

**Volusia Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)**  
**Steering Committee Meeting Summary – 14 February, 2017**

The meeting was brought to order at 10:04 AM by Frank Bruno, Chairman.

Members in attendance:

Brandon, Gerald	Bruno, Frank	Clements, Jim
Greenberg, Warren	Howell, Charlie	Lewandowski, Frank
Parkhurst, Ray	Troxler, David	

- The first point of discussion was whether or not the Steering Committee needs to adopt minutes of sub-committee meetings. It was decided that we should do so and then post them on our website.
  
- Minutes of previous meetings were presented:
  - Minutes of the CERT meeting of 19 January, 2017 were presented by Jerry Brandon and Jim Clements. They were approved as read.
  - Minutes of the Steering Committee meeting of 13 December, 2016 were presented next. It was moved by Mr. Brandon, seconded by Frank Lewandowsky that they be adopted. Motion passed.
  - Minutes of the Steering Committee meeting of 10 January, 2017 were discussed. Pastor David Troxler said that the number of registrations to FEMA after Hurricane Matthew should be changed to 17,500. It was moved by Mr. Lewandowski, seconded by Ray Parkhurst, that the minutes be adopted as amended. Motion passed.
  
- Mr. Bruno asked Pastor Troxler to give an update on where we are for long-term recovery:
  - Volusia Interfaith/Agencies Networking in Disaster (VIND) now has 2 full-time people manning their office.
  - Case managers are reporting to Pam Garrison, head of Florida VOAD, who is helping to co-ordinate what is needed.
  - VIND representatives are still taking calls from those who have been impacted by Hurricane Matthew.
  - Project HOPE is doing a door-to-door canvas in the affected areas and finding a lot of pain and damage.
  - VIND is referring people to the Red Cross and the United Way.

- VIND has a plan to raise monies for the materials needed to help these long-term cases although most dollars need to come from Volusia County.
  - They will also receive help from the disaster ministries operated by such groups as the Baptists, Presbyterians, United Church of Christ, Lutherans, and Methodists. All 5 of these do disaster recovery.
  - Mr. Parkhurst asked about the setting up of a GoFundMe page.
  - Pastor Troxler responded by saying that a Facebook page is going to be set up with information and pictures as a way of asking for help from the general public.
  - There was much discussion about ways to raise funds to help in this area.
- It was mentioned and discussed that Volusia County has not been supportive of the idea of our COAD's getting any publicity for all of the help that we have given.
- Mr. Bruno went on to say that the county was also going to deny us the opportunity to have Jim Judge, Volusia County Director of Emergency Operations, as the guest speaker for our General Meeting in January.
  - Mr. Brandon noted that our COAD needs to establish a relationship with Volusia County.
  - He went on to say that Deanie Lowe, formerly co-chair of our COAD, was recently honored at a Governor's reception in Tallahassee, and that a newspaper article about this would include information about our COAD with a picture. The fact that we are recognized by the Governor will do well with the general public.
  - Charlie Howell asked if we knew what the reason is for the county's lack of support. Mr. Bruno said that it is primarily because of liability issues. But because we have taken a lot of pressure off county personnel, the only COAD in the state to do so to the best of his knowledge, that this really needs to be addressed. At the very least we need to be recognized for what we have done.
  - Mr. Parkhurst mentioned that we actually have reduced the county's liabilities because we worked in ESF 15 during the hurricane thus supporting their emergency department which appears to be under-staffed.
  - Mr. Brandon said that we must identify the problem and determine where it is originating. The new, recently elected County Council needs to be informed. If we are in partnership with the county, which we are because of the work we've done, then it behooves the county to return this support. There should be recognition from them for what we have done and what we're still doing.

- Mr. Brandon continued by asking how things stand with COADS in other counties. Mr. Bruno replied that they are supported by their counties and their EOCs.
  - Mr. Parkhurst noted that our COAD is identified in the county's emergency plan. Mr. Bruno interjected that it is identified but not supported.
  - It was decided to approach the County Council through putting into writing what our COAD is and what we do, and submit it to be an agenda item.
  - It was also decided that Mr. Bruno will meet with Mr. Brandon, Mrs. Lowe, and perhaps others to determine a plan of action.
- Mr. Bruno asked Mr. Clements to tell about the CERT meeting of 19 January, 2017.
- There were approximately 15 people present.
  - They are very willing and eager to volunteer to instruct in CERT and Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) throughout the county.
  - They are also willing to self-deploy but need refresher courses and standard operating procedures (SOP) to be established.
  - They asked about liabilities and county support. The state's "Good Samaritan" law supports people only up to the individual person's level of training.
  - If fully trained CERT instructors teach these classes and if it is documented, this would actually reduce the issues regarding liability.
  - They had many other questions and would like to meet with Jim Judge as well as possibly Jamie Cunningham with the Florida CERT Association.
  - Mr. Parkhurst suggested that they and Mr. Clements make a list of all questions.
- Much further discussion ensued regarding questions for and frustrations with the lack of support for COAD and CERT at the county level.
- Additional points of interest discussed in conclusion:
- Mr. Clements asked who to contact at the state level for CERT where he could get answers to the questions he brought up previously. Mr. Brandon suggested Ken Skalinsky with Volunteer Florida. Mr. Clements also will contact Jamie Cunningham. He feels that getting answers quickly will maintain the interest level of the CERT members who were at the January meeting.
  - Pastor Troxler got an email from Pam Garrison about Team Rubicon. They have a list of 17 homes which still have debris that needs to be cleaned up, and 8 homes still needing tarps on the roof. He made contact and then teamed them up with Isaiah Carlton, President of the Disaster Assistance and Relief Team (DART) at Embry Riddle. This group has just completed the necessary training. Mr. Parkhurst asked Pastor Troxler to forward the contact information to him.

- Mr. Parkhurst said that he has up-dated the annual license for our COAD.
  - Up-dated information on our finances will be given at the General Meeting in March.
  - Mr. Bruno detailed some statistics from Hurricane Matthew's aftermath which unfortunately the general public is unaware of:
    - 17,532 FEMA registrations
    - 5,126 people over 65 impacted by the storm
    - 6,524 failed income tests for SBAs
    - 6,994 applications for SBA never completed
- The March General Membership meeting will be at the airport. There is no speaker at this time. Mr. Bruno will again pay the \$ 200 to rent the room and to provide refreshments.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM.