

MD 36 – Oregon Lions (Alert) Prepared  
Lutheran Disaster Response  
ORVOAD Long Term Recovery Committee Update: June 8, 2020

## **BLUE MOUNTAIN REGION LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUP**

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Oregon: Umatilla Confederated Tribe, Pendleton, Umatilla County, Milton Freewater, Union County

Washington: Waitesburg, Dayton, Walla Walla, Walla Walla County and Columbia County

Flooding Incident: February 5<sup>th</sup> to February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. FEMA declared April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

We would like to update ORVOAD membership with the activities that have occurred since our May 19, 2020, membership meeting.

John Colvin, Mennonite Disaster Response, Charlene Larsen, Lutheran Disaster Response, John Taylor, Oregon Lions and Gary and Sue Mose, Oregon Lions are serving on the BMRLTRG as partners on the Executive Committee, the Housing Committee, and the Unmet Needs Table. We have attended these meetings via Zoom on a very regular basis.

We have discussed how to best have Technology Support Centers, either in person and in various communities or via a call out process using volunteers for a registration intake process. It was decided that an outbound calling campaign to survivors of the flooding would be the approach to reach the most people in the shortest amount of time. This would allow out-reach to those in Oregon in the affected Umatilla Flood area who have not yet applied for FEMA Individual Assistance. The final date for applications with FEMA is July 2, 2020. This approach would also allow registration of folks with the BMRLTRG and finding those with unmet needs in both Oregon and Washington.

There is also a need for a Disaster Case Manager to be headquartered with CAPECO in Pendleton and Case Managers for clients in all the affected areas. Case Managers will work virtually with clients during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In our meeting we have reviewed the process with FEMA and safety protocols as interactions are done remotely. We also addressed as a two-state response how each interaction with clients will take different steps, if they qualify for FEMA/IA and SBA loans or if they are looking for assistance through and Unmet Needs Table.

During our meeting on May 20, 2020, there was a “Flood Watch” issued for the Umatilla River and Paddock Creek. There was flooding in Pilot Rock. This will be a different recovery process, but our partners at CAPECO said they were so much better prepared to respond to immediate needs than in the past.

We have worked on By Laws for BMRLTRG, Release of Information Forms, Consent Forms, Confidentiality Forms, Information Sharing Access Agreement, and Policies and Procedures for each of the LTRG Committees. A logo was chosen, and a website created, and two fiscal sponsors identified in Blue Mountain United Way and CAPECO. There is formation of an Emotional and Spiritual Care Team. We also addressed insurance liability issues. A Facebook page will be built.

There have been 263 plus applicants for the FEMA/ IA program. There will be three days of online Case Management Training, two days of training for phone intake volunteers or “Registration Case Intake”. This outreach will be to at least 715 households and the calling goal is to complete within a week.

Trainers through this process have been members of the “Disaster Leadership Team” and specifically Jessica Rounds of the Okanogan County Long Term Disaster Recovery Team; Dean Carney, FEMA Disaster Recovery; David Hart, FEMA – Individual Assistance; and FEMA VALS Judy Travis and Terry Woods.

There will also be a series of Webinars presented each Wednesday to government officials in this affected region. This is a process to get the communication out to the government officials in this region who are also dealing with the needs of their communities through the FEMA Public Assistance Program.

There are a lot of moving pieces, help is always welcome and especially assistance from ORVOAD partners in Case Work and Case Management. And of course, later as we determine what the Unmet Needs are, so this part will be the “loooooong!” process

There are numerous new partners and new volunteers coming to the virtual table in this region of Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington and many NVOAD partners are at the table and using their knowledge and resources to help. It is a new dynamic in the COVID-19 era to reach out and find all those folks who need our help.

Questions?? Contact John Colvin or Charlene Larsen