



Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee of the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3) Committee Meeting

PDE&P Meeting Minutes for June 7, 2021

Draft approved at PDEP Meeting 8-2-2021

Members Present:

Catherine Way	Co-Chair, DC3, City of Larkspur Councilmember, MCCMC
Adriana Rabkin	CoChair, DC3 Member, Director Marin VOAD
Anne Carta	Marin Medical Reserve Corps
Maggie Lang	Mill Valley Fire, Emergency Prep Coordinator
Quinn Gardner	San Rafael FD Emergency Manager
Tom Cromwell, MD	Marin Medical Reserve Corps etc.
Jay Hubert	DC3, ACS/RACES, FireWise Community, Red Cross
Vincent Valenzuela	Red Cross Marin / Solano Disaster Program Manager

Members Excused or Absent:

Peter Mendoza	DC3 AFN representative, MarinCIL, Vice Chair Marin VOAD
Jim Wickham	PG&E Safety & Preparedness Specialist, MV Mayor
Amber Davis	HHS Public Health Preparedness Manager
Garry Lion	DC3 member, Marin Economic Forum

Members Public Present

Frank Cox	Former PDEP Co Chair/DC3 Member frnkcox5@gmail.com
Lorenzo Cordova	Supervisor Rodoni's Aide, lcordova@marincounty.org
Crystal Martinez	Supervisor Rice's Aide, cmartinez@marincounty.org
Rachel Kertz	Central Marin NRG Coordinator, coordinator@nrgmarin.org
Amy Glenn	Central Marin NRG Advisory Comm, aglennstyle@gmail.com
Marco Berger	Multicultural Center of Marin, mberger@multiculturalmarin.org
Michael Bergman	VERG (Valley Emerg Readiness Grp) michaelb.verg@gmail.com
Lori Schifrin	CERT, MMRC lori.sch@att.net
Laura Trippi	Tomales Emergency Response group, latrippi@gmail.com
Sara Robinson	Marin Aging & Adult Services, SRobinson@marincounty.org
Jody Timms	Marin Commission on Aging jodytimms@comcast.net

The following documents were emailed to PDEP in advance:

PDEP_Agenda 2021-6-7a.pdf

PDEP_Minutes 2021-5-3a.pdf (Draft to be approved)

I. **Welcome, Introductions, Review of Minutes**

- Catherine Way welcomed attendees and Draft PDEP Minutes 5/3/2021 were reviewed. Minutes were approved.
- Catherine and Adriana met with Supervisor Rodoni and discussed with him how we can get the best out of DC3 members. It was suggested that DC3 members, who represent different parts of the community, perhaps could report out at DC3 meetings.
- Adriana Rabkin: We want to know how information gets disseminated from DC3 members into the community. This could mean they have homework or report out at the DC3 meetings. We want more than presentations, we want what preparedness is occurring at all levels.
- Catherine Way: Nothing is written down about DC3 member reporting. Other groups outline these duties, but not DC3.
- Tom Cromwell: The DC3 geographic representatives need to be involved in their communities. The Southern Marin DC3 rep has not attended local meetings. Catherine: We want Supervisor Rodoni to think about his expectations for these people.



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- The next DC3 meeting is this Thursday.

II. Focus Area #2: Marin’s Neighborhood Organizations and Outreach

- We will dive into the formats that exist now in Marin and hear from some people who have developed their NRG programs. We want to understand the pros and cons of neighborhood organizing and want to be able to provide an overview to the County Coordinator when that position is filled.

