

Washington State Animal Response Team
August 8th, 2024
19:00 – 21:00
Via Zoom
BOD Minutes

In attendance: Leo Notenboom, Noah Bernays, Michaela Eaves, Lynn Snow, Julie Shipman, Jeff Dahl, Bill Daugaard, Jenifer Clark, Kimberly Taylor, Gretchen McCallum, Rory Kelleher

The August 8th meeting was called to order at 19:01.

Priority Discussion and Decision Items:

County Animal Response Team (CART) in Clark County

- WASART member and ACO Paul Batchelder contacted the Board in late June looking to form a CART in Clark County, asking if the Board would consider incorporating it under WASART's umbrella organization (command structure, insurance policy, etc.)
- **For** the formation of a Clark CART:
 - A CART would allow a significant number of ACO's, domestic animal/livestock professionals, and law enforcement in Clark County the opportunity to join WASART who feel excluded due to distance to trainings and deployments.
 - Response time to Clark County area deployments would be reduced.
 - Clark County could operate in a manner analogous to the TRT (which is already semi-autonomous) and be the "Clark TRT".
 - WASART has already established a protocol with Clark County OEM for responding within Clark County.
- **Against** the formation of a Clark CART:
 - A similar discussion was had regarding a CART formation in Clallam County in approximately 2011, but it never went anywhere because the process got too complicated to resolve (and it was thought to be unlikely to find a critical mass of responders in other counties).
 - Although semi-autonomous, TRT and TWRT have been imbued with WASART culture over the past 17 years. An autonomous team in a different county may not adhere to the same standards of safety, professionalism, chain of command, respect, etc.
 - Covering an unknown team under WASART's insurance policy would significantly increase WASART's liability.
 - WASART gathers resources from the 3 largest and richest WA counties, which allows the organization to keep operating—if Clark County is unable to maintain itself financially, would WASART be required to help them buy equipment, etc.?
 - Expansion could require a paid, full-time director.
 - Clark responders are unlikely to attend TRT's monthly training, making it difficult to verify that they will be trained to a high enough and safe enough caliber to operate under WASART's name.
- **Conclusion:**
 - While the Board applauds the effort and motivation, WASART will not incorporate Clark County as a CART under its organizational umbrella.
 - WASART is happy to support Clark County's independent formation or formation under their local Office of Emergency Management by providing realistic expectations on the work involved in such an endeavor and supplying supporting documentation/resources (vendor lists, non-proprietary operating procedures, finance tips, joint training, etc.)

- WASART's President will relay tonight's discussion to Paul and invite him to come chat with members of the Board.
- Other documents related to the query that were referenced:
 - CART Template (2011.11.02)
 - Advantages and Expectations For WASART CART Formation (2014.02.25)

Additional Unfinished Business:

None.

New business:

- **Ad Hoc By-Laws Review Committee**
 - According to Policy 2, a By-Laws Review Committee shall be appointed in August: Lynn Bill, Jeff, and Jenifer have volunteered. They will present their findings in a couple of months.
- **Ad Hoc Elections Committee for September General Meeting**
 - Lynn will reach out to Ben Marwick and Kelsey Diller who co-led it last year.
- **TWRT Committee Chair Update**
 - No one has volunteered to take over as TWRC Chair. Rory will stay on as Chair in the interim.

Treasurer – Gretchen McCallum

- Total donations deposited in July: \$ 3,652.13
- New fraudulent check issue
 - A while ago, there was a \$ 16k scam that compromised WASART's original bank account. Federal agents caught 6 of these check-washers who were part of a multi-million dollar scam, all of whom pleaded guilty. WASART has since changed bank accounts, and the bank reimbursed WASART in full.
 - A new fraudulent check made out to David Kiki, for \$ 16,724 .45, arrived last week.
 - Gretchen received a call from the Royal Canadian Bank in Ottawa, who confirmed that the account number was that of WASART's old, compromised account. No money has been removed from WASART's new account. Gretchen will send the new fraudulent check to the Department of Justice who will open a new case against the scammers.

YTD as of August 2024

Gross Profit: \$ 50,848.44

Expenses: \$ 53,392.50

| <u>Net Income</u> | <u>Total Liabilities and Equity</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2024: \$ -2,544.06 | 2024: \$ 301,446.91 |
| 2023: \$ -14,564.91 | 2023: \$ 294,950.09 |

Committee Reports

Merchandise – Diane Johnson

July Sales: \$ 33.35

July Expenses: \$ 2,096.16

- All 8 remaining Columbia jackets in inventory are embroidered and ready for cash and carry.
- A replacement jacket has not been found yet.
- July expenses are from the jacket embroidery.

Fundraising – Vacant

No report.

