

**Washington State Animal Response Team**  
**February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**19:00 – 21:00**  
**Via Zoom**  
**BOD Minutes**

**In attendance:** Lynn Snow, Noah Bernays, Jeff Dahl, Bill Daugaard, Jenifer Clark, Angela Sorkin, Leo Notenboom, Lenore Marentette, Jeanette Whitmire, Greta Cook, Julie Shipman, Gretchen McCallum, Diane Johnson, Camille Schaefer (guest)

This meeting was called to order at 19:03. Bill suggested that willing attendees enable their webcams, so Camille could put faces to names.

**Priority Discussion and Decision Items:**

- Meet and Greet with Camille Schaefer
  - Camille introduced herself to the BOD for the interim position of Advising Specialist as she transitions to the role of Credentials Committee Chair.
  - After Camille logged off, a motion was moved, seconded, and passed to have Camille Schaefer join the Board as an Advising Specialist.
  - Lynn sent Camille an email invitation after the meeting.
- New WASART ICS Leadership Structure
  - A motion was moved, approved, and passed to course-correct the WASART protocols to better align with proper ICS structure during deployments.
  - Rory Kelleher was in opposition, voicing the following concerns:
    - WASART has already been following ICS
    - If we show up to a multi-agency, widespread wildfire and announce ourselves as the Ops Chief, we will be looked down upon since our capabilities fall way short of the official FEMA resource-typing list's description of an Ops Chief [counter: WASART would never be the Ops Chief on that type of deployment and would likely be leading a task force instead]
    - The proposed structure should include a Planning Unit for deployments with multiple operational periods
    - A 6-month or 1-yr review should be planned to determine effectiveness in practice (timeline will be modified as we move along and see how it works)

**Additional Unfinished Business:**

None.

**New business:**

- 18th Anniversary of WASART founding: February 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Co-founders Gretchen McCallum and Greta Cook told the story of how and why WASART was originally founded
- Authorization to Assist Form
  - It was suggested to update the Authorization to Assist Form by uncoupling the authorization to assist from the authorization to use photos/videos on social media.
  - Multiple members agreed, and Lynn offered to make the changes.
- KCSARA 60th Anniversary Invitation - 2/13/25, 1700-2000, North Bend, WA
  - WASART was invited [Update: Lynn, Jenifer, Noah, Greta, Jeanette, and Michaela attended]

**Treasurer – Gretchen McCallum**

Total donations deposited in January: \$4,566.18 (\$4,601.54 in January, 2024)

## YTD as of February 2025

Gross Profit: \$7,310.58

Expenses: \$3,836.16

<u>Net Income</u>	<u>Total Liabilities and Equity</u>
2025: \$3,474.42	2025: \$310,987.00
2024: \$2,941.65	2024: \$313,062.15

- Status of stock transfer account establishment
  - See January 2025 minutes for context
  - A representative from the Royal Bank of Canada Wealth Management Division said they can take care of the transfer, no problem. Gretchen has signed and sent back the necessary paperwork.
  - Donor has placed a request with her financial advisor to transfer ~\$1,320 worth of shares into our bank account.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Merchandise – Diane Johnson**

January Sales: \$29.38

January Expenses: \$0

- 1 sale this month
- Columbia 3-in-1 jackets
  - Gamer Graph-X screen-printing shop in Yelm said the jackets will not handle the heat of screen-printing.
  - All Color silk-screening shop in Tacoma suggested putting the logo on the chest or sleeve as a patch and then sewing it on. Diane will move our business back to them with the hopes they give better service than in the past.
  - Jackets will no longer be embroidered due to its effect on waterproofing abilities.
  - Jackets will likely be available by Intro to Field Operations training in March.
- Members could benefit from an email or other reminder about what merchandise is available and where they can get it

### **Fundraising – Vacant**

No report.

### **Information & Communications Technology – Leo Notenboom**

- Due to a spam-fighting algorithm, Gmail is having problems with forwards (i.e. something@wasart.org auto-forwarding to something@gmail.com – “something” may have to be a real email account instead of a forward).
- This problem depends on the original sender, not the recipient (discovered when Pro Call Center emails were not being delivered)
- If a) we’re forwarding to your gmail account, AND b) you suspect missing messages, inform Leo
- Zoom@wasart.org is now a groups.io group
- 2,800 website hits this month; most popular pages: event calendar and dues payment
- Supply tablets to be handed off at Open House 2/15

### **Supply – Greta Cook**

- T1 ramp door

- Still needs anti-skid coating—process requires a prolonged 50-degree temp which did not happen last month
- Will complete at first available opportunity
- Door is not slippery
- W3 is due for maintenance
  - \$3,000 estimate (which can likely be reduced); might be out of service for a few days
  - Basic work like oil change completed last week
- Maintenance of AKC's & T2 (Lg animal) trailers at SHAC work party 2/15 and 2/16

#### **Outreach – Jenifer Clark**

- January Horse Health Expo at Tacoma Equine Hospital
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> year WASART has been invited
  - 19 people signed up at the event to join Washington
- Upcoming events:
  - February 22: NW Region US Pony Club Horse Management Seminar at Miracle Ranch
  - April 5 Mule Mule Expedition Outfitters Open House, Issaquah, WA (registered)
- Potential Events
  - May 17: Petpalooza, Auburn, WA
  - April 12: Gig Harbor Preparedness Expo
  - October 4<sup>th</sup>: Kelsey Creek Farm Fair
- 500 logo/phone number stickers approved to Outreach budget and ordered, status unknown
- Request W1 be available for Outreach events by April 5<sup>th</sup>
- Succession plan is complete and in Dropbox

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

#### **Membership – Julie Shipman**

Membership stats: 149 members (7 new members in January)

Question posed: can the Member Contact and Deployment-Eligible lists be posted in Dropbox?  
A separate meeting will be held to ensure the privacy concerns are addressed.