Rachel Kertz: Central Marin NRG Coordinator

- Rachel shared slides with the group.
- Rachel has been the Central Marin NRG Coordinator for over a year. The geography in her domain includes Corte Madera, Larkspur, Greenbrae and Kentfield. John & Lee Howard are the NRG founders. They started with 1 NRG and now there are 42 NRGs in Central Marin.
- There is an advisory committee for all of Central Marin’s NRGs. It is a group of volunteers and includes town council members and the fire department and it is becoming more formalized. It sets goals, areas for improvement and strategic focus of the NRGs.
- The Central Marin NRG Coordinator is the one paid position, funded through Larkspur and Corte Madera.
- The cornerstone of the program is neighbors helping neighbors. The work the NRGs do is about the work before a disaster. They do not activate in a disaster. The work is around preparing for the disaster and educating neighbors to prepare for 5-7 days without assistance. NRGs rely on block captains to help neighbors. See LA City Emergency Mgt video on “Emergency Survival: Knowing Your Neighbors”: <https://youtu.be/BU3EH-6GAGU>
- NRGs help the Marin disaster response effort by sharing local information up and down the chain of command. This is helpful to fire departments.
- Central Marin NRG has its own website: NRGMarin.org. The map of NRGs is updated regularly.
- NRGs conduct drills twice a year with the daylight savings time change. Each NRG acts individually and decides what their drills will look like and how they will function.
- The NRG model is expanding across Marin with the help of Jody Timms and Maggie Lang and it is now called the Marin NRG Network. It is being expanded to include the following areas:

Central Marin
- San Rafael
- Marin Villages

West Marin
- VERG/San Geronimo
- Tomales
- Point Reyes

Southern Marin
- Mill Valley/Tam Valley
- Sausalito
- Floating Villages
- Belvedere
- Marin City
- Tiburon

Ross Valley
- Fairfax
- Sleepy Hollow
- San Anselmo
- Ross
- North Marin
- Novato (Neil Peterson)

- Catherine Way: Our hope was to identify what should be consistent in each NRG. Rachel Kertz: each NRG has its own website. We have discussed a centralized website that shares information and resources with each local NRG website linked to this centralized



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site. We have also considered a common logo for all. We don't want to replicate Ready Marin, FireWise, and other efforts and programs. Catherine: We want to have 6-8 specific items that each NRG should have, like for example a paid coordinator. Without a coordinator, a link to the city manager fails. Rachel: a paid position is great, but you need to have a strong group of volunteers as well. I work closely with Chief Martin to ensure direction and alignment with the fire department. Catherine: a paid position is important in this role. Sometimes volunteers can overstep their lines and take on more than public officials want them to. A paid coordinator keeps the hierarchy and helps everyone stay within their lanes.

- Key partners of the Central Marin NRG include: Central Marin Fire, NRG Advisory Committee, Town and City leadership, Fire Council, and local NRGs.
- Each individual NRG makes its own plan, engages its own volunteers, identifies resources, drills its own team and raises its own funds. Some want their own signage or medical trailer or even to work with CERTs. The larger coordinating Central Marin NRG can bring in experts and ideas to help each NRG with their needs. We talk with the town and fire departments.
- The value of an NRG includes: awareness, identification of local capabilities, self-reliance and control, overseeing all residents and helping to save lives.
- How to start an NRG: raise awareness, identify boundaries, develop complete list of residents, discuss issues, goals, projects, concerns, strategies, common goals; identify potential leaders, their individual skills, willingness to participate, and convenient meeting times.
- Training for CERT and FADR classes is currently on hold.

Discussion

- Catherine Way: The key aspects needed of a functioning and successful NRG Committee include:
 - Advisory committee of key citizens to set strategy, goals, and areas of improvement;
 - A key connection with elected representatives;
 - Involvement of Fire officials;
 - Paid Coordinator;
 - Consistent principles and actions;
 - Chain of responsibility and control;
 - Funding (need to have funding strategy for a coordinator and training opportunities).

Maggie Lang: Southern Marin NRG Group

- We have used a lot of the Central Marin information to form the Southern Marin NRGs. One point of difference is that in Southern Marin each NRG has a steering committee -- a local group of 3-5 people that makes decisions. The Advisory Council is at the city level and includes Fire, City, and one member from each NRG. Rachel Kertz: this would be too wieldy for Central Marin. We would have 42 members if each NRG had someone on the Advisory Council. We select 12-15 people for this group.
- Maggie Lang: We spend time on the website and have created a template with all of the basics. We want people to come through the website and register here. We are looking to integrate CERT members in each NRG. In the past, CERTs worked through the fire stations. This will take time to change. Catherine Way: Fire Chiefs would prefer that each local area determine its own use of CERTs. Maggie: CERTs are part of the group. We are looking to hire a Southern Marin NRG coordinator then perhaps develop NRGs in the whole city by the end of the year. Chief Welch says this is moving along in terms of funding and where the position will be located and who he/she will report to. They hope to post this job by July 1.