Information & Communications Technology – Leo Notenboom

- Radio is now mounted in the back of WASART2.
 - Leo will replace its power line and temporary antenna (the long-term antenna is in Leo's garage), but it is functional.
 - Need to record a brief video for setup.
 - The mounted radio with improved antenna will have better range than the handheld VHF radios.
- Spike in website visits
 - 3,148 visits last month to the website, including a significant spike on the day that Joy Waugh's Great Dane packout video was released on social media
 - Leo will provide a status document with a breakdown of the number of visits per specific website page.

Supply – Greta Cook

No report.

Outreach – Jenifer Clark

- 8/11/24: Enumclaw Pet Days
- Support TRT @ Save a Forgotten Equine (SAFE) on Saturday, September 7th, noon~2 pm in Redmond
- Battle of the Badges, Renton, December 16th
 - Chance to interact with families with domestic animals, as well as showcase the community of organizations operating adjacent to first responders
 - Jenifer is coordinating with King County 4x4 to inquire about being adjacent to SAR and ACO's at the event
- Large purchase consensus - branded canopy, bold logo/message vertical banners, and projector
- Working document where all WASART public engagements are recorded: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/bbae5zzaunij1bpmna62f/Outreach-Events-Master-Copy.xlsx?rlkey=59iypxenbzthxakwop4kb54dn&st=rjsqc5o1&dl=0>
- 2 new WASART members from WASART's involvement at the Overland Rally

See end of minutes for all recent past and upcoming events.

Membership – Julie Shipman/Gretchen McCallum

Membership Statistics

Membership: 131

Base/Ops Support deployment eligible: 81

Volunteer Management – Jeanette Whitmire – not present

- Annual Volunteer Picnic July 20th had a great turnout.
- Contributors of the Quarter were announced and certificates were handed out to Kristie Olarti, Tamie Waugh, and Jennifer Lyne.

Mentor Program Update

- 7 Mentors and 18 Mentees
- Mentees have received 4 emails (an introduction, two about the deployment process, and one about TRT training)
- Next email going out will be about safety hazards

Sheltering – *Vacant*

Second visit to Seattle Humane to discuss sheltering logistics, 7/16/24 (attendees: Bill Vogel, Greta Cook, Jeanette Whitmire, Jennifer Lyne, Tamie Waugh, and Jane Lampi).

Finance – *Gretchen McCallum*

No report.

Technical Rescue – *Jeff Dahl*

- Tripod scenario training 8/4/24, which involved multiple people working towards furthering their rigging qualifications (Juan Carlos Benedetto: Heavy Systems Technician; Joy Waugh, Clare Jacobsmeyer, and Zach Colburn: Large Animal Rigger)
- All supplemental trainings have been filled in on the calendar with actual topics.
- Working to add additional trainings on the calendar in the fall to get more people on the light systems technician track.
- Created a CalTopo map that includes most main trailheads that King County and Snohomish SAR respond to—this allows responders to click on the trailhead and obtain driving directions. Feel free to add relevant markers to the map (<https://sartopo.com/m/RSJHH23/BKK6GLSE5EH0KKKL>)

Upcoming Trainings:

- Field Training weekend August 24-25 – open to ALL, not just those looking to qualify as Team Leaders
- 9/8/24: Supplemental Training (transitional anchors)
- 9/21/24: Light Systems Training

See end of meeting minutes and TR Committee minutes for additional TRT-related events.

Technical Water Rescue – *Rory Kelleher*

- Work continues on building out the van
- 4 attended the 7/13/24 field training at Twin Falls—lots of public exposure
- 8/10/24 field training cancelled due to lack of responders

Board Member Reports

President – *Lynn Snow*

Answering Service Activity

July = 10

Vice President – Lenore Marentette – not present

- Annual General Meeting for all Membership, September 11th
 - Hybrid in-person meeting at Bellevue City Hall with a Zoom option
 - The Board reviewed the proposed agenda and updated time allotments

Secretary – Noah Bernays

July minutes have been published after being approved by a majority Board vote via email.

Training Director – Kimberly Taylor

- WASART Open House, 8/10/24, at the Renton King County Office of Emergency Management from 1pm ~ 3:30pm.
- Base & Operations Training at Foothills Veterinary Clinic in Buckley, 9/28/24.
 - Look out for an email from Kimberly requesting helpers.
- Kimberly's second term as Training Director ends 9/30/24
 - **Members:** if you are interested in this position, email Kimberly (kimberly@wasart.org).
 - Lenore Marentette has expressed interest in the role—if accepted, WASART would need a new Vice President.

Past President – Bill Daugaard

YTD metrics were presented.

YTD number of deployments

2024: 12

2023: 11

- Bill received an email from Ken Hasbargen's daughter, indicating that in Ken's obituary, she was going to request that donations (in lieu of flowers) be sent to WASART, so Bill provided the relevant Post Office box information. Ken had been an active WASART member since January, 2009.
- Ken Hasbargen's Celebration of Life, August 31st, 11am – 3pm in Kent: all are invited. Please wear WASART attire if you attend.
- Sam Jenkins from Ferry County will take over as SARVAC President for the remainder of the late Bill Gillespie's term.

