a study to provide generators for County facilities, but nothing anything outside of that. He also said that if the PG&E micro grids were successful, there may not be a need for generators or other outside sources of power. We don't want to invest a lot of money in the case PG&E can make this work. The responsibility of coming up with funding for these improvements belongs to the business or the building owners.

Supervisor Rodoni said that the County's was not ready to commit to expensive generators if there is an alternative. However, the County wants to make sure their buildings are adaptable to accommodate different power options if the need arises.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Disaster Education & Preparedness Committee Report

Catherine Way, Marin Council of Mayors & Councilmembers, spoke about the last three years she co-chaired PDEP with Frank Cox, who retired from PDEP and district representative for DC3. PDEP will take on a more group approach with *Jay Hubert*, who has stepped in to help with minutes and *Adriana Rabkin*, who will be co-chair.

During the February meeting, PDEP was given a presentation by **Fire Chief Bill Tyler** who spoke about evacuation and evacuation route planning in the county. He talked about what was happening in the Novato fire protection district and the modeling and mapping that was being done there and how it would continue to the rest of the county. PDEP recommended that this presentation would be good for DC3 in the future.

PDEP was planning on covering viral infections in April and matters related to this response. It is a very relevant topic right now.

Adriana Rabkin wanted to add that *Dr. Matt Willis* is supposed to speak about this topic and he will present during the April meeting.

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.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS/ PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Grant, Marin County Office of Education, said in regards to the coronavirus situation, they are getting questions and concerns from the community, parents, and staff. He said they are in constant communication with Dr. Willis and Dr. Santora regarding the COVID-19 situation, and have had conference calls with school superintendents and others. He wanted to acknowledge this and thank HH&S and public health for keeping schools informed.

Adriana Rabkin, Marin VOAD, wanted to tell the Council that the VOAD is able to help with messaging and assist with communication within the community. The VOAD has a valuable characteristic because of their collaboration among their different groups and organizations. They are able to send these messages in different ways, including using hotlines or via email.

Jay Hubert, District 1 Representative, said that some of these new tools are able to help spread communications and we just need to work together to push these things out. It will engage more citizens than before, and will ultimately make the community much stronger.

Vincent Valenzuela, American Red Cross, added that they are ready to open a sheltering operation if needed during the COVID-19 response. More planning is in the works.

Chris Reilly stated that **Dr. Santora** was unable to attend the meeting and he would give the COVID-19 update. He said that there were three confirmed cases in the county so far and all were related. He also reported that there was no verified community exposure yet. Recommendations are coming out from public health officers, but not actual orders. These include restrictions of gatherings of 100 people indoors and the latest recommendation for skilled nursing facilities is to allow family visits only. When families do visit, they must wear personal protective equipment (PPE,) such as masks, gowns, and gloves, etc. There are currently no school closures though we just heard a county near us has closed public schools. Some parochial schools have been closed. Public health preparedness is conducting contact tracing and setting up care and shelter for the homeless. We encourage people to visit www.marinhhs.org/coronavirus as the best place to go for coronavirus updates. The website is constantly being updated.

Supervisor Rodoni also recommended that people should watch Dr. Willis' presentation to the Board about coronavirus that occurred in the last Board Meeting

Catherine Way noted that some counties and hospitals were setting up pre-screening tents before entering emergency departments. She asked if there was a plan to do that at Marin General Hospital and Kaiser. **Chris Reilly** said they were developing something similar, but an actual field treatment site to be set up in case of surge. This will include staffing and logistics, but this will be for taking care of actual patients needing care, and not screening. Catherine also asked if first responders were adequately supplied. Chris said we are working on that now and the needs of law, fire, and paramedics are being addressed. He said the EOC is figuring out the best way to source supplies and figuring out the best way to distribute them.

These Minutes were reviewed and approved at the June 11, 2020 Marin Disaster Council Meeting.

8. ADJOURN:

*Being no further business, the Chair asked for a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 3:48 PM.
Motion: All in favor.*

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 12, 2020.

Date

Therese Gorostiza, Office of Emergency Services