

**Volusia Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)**  
**Steering Committee Meeting Summary – 10 November, 2015**

The meeting was brought to order at 10:02 by Deanie Lowe, Co-chairman.

Steering committee members present:

Brandon, Jerry	Greenberg, Warren	Heald, David
LaHue, Larry	Law, Audriana	Lowe, Deanie
Troxler, David	White, Pat	Wilary, Loretta

- The first discussion on the agenda was a proposal by Audriana Law from the United Way regarding obtaining funding for a new Volunteer Management System to support Volusia County residents. This would allow for pre-screening of possible volunteers who would be helping our COAD when a disaster situation exists. It reads as follows:

**Proposal**

United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties, Inc. (UWVF) is requesting funding for a new volunteer management system to support Volusia County Residents, Volusia County Nonprofit/Government Agencies and the Volusia County Emergency Operations Center.

**Narrative:**

UWVF'S Volunteer Center provides volunteer information and referral services for **115** nonprofit and government agencies in both Volusia and Flagler County.

The Volunteer Center and the Volusia Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) have established that there is a need for better recruitment and early training for community members interested in volunteering in times of disasters. Through the use of a new volunteer management system, UWVFC will recruit skills-based community members interested in volunteering before and during a disaster. UWVFC Volunteer Center agencies will post disaster related

opportunities, giving volunteers the opportunity for training and clearance before a disaster occurs. Through the use of a new volunteer management system, the efficiency in communications from volunteers before and during a disaster will be enhanced and the Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) component will have more volunteers processed and in place in service roles when needed.

UWVF Volunteer Center will:

- Work with the COAD to encourage local agencies to develop disaster volunteer job descriptions.
- Provide updated information on the need for volunteers to the media for publication.
- Match volunteers with particular skills to agencies where those skills can best be utilized.

UWVF's Volunteer Centers' consolidated and coordinated activity will allow for the support of the County's ESF-15 effort and better community service as part of the coordinated long term recovery functions.

**Request:**

Our current outdated Volunteer Management system (Volunteer Reporter) has supported UWVF for some time now. A new web based volunteer system will allow for better volunteer/agency participation and coordination which is critical in times of disaster. Pre-disaster, this system will allow for agencies to post "Disaster Volunteer Opportunities", so volunteers may be pre-trained and pre-cleared, thus allowing volunteers to deploy directly to local agencies.

This request is for \$2,000 to purchase the new volunteer management system (Volunteer Trust).

- Much discussion ensued on this proposal which included the following comments and questions:
  - The listings will be refreshed every 6 months.
  - Potential volunteers then have the opportunity to change information
  - This system would allow for noting which volunteers have specific licenses which may be useful.
  - Mrs. Lowe asked how this could be used within the concept of our COAD's VRC (VRC). Ms. Law and Mrs. Wilary replied that at an administrative level, the information can be imported and disseminated to various agencies as well as ESF15.
  - The United Way will be paying any maintenance costs.
  - Mrs. Lowe asked for an endorsement from the Steering Committee and it was given unanimously.
  
- Mrs. Lowe next asked Jerry Brandon, Chairman of the Preparedness Strike Team to give a report regarding the next Expo.
  - The Prep Strike Team has decided to have the next Expo on the west side of the county.
  - Both the Home Depot and Lowe's located in Orange City have been checked out.
  - Both places are well suited to the needs of our Expo.
  - Both have children's workshops on Saturday.
  - All contact information has been obtained and the Prep Team will make a decision very soon.
  - May of 2016 is a possible date.
  - It was noted that many businesses and banks want to volunteer to help in the community and we should look to tap into this pool of people.

- The next discussion was in regard to the possible elimination of the strike teams, substituting instead a different concept of using committees for individual projects. Mr. Brandon said that this would not work for the type of things that have been being done by the Prep Strike Team because the training in Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) for HOAs, Mobile Home Parks and CONDO associations is on-going and constant.
- Mrs. Lowe announced that Frank Lewandowski is going to have another rehearsal for the VRC at the LDS church in DeLand. She also mentioned that she has requested that members of our COAD be included in this practice and that she thinks it is to be held on Saturday, 21 November, 2015.
- Mrs. Lowe asked Mrs. Wilary about web sites she had previously mentioned. Mrs. Wilary said that these were places such as “The Community Connector” where we as a COAD can promote what we do so as to increase our declining membership. Mrs. Wilary continued by saying that the United Way has a notification in the Monday edition of the News Journal every week and she would be willing to include notices from and information about COAD. Mrs. Lowe said that the information should include a referral to our website which is monitored by Charlie Howell.
- Mrs. Lowe next talked about an emailed request by Jim Clements for our COAD to sponsor a CERT team in conjunction with a fire department. Now that we are a 501 (c)(3) we could head up a CERT team if we choose to.
- Mrs. Lowe reminded everyone about the FLASH workshop to be held tomorrow at 1:00 PM at the airport. It will be in the Volusia Room which now is called the Dennis McGee Room. The topic will be, “How to Build Back Better”.
- The next General Membership meeting is 18 November, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 AM.