Public Relations – Michaela Eaves

FB likes: 15,251

Instagram: 747

YouTube Subscribers: 278

Correction in July minutes:

FB likes: 15,291

Instagram likes: 745

YouTube Subscribers: 278

- Spectacle Lake almost-deployment for an injured husky
 - Despite WASART standing down after the owner walked the husky out, WASART developed a better working relationship with Kittitas County Deputy Mike Bruce.
 - Because of the potential for a 22-mile round trip hike and the probability of an overnight deployment with few backcountry-experienced responders, local SAR

was requested. At first, Kittitas was reluctant to respond for an animal. When it was brought to their attention that Ed Christian (King County Deputy and SAR coordinator) regularly allows SAR resources to assist on WASART deployments, and when the situation was posed as “rather than responding to help an animal, you’re responding to help WASART,” Kittitas SAR agreed to assist.

- Mike Bruce agreed to meet about mutual aid agreements between WASART and Kittitas County (arrangements for this meeting need to be made).
- Luna deployment (Great Dane packout)
 - WASART member Joy Waugh made a video of the packout from start to finish
 - Total reach of the video: 132,500, including 1,288 plays on Instagram, with an average watch time of 22 seconds, resulting in many new followers
- Michaela will send out future videos to WASART membership instead of just posting on social media.

Advising Specialists

Julie Shipman

No report.

Good of the Order

Moved to adjourn at approximately 20:37.

Recent Past Events:

3/22/24: ACO Academy presentation in Burien (attendees: Noah Bernays, Gabe Benedetto, Shawndra Michell)

3/23/24: Social Impact Fundraising at Insight Climbing (attendees: Sara Price, Jenifer Clark, Gabe Benedetto, Kristie Olarti, Joy Waugh)

4/21/24: Supplemental TR Training - dog handling, first aid, exam, rigging (attendees: Outreach and TRT—see AAR)

5/1/24: Community resource fair in Enumclaw (attendees: Kimberly Taylor)

5/11/24: Equine First Aid Seminar in Port Orchard with the Kitsap Saddle Club (attendees: Diane Johnson, Greta Cook, Jeanette Whitmire)

5/16/24: King County Regional Summer Hazards Seminar at KCOEM (attendees: Greta Cook, Jeanette Whitmire)

5/25/24: TR training dog mock packout and Outreach event (attendees: see AAR)

5/29-30/24: AWR-328: All-Hazards Preparedness in Animals in Disasters

- FEMA-funded 8-hour course providing tools to protect, respond to, and recover from the consequences of disasters and catastrophic disease exposure involving animals in rural communities.
- Attendees: Jeanette Whitmire, Bill Vogel, Betsey Mullen, Jeff Dahl, Andrea Scinkovec, Joie Mette, Kristie Olarti, Kristi Boucher

6/8/24: REI Presentation - Hiking with Dogs (Michaela Eaves and Jeff Dahl)

6/10/24: Bark at the Park (Jenifer Clark, Kristie Olarti, Jeanette Whitmire)

6/12/24, 9am: Conference call with Northwest Trek re: Emergency Resource Guide (Bill)

6/16/24: W2-specific Transport Training (attendees—see AAR)

6/18/24: W2-specific Transport Training (attendees—see AAR)

6/20-23/24: NW Overland Rally (attendees: Outreach and TRT—see AAR)

6/23/24: Full-day Transport Training (attendees—see AAR)

7/10/24, Purple Sage Riders Zoom presentation (Michaela and Julie Shipman)

7/20/24: TRT training at Lake Sammamish State Park prior to the picnic
 7/20/24, 1-4pm: Picnic at Lake Sammamish State Park
 7/28/24: Bill Gillespie (SARVAC President) Celebration of Life Event, Lacy Community Center, Olympia

Upcoming Events:

8/10/24: WASART Open House
 8/11/24: 10:30-noon: Hiking with Dogs at REI Issaquah
 8/24-25/24: overnight WASART Field Training in Cle Elum
 8/31/24, 11am-3pm: Ken Hasbargen's Celebration of Life in Kent
 9/7/24: SAFE Presentation & Demo (TRT & Outreach)
 12/14/24: Battle of the Badges in Renton (Outreach)

| Action # | Description | Assigned to | Last update |
|-----------------|--|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 21.11.04 | Write up a succession planning document for the Water Rescue Committee | Rory | 90% done 6/5/24 |
| 21.11.06 | Write up a succession planning document for the Fundraising Committee | Michaela & Gretchen | In work 11/2/22 |
| 21.11.07 | Write up a succession planning document for the Supply Committee | Greta | In work 11/2/22 |
| 24.03.01 | Write up a succession planning document for the VP role | Lenore | Assigned 3/15/24 |
| 24.03.02 | Write up a succession planning document for the Outreach Committee | Jenifer | Assigned 3/15/24 |
| 24.05.01 | Revise Policy 4 to reflect revised TL/STL requirements | Bill | Ready for review at Sept. BOD meeting |