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- Quinn Gardner: I would like to know functionally what integration of CERTs in the NRGs looks like. Local Fire Chiefs all have different views about the use of CERTs.
- Rachel Kertz: We have tight integration with CERT in our NRGs. CERT will assist with medical needs. We are looking to use CERT to train more NRGs. Maggie Lang: We will do the same in Southern Marin. The County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator will hopefully link NRGs, CERT and others.
- Adriana Rabkin: I met with Rich Shorthall from FireSafe Marin and they are interested in neighbors helping neighbors and integration with FireWise communities. Rachel Kertz: there is overlap in some neighborhoods like Madrone Canyon and Christmas Tree Hill. We are looking at both sides and helping with the integration. You don't need everyone in your community for your neighborhood to be a FireWise community and FireSafe Marin is focused on preparedness. Adriana: FireSafe Marin is expanding their view toward all hazards. Maggie: It would be great to have each community have a crossover of FireWise, NRG, and CERT. We are all one community.
- Sara Robinson: My own FireWise community is reluctant to take on the NRG role because they think it will be too much work. If there is directive from the County about what is expected, if the Disaster Coordinator leads this, it will be very helpful.
- Catherine Way: how does this format work in multi-family apartments and buildings? How do we engage this in these types of areas? Rachel Kertz: they usually have a central location: a park, pool, etc. We may need to approach each resident individually. I am looking how to develop a program that reaches these residents. Maggie Lang: Do you think involving the property manager or site manager would help? Rachel: Some are concerned about liability; some don't want to manage it but they might offer space for a trailer or a direct mailing. An NRG Coordinator may have to take on the lead for this and have a regional NRG communication plan.
- Tom Cromwell: It takes a couple of people in each community to take on the development of an NRG. You do need a coordinator, city leadership, funding, etc. A total volunteer group has no legal standing. MMRC is partnering with Maggie and CERT to help with training.
- Quinn Gardner: You want the NRGs to be coordinated and consistent, but the parameters should be wide. There is no one size fits all approach.
- Adriana Rabkin: PDEP's focus should be to push paid coordinators and not necessarily the specifics of NRG committees.

III. Updates from PDEP members

MCCMC Marin County Council Mayors + City Councilmembers

- Catherine Way: No update. We have not met.

Marin VOAD

- Adriana Rabkin: Marin Public Health held a Faith and Health Summit on May 26 to connect with faith leaders across Marin. Marin VOAD is continuing the work of building collaboration with faith organizations and will be presenting to faith leaders about disaster preparedness and a coordinated disaster response at an outdoor event on June 15th along with Kathy Koblick and Cicily Emerson from Marin Health & Human Services.
- Marin VOAD is also building off of the weekly meetings with Public Health and CBOs to start focusing the response on PSPS and wildfires.
- Kathy Koblick with Public Health developed the four zone regions (West Marin, Marin City, Novato and Canal) to create a more cohesive response to Covid outreach, testing and vaccinations. These groups are remaining in effect and will start to focus on PSPS and wildfire response. They are Community Response Teams that build a local



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collaborative disaster response effort with the schools, parks and rec, city officials, CBOs and faith organizations.

- I mentioned previously that Marin VOAD is working with RACES and MARS to build a system using Ham radio operators at CBOs to provide a disaster communications network. This effort is led by Department of Public Works, the Telecommunications Lead. We would like to present this at a future PDEP meeting.
- We are still considering a fall event that allows disaster service providers to connect and get to know one another so that we can be better prepared for an emergency. It would be much smaller than two years ago but would be an opportunity for people to make connections, exchange business cards, and get to know one another.

West Marin

- Stephen Marcotte was not present. No update.
- We will reach out to the 5 district reps of DC3 to ask them to attend PDEP meetings. Jay is district 1, Steve is district 5. Catherine will find out who the others are.

Red Cross

- Vincent Valenzuela: Red Cross is going back to in-person activities like Sound the Alarm, and an in-person Disaster Action Team (DAT) response for people who have been displaced from a fire or other event.
- The biggest shift is in our sheltering response. This past year we put people up in hotels but now we are going back to congregate sheltering for the upcoming fire season. We can provide wrap around services much more effectively in a congregate setting compared to serving one person individually in a hotel room. We are reviewing protocols, trailers, volunteers, etc. Adriana Rabkin: The Marin Center will not be available as a shelter this fall due to retrofitting. Are you in touch with OES about possible school locations? Vincent: Yes. OES staff was at our meeting last week and we are continuing to meet with them.
- Maggie Lang: Do you have in-person first aid classes? Vincent: Yes, these never stopped. They were deemed as essential functions and have remained in person. People can call 1-800-Red-Cross to find the most current information.

Southern Marin / Business Community

- Garry Lion was not present. No update.

Mill Valley Preparedness, community efforts

- Maggie Lang: We are offering a CERT hybrid class, a large number of people registered online. We graduated 28 CERTs from around the County. The feedback was very positive. We had CERT volunteers teaching CERT with the support of local Fire Departments and we held a one day in-person skills day on May 18. The second group will have their in-person class July 17. This was a pilot group and will not be opened up to everyone in the County.
- The County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position is moving along.
- We will be trying 6 small evacuation drills this summer in Mill Valley and Sausalito. This is a new format and will be 6 one-hour Community Refuge Area drills in schools, parking lots, etc. The Fire Chief and CERTs will be there. These are easier to plan for and the hope is we get more people out for each drill.

Public Health Preparedness and related programs

- Amber Davis was not present. No update.

Access & Functional Needs (AFN) communities:



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- Peter Mendoza was not present. No update.

Public Safety / Emergency Management

- Quinn Gardner: County OES is demobilizing from the pandemic. We are shifting to PSPS and wildfire and sheltering. PG&E has made infrastructure changes to limit the scope of PSPS events, but we should still expect to see a couple of them impact some portion of Marin this fall.

Utilities including PG&E

- Jim Wickham was not present. No update.

Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC)

- Anne Carta: MMRC is continuing with mobile vaccinations. We are also doing Covid testing where there are outbreaks at skilled nursing facilities. State nursing staff will be tapering off this summer and MMRC will step back in.
- For non-Covid events we are working with County Aging & Adult Services to help homebound individuals and BHRS for crisis response and emergency events like suicide watch.
- MMRC may be asked to help with the PSPS call center. We have a big team and are poised to help in any number of disasters this fall.
- Tom Cromwell: We are planning to get the FADR program started soon because of Marin's vaccination rate. Marin leads the world in vaccination rates among its residents. Age 12 and up are currently at 80-85% vaccinated.

Public Preparedness Coordinator / Get Ready Marin

- There is currently no coordinator. No update.

OES RACES Chief Radio officer, San Rafael CERT steering and Firewise

- Jay Hubert: RACES / ACS¹: There is a West Marin event scheduled in a couple of weeks to improve backup equipment capability. Broadband network will be expanded for use by Ham radio operators to help in temporary evacuation points and shelters.

Public Comment/Questions

- None

IV. Closing Items

- Catherine Way: PDEP will be presenting at the DC3 meeting this Thursday and will provide a synopsis of the work we did in April, May and June. We will reiterate the need for an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.
- Maggie Lang: We don't hear much from the local DC3 members. Local people are very interested in hearing what their DC3 representatives have to share. Jody Timms: They should also attend some local meetings to relay information back to the County.
- Catherine Way: Our next PDEP meeting will be on focus area 3: Communications.

Closure: 2:30 pm end of meeting

¹ Marin County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS) are volunteers working under the authority of the Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES). <https://www.marinraces.org/wp/>



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Next Meetings: 1-3pm:

Dates may be flexible as circumstances require

PDEP Meetings Year 2021: 7/12, 8/2, 9/13, 10/4, 11/1, 12/6/2021

Site: PDEP conducts meetings online using ZOOM.COM during the Pandemic. We hope to return to meetings at the Central Marin Police Community Room soon.

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**DC3 Meetings: 3-5pm:**

**DC3 Year 2021: 6/10/2021, 9/9/2021, 12/9/2021**

DC3 Meetings are currently remote and are broadcast on Zoom and Facebook Live. They hope to return to Board Chambers, Civic Center, soon. Dates may be flexible.

**Online:** <https://www.marinsheriff.org/about-us/field-service-bureau/office-of-emergency-services>

**Email:** [pdepcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:pdepcommittee@gmail.com)

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