#### **Credentials – Gretchen McCallum**

Credential stats: 73 qualified to deploy

#### **Volunteer Management – Jeanette Whitmire**

- Mentor Program (Noah and Lynn): next round will begin in March after Intro to Field Operations
  - Noah and Lynn will create a system for rolling admission (changeover date TBD)
- Coordination efforts between Jeanette, Lynn, Noah, and Julie for onboarding new members
  - Jeanette will be new members' single point of contact outside of the Mentor Program so they don't need to figure out which committee chair to email
- Getting logoed shirts & coats for new members

#### **Sheltering – Vacant**

- Possible collaboration effort with the City of Mercer Island. They requested an initial presentation about WASART which will be done by Michaela and Greta.
- New committee member: Kristy Johnson
- Work Party: February 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 10-4, Enumclaw Expo Center Les Schwab Hall. \*All help appreciated!\*

- Contacted Purina/Wilco to inquire about emergency supplies/animal food—was told the easiest route is to request a donated gift card, then use that card at a Wilco store

**Finance – Gretchen McCallum**

No report.

**Technical Rescue – Jeff Dahl**

- New committee members
  - Jing Liu and Andrea Scinkovec have been nominated and accepted positions on the TRC
- OP-6 Appendices
  - Deferred until next meeting

Upcoming Trainings:

- 2/23: horsemanship and HS training at SAFE
- 3/1: dog handling, exam, paw bandaging, litter assembly, subject packaging, packout basics
- 4/6: Mock mission (rigging and packout)

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

**Technical Water Rescue (on hold) – Vacant**

- Rory is stepping down from WASART with regards to TWRT, Board of Directors, and CC/DO, effective immediately, but staying on as a member
- W1 van buildout will be complete in 3-4 months (Update: W1 van will be in drivable condition by mid-March, but the buildout will not be complete)
  - Currently, the dashboard is done, 50% of the rear lights are done, and there's a pile of wiring in the back that needs to be finished
  - To be followed up offline: possibility of getting the van into drivable condition, putting the buildout on hold, and using W1 for outreach instead of deployments
  - Bringing the van to a shop for the buildout would cost roughly \$40,000

**Board Member Reports**

**President – Lynn Snow**

Answering Service Activity

January = 17

To keep meetings running smoothly and on time, all Board members are requested to update the agenda with their talking points at least a day before each Board meeting.

To be addressed at the next meeting: moving the Board meeting start times from 19:00 to 18:30.

**Vice President – Angela Sorkin**

- WASART General Meeting: March 12 @ 7pm (remote only)
- Each Chair is invited to provide a summary of their committee's work over the last 6 months
- Let Angela know how much time you want allotted for that summary
- Reach out to Angela for the template slides or assistance

**Secretary – Noah Bernays**

January minutes have been published after being approved via email by a majority BOD vote.

### **Training Director – Lenore Marentette**

- Open House 2/15 – please share the WASART FB and Instagram posts
- Changes to Base & Ops
  - New name (because of changes to WASART’s command structure, including “base” to “command post”)
    - Introduction to Field Operations (IFO) is the new name
  - There will be a 45-min brief on the new ICS structure led by Kristie Olarti and John Marra
  - TRT side session in the afternoon for qualified TRT folks
- Training curriculum final changes to be sent to the Board in the next few days—minor changes from the draft the Board saw in August 2024
- Training class signups
  - Sign up EARLY for Sheltering on May 31<sup>st</sup> – this will help planning (Lenore will be away)
- New registration costs—at the April 2024 BOD meeting, we agreed to discuss at the start of 2025
  - No changes were made

### **Past President – Bill Daugaard**

#### YTD number of deployments

2025: 4 (includes the ASPCA wildfire sheltering deployment)

2024: 2

January 2025 SARVAC meeting notes were attached to the agenda

- New bill HB1625 in committee in Olympia which would establish a search and rescue backcountry deployment fund to be administered by Emergency Management Division
  - WASART may be eligible to apply for grants (chances of being awarded are uncertain)
- SARVAC executive committee is modifying its bylaws (restructuring into regions)
  - Details are still being sorted out, but strong preference to separate King, Snohomish, and Pierce Counties
  - See September 2024 minutes for more details, including concerns about WASART’s vote being diluted

### **Public Relations – Michaela Eaves**

FB likes: 15,987

Instagram: 774

YouTube Subscribers: 286

- Puppies in Pipe Deployment—interview with Yakima Herald
- Cat Down Hole Deployment on JBLM
- City of Mercer Island presentation inquiry—Michaela is coordinating this

### **Advising Specialists**

#### **Julie Shipman**

#### **Good of the Order**

Social GroupMe channel for General Membership

- It’s not clear how to most effectively get a message to the largest number of members besides the everyone@wasart.org email (FB Watercooler doesn’t get much traction)
  - Email discussions?

- Slack?
- TRT Social seems to be used effectively—can we expand that channel to all Membership?
  - As long as topics remain TRT-related...

Moved to adjourn at 21:26.

**Recent Past Events:**

1/11/25: Tacoma Horse Expo

**Upcoming Events:**

2/22/25: NW Region US Pony Club Horse Management Seminar, Miracle Ranch, Port Orchard (Joy Waugh organizing)

4/5/25: Mule Open House, Issaquah, WA

Action #	Description	Assigned to	Last update
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
24.12.01	Update the succession planning document for the Training Director role	Lenore	Assigned 12/4/24
25.01.01	Research options for archiving or exporting GroupMe chats	Leo	Assigned 1/8/25