

Washington State Animal Response Team
September 4th, 2024
19:00 – 21:00
Via Zoom
BOD Minutes

In attendance: Lenore Marentette, Leo Notenboom, Greta Cook, Noah Bernays, Jeanette Whitmire, Michaela Eaves, Julie Shipman, Jeff Dahl, Bill Daugaard, Jenifer Clark, Kimberly Taylor, Gretchen McCallum, Rory Kelleher, Diane Johnson, Kelsey Diller

This meeting was called to order at 18:58.

Priority Discussion and Decision Items:

- Kelsey Diller asked to address the Board about a Facebook post that was removed from the WASART Water Cooler that was removed.
 - After a short discussion with Kelsey, the Board went into executive session.
 - Motion moved, seconded, and approved to update the appropriate bylaws and the wording on the Water Cooler. A response was shared with Kelsey via email.
- Disposition options for donated alcohol
 - WASART pays ~ \$500 a month for two storage units and a parking spot for the truck and trailer. To downsize to one storage unit, ~\$ 1,800 of donated wine and vodka need to be disposed of (some has likely turned to vinegar).
 - Jeanette Whitmire contacted the Liquor Board, who presented the following options for nonprofits to dispose of liquor:
 - Sell or auction the liquor—a special occasion liquor license is needed.
 - Host a brown bag wine pool—the price on any bag must equal the highest-priced bottle.
 - Donate to another nonprofit—must be Board members to Board members, and the recipient must have a special occasion license and be a 501(c)(3).
 - Host a private raffle in a private setting, with private invitations only—Board members must be present, a special occasion license is needed, and a bar with somebody running the bar is required.
 - Give it away to members in a private setting—Board members must be present to hand out the bottles. The bottles cannot be opened on the premises until the recipient has left that location. A \$10 permit is needed.
 - Since we will not be able to determine which bottles of wine are vinegar, it is inappropriate to sell/auction to another group.
 - The Board has agreed to give the alcohol away to members at the holiday party, and Gretchen will coordinate.

Additional Unfinished Business:

Review and approval of Policy 4 Revision F

- Deferred until next meeting

New business:

- Sponsorship opportunity for Steven's Animal Sanctuary annual fundraiser.
 - The Sanctuary is run by Dr. Heather Stewart, a WASART member since 2009. She has been extremely supportive of WASART over the years, and being listed as a sponsor will also show attendees and other sponsors that WASART is an animal-focused organization supporting other animal-focused organizations.
 - Motion moved, seconded, and approved to donate \$ 1,000 to the Steven's Animal Sanctuary annual fundraiser in October. Gretchen will send the money.
- **Annual CALTopo team subscription**

- WASART previously had a team account that was rarely used and allowed to lapse.
- Since it will be used on a very limited basis (just tracking teams in the field, which only requires that responders with their mobile apps turn their tracking on, which will allow everybody with the map, in cell service range, to see each other), the majority of features available on the team account are unnecessary for WASART's use. This decision can be revisited at any time.

Treasurer – Gretchen McCallum

- Total donations deposited in August: \$ 3,763.24
 - \$500 of that came from physician Dr. Bonnie Whittrack, for a near-deployment on August 11. The call was handled by Rebecca Potter, who later suggested an addition to our resource manual about horse disposal options.
 - Dr. Whittrack wrote to WASART, “Dear Rebecca, you were beyond helpful and compassionate last Sunday when my horse had a fatal accident. I am most grateful. Please deposit this check into your general operating fund. Warm regards, Bonnie Whittrack.”
- \$ 40 REI card received from REI with the note: “Lynn and WASART team: Thank you so much for leading the Hiking with Dogs courses. Our committee has really loved this course, and it has been a smash hit thanks to your hard work. We appreciate all you do, [signed] Grace.”
- The Board reviewed the 2023 IRS tax returns and had no questions. The forms have already been filed.

YTD as of September 2024

Gross Profit: \$ 56,653.24
 Expenses: \$ 60,250.05

<u>Net Income</u>	<u>Total Liabilities and Equity</u>
2024: \$ -3,596.81	2024: \$ 303,148.40
2023: \$ -5,096.45	2023: \$ 306,538.60

Committee Reports

Merchandise – Diane Johnson

August Sales: \$ 0
 August Expenses: \$ 0

No report.

Fundraising – Vacant

No report.

Information & Communications Technology – Leo Notenboom

W2 radio work should be completed the week of 9/9.

Supply – Greta Cook

- Planning on purchasing more sets of MaxTrax recovery boards for the vehicles (since they have so many potential uses and would have been helpful last month when W2 got stuck at training). Each set is \$250 - \$300.
- In the short term, Rory is lending 1 set of MaxTrax from the TWRT van to W2.
- Joy Waugh is helping create short (1-3 minute) videos on a variety of training topics to be uploaded to the WASART website and used by fire departments/reporting parties/responders as needed.

