**Delaware Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (DEVOAD)**

**2 August, 2022**

**Minutes**

**The meeting was called to order at 2:35 PM by Chairman Toby French via ZOOM. These officers were in attendance: Toby French (Chairman), Marty Brett (Vice-Chair), and Celeste Peart. The following members and guests participated in the meeting: Aaron Carey – Operation Barbeque Relief, Diego Rojas, Bob and Laura Winters – Jehovah’s Witnesses, Hector Ball – FEMA VAL Region 3, Rev Rich Walton – United Methodist Committee on Relief, Leanne Vanderveer and Stephanie Swicher – DEMA, Major Tim Sheehan – Salvation Army, Julia Pedrosa – FEMA VAL Region 3, Muriel Gillespie – DHSS Disaster Coordinator – RespondDE, Ellen Udovich and Ed Palsgrove – Baptist Convention Maryland/Delaware,**

**Tamika Collick – 11th Street Bridge Community Long Term Recovery Group, Cliff Oliver, Tony Lee – Lions Clubs, and Chantal Garrison - DHSS.**

**CHAIR UPDATE**

**Toby welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for calling in to this quarterly meeting, our third in 2022. He reviewed the Agenda, there were no proposed additions.**

**Toby started with a review and reminder that we are well into storm season and have seen severe weather in our area and Region:**

**Cecil County, MD; 12 July, wind event, lots of trees down**

**St Louis, MO; 26 July, thunderstorms and rain, at times over 2” per hour, 11” in 8 hours, new record at STL airport of 8.64’’**

**Eastern Kentucky; 31 July, extreme rain and flooding, North Fork of KY River exceeded prior record by 6 feet, reached 11 feet above flood stage, rose 18 feet in 10 hours, almost 40 dead; several counties in WV also declared emergencies.**

**Toby was part of the Team Rubicon response to help in Cecil County, so he provided an overview of that incident and the TR sawyer response.**

**BUSINESS**

**As Acting Treasurer, Toby gave the Treasurer’s Report with a beginning balance of $8,952.03 (January) and ending balance for this Quarter of 11,962.17. Expenses were $107.16 for DEVOAD shirts for Toby and Marty. We received income of $900 for 2022 dues from various members, $365.25 in donations and $1,050 in grant administration money from NVOAD for the Lowe’s materials $8,000 grant. In addition, the Savings account contains $192,505 in LTRG grants from faith-based groups and the Longwood Foundation. We will hold those funds until the 11th Street Bridge LTRG is registered, has an account and we can transfer it to them.**

**OPERATIONS**

**Ellen Udovich described the recent work (16 July) for remediation of Mold at a residence on Vandever Ave in the Wilmington 11th Street Bridge community. This work involved removing a very old shower unit (circa 1960) that was suspected of harboring significant mold from a basement. Upon demolition it was indeed found to contain significant mold deposits. Ellen and Toby French teamed up on the demolition and removal of the shower enclosure, and Ellen sprayed to kill and arrest any remaining mold. The owner contacted DEVOAD recently to report the mold smell was gone and to thank us for the work.**

**Then Marty Brett described a Mold Remediation session he arranged that was conducted on 23 July at the City EOC, thanks to Willie Patrick, EM for Wilmington. The training was provided by Lawrence Maichle of Flood Rescue LLC in Middletown. Eight people attended, and Lawrence provided excellent information on post-disaster hazards and mold remediation techniques. He concluded by demonstrating how to configure a contaminated room for safely working on removing mold. All attendees got a lot out of the training.**

**MAIN THEME – LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUPS**

**Toby introduced the topic of LTRGs and pointed out that surrounding States have multiple LTRGs in various stages, and with the increase in severe weather, they are a vital part of community recovery. He then introduced Rev Phil Huber, Chair of MDVOAD and veteran of 19 LTRG efforts. Phil walked us through how LTRGs ae formed and some of the important principles for success.**

**There is now an LTRG in Delaware to address rebuild issues of rebuilding in the Eleventh Street Bridge Community (ESBCLTRG) following the Hurricane Ida flooding last September. Tamika Collick from that community is the Chair, and Tamika provided a wonderful overview of the LTRG, progress to date, some of the challenges, and gave lots of credit to Rev Phil Huber, who has been a huge resource in standing up this important group.**

**Toby pointed out that excellent resources are present in the NVOAD web site (nvoad.org), to include an LTRG Points of Consensus document. Here is just one extract about the role of a VOAD in LTRGs:**

***NVOAD LTRG Point of Consensus:***

***“Affirming the critical role of LTRGs in whole community recovery, VOAD members  
support the formation and operation of local LTRGs by modeling the four Cs of the  
VOAD movement: cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration.”***

**The meeting was then adjourned. The next Quarterly meeting will be in October.**

**Contact for questions: delawarevoad@gmail.com**