Outreach – Jenifer Clark

- Support TRT @ Save a Forgotten Equine (SAFE) on Saturday, September 7th, noon~2 pm in Redmond
- Battle of the Badges, Renton, December 14th
- Met a representative from RAM Mounts who is interested in supporting WASART with possible discounts on phone mounts for the trucks.
- Working with Michaela Eaves and Print Northwest to design a logo canopy for Outreach events.
- Multiple potential events in the works: Citizens Corp presentation (virtual, Michaela Eaves), Redmond Fall City tabling, Emerald Downs tabling

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

Membership – Julie Shipman/Gretchen McCallum

Membership Statistics

Membership: 133

Base/Ops Support deployment eligible: 79 – 4 or 5 of the 79 are eligible to deploy in a Trainee capacity

8 WASART members attended member Ken Hasbargen's Celebration of Life 8/31/24.

Volunteer Management – Jeanette Whitmire

Rebecca Potter was nominated for the Member Recognition program for her work during the August 11th near-deployment (see Treasurer section above).

Mentor Program Update

- 7 Mentors and 18 Mentees
- Mentees have received 5 emails (introduction, deployment process x2, TRT training, and safety hazards)
- Next email going out will be about volunteer opportunities

Sheltering – Vacant

- Second meeting with Seattle Humane July 16th—lots of questions answered about the logistics surrounding use of their facility as a WASART emergency animal shelter.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is going out to Seattle Humane.
- Motion moved, seconded, and approved to nominate Betsy Mullen as a Sheltering Team Lead (she was previously nominated by the Sheltering Committee). After she completes the requisite IS 300 course, she will be approved as a Sheltering TL.

Finance – Gretchen McCallum

- Finance Committee meeting over Zoom October 13th at 10am.

- All Committee Chairs must send their expenditures and receipts to Ritz by September 30th (sooner is better).
- Ritz will be sending out each Committee's expenditures for the past 5 months shortly.

Technical Rescue – Jeff Dahl

- Team Leader Field Training was August 24th – 25th.
- Jeff will send out an email to the TRC to approve the TL qualification for all those who attended the training and were previously nominated for TL status. Chris Gan withdrew from being nominated as a TL due to other time-consuming commitments.
- TRC has been working on revising the Team Leader training program and developing guidelines for the Strike Team Lead designation.

Upcoming Trainings:

- 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

- Progress made on van tear-down and rebuild.
- Potential field training 9/7 in Whatcom County (Lauri McBeath is helping coordinate) [update: this training was cancelled due to lack of responder availability]

Board Member Reports

President – Lynn Snow

Answering Service Activity

July = 19

- Answering service system had a glitch during one deployment in which it cycled through part of the call list before skipping a significant number of people.
- After writing to the company, they responded that the glitch had been fixed.

Vice President – Lenore Marentette

- Annual General Meeting for all Membership, September 11th
 - Hybrid in-person meeting at Bellevue City Hall with a Zoom option

Secretary – Noah Bernays

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

Training Director – Kimberly Taylor

- Base & Operations Training at Foothills Veterinary Clinic in Buckley, 9/28/24
- This is Kimberly's last Board meeting as Training Director—thank you, Kimberly, for your hard work in maintaining and updating WASART's training program over these past 4 years!

Past President – Bill Daugaard

YTD metrics were presented.

YTD number of deployments

2024: 12

2023: 11

- Bill presented an overview of the SARVAC bylaws restructuring proposal
 - Currently, WASART has a vote on the Search and Rescue Volunteer Advisory Committee, along with each of the 39 Washington counties. In the restructuring, the advisory Council would be reorganized into regional organizations, and each region would have one vote. As presently proposed in the draft SARVAC bylaws revision, WASART would be included in the region consisting of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties.
 - There are concerns this would dilute WASART's voice and may necessitate a special interest group or something similar to advocate for animal rescue needs.
 - As WASART's representative in the Advisory Committee, Bill will raise these concerns at the next SARVAC meeting.
- Angela Sorkin is running for Vice President, and Lenore Marentette is running for Training Director—voting will occur during the General Meeting 9/11/24.

Public Relations – *Michaela Eaves*

FB likes: 15,251

Instagram: 747

YouTube Subscribers: 278

- The Hiking with Dogs presentations at REI continue to be quality PR for WASART as well as good info for the public.
- Michaela Eaves, Julie Shipman, and Clare Jacobsmeyer have formed the Newsletter Team and will be sending out a WASART newsletter.

Advising Specialists

Julie Shipman

No report.

Good of the Order

Moved to adjourn at approximately 20:55.

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
 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

Upcoming Events:

9/7/24: SAFE Presentation & Demo (TRT & Outreach)
 9/28/24: Base and Operations Training
 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