



## **Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Recovery Ad Hoc Meeting**

**March 18, 2019, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Salvation Army**

### **Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Affiliation</b>
James Gore	District 4 Supervisor
Susan Gorin	District 1 Supervisor
Anne Reynolds	American Red Cross
Jeff Baumgartner	American Red Cross
Lisa Carreño	United Way of the Wine Country
Tom Schwedhelm	Mayor, City of Santa Rosa
Jason Jenkins	City of Santa Rosa Fire Department
Karin Demarest	Community Foundation of Sonoma County
Susan Miron	District 1 Block Captain
Lisa Micheli	Pepperwood Preserve
Sandy Sanchez	La Luz Center
Phyllis Onstad	COAD – Community Organizations Active in Disasters
Adan Peacocke	ROC Sonoma County
Jennielynn Holmes	ROC Sonoma County
Jennifer Gray Thompson	Rebuild North Bay
Ana Lugo	Community Action Partnership
Francois Piccin	District 4 Block Captain
Will Abrams	District 1 Block Captain
Caitlin Cornwall	Sonoma Ecology Center
Susan Shaw	North Bay Organizing Project
Linda Evans	North Bay Organizing Project
Irma Garcia	North Bay Organizing Project
Ana Salgado	North Bay Organizing Project
Tennis Wick	Permit Sonoma
James Williams	Permit Sonoma
Karen Fies	Human Services Department
Hannah Euser	Office of Recovery and Resiliency
John Kessel	Office of Recovery and Resiliency
Michael Gossman	Office of Recovery and Resiliency
Lois Hopkins	Office of Recovery and Resiliency
Lisa Hulette	Office of Recovery and Resiliency
Arielle Kubu-Jones	Board of Supervisors, District 1 Aide

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Adam Peacocke, ROC Sonoma County, agreed to facilitate today's meeting. Provided an introduction that there will be additional opportunities to meet with the Recovery Ad Hoc going forward.

### **Organization Presentations:**

#### **Rebuild North Bay - Jennifer Gray Thompson**

- Advocating with federal legislators to work towards maximizing funding for Sonoma County.
- Completing Coffey Park Wall – this was a project the neighborhood chose.

- Rise Up Project – mile of common fencing between Mark West Estates. Partnered with Habitat for Humanity.
- Created digital online portal for resource connection.  
<https://rebuildnorthbay.org/resources/resident/>
- 5,000 “Go Bags” distributed. Received donations to help fill bags. Bags are in demand and more are desired.
- This week - convening with Paradise and Malibu representatives who are coming to visit Sonoma County for 2 days to learn about our recovery efforts.

#### **United Way of the Wine Country – Lisa Carreño**

- Karen Fies is on Board of Directors
- Nov 1, 2017 – Nov. 13, 2017 – received 6,024 applications for recovery funds. Distributed over \$5 million in grants. Distributed \$3.7 million to families who lost their homes and \$1.4 million to families who experienced financial hardship. Funds were also provided to 10 homeless individuals - \$500 each.
- Created Neighborhood Grants program that awarded \$150,000 to neighborhood associations. Neighbors who came together to do projects specifically for their neighborhood. Received \$1.6 million in requests.
- Provided \$10,000 grant to City of Santa Rosa for Neighborfest.
- Funded project for SR City Schools to do data analysis of students/families who may have left the area.
- Still has grant funds available to distribute through Mendocino ROC and Sonoma County ROC.
- Working to transition 2-1-1 from the Volunteer Center to United Way of the Wine Country – have been in close collaboration with Volunteer Center to do this. Goal is to enhance and recreate 2-1-1 locally to provide more robust service in Sonoma County and regionally.
- Launched flood recovery and wellness fund – Received \$50,000 grant from Vintners. Still receiving funds.

#### **American Red Cross – Jeff Baumgartner and Anne Reynolds**

- American Red Cross is mandated by Congress to respond to disasters, but is an unfunded charter. 95% of the American Red Cross is made up of volunteers.
- Jeff is the Executive Director of the American Red Cross California Northwest Chapter. Jeff introduced Anne Reynolds who is the Executive Director of California Wildfire Recovery and is leading both 2017 and 2018 fire recovery efforts in the State.
- American Red Cross recovery programs are established when the generosity of donors produces more donations than are expended on response operations.
- 2017 was a particularly devastating disaster year. The Red Cross – established large recovery operations for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria and the CA Wildfires. Having multiple, simultaneous, large scale relief operations allowed the Red Cross to improve systems and provide financial assistance quicker.
- American Red Cross relief efforts are focused primarily on Individual Assistance
- Red Cross uses Cal Fire and Red Cross conducted Damage Assessment data to determine homes that were destroyed,
- To help establish eligibility, ARC receives FEMA data and then proactively outreaches to clients to provide assistance. Uses text messages, emails and phone calls to reach people

- Individuals can enroll remotely for assistance and/or case management by calling 1-800-redcross.
- Eligible households can receive payment via PayPal, Mastercard send, or Walmart pickup
- Wildfire Response Operations:
  - Financial Assistance, food and relief items = \$8.4M statewide
- Wildfire Recovery Operations:
  - Direct financial assistance to clients whose homes suffered major damage or were completely destroyed. Clients responded to outreach from Red Cross or were referred by a partner agency Disaster Case Manager
  - Provided assistance to 3,878 households/individuals – just under \$6M statewide
  - Sonoma County - 2,631 cases = \$3,946,500
- Provided \$3 million in community grants.
- ARC does not work for the government – issues assistance regardless of citizenship.
- Provides grants to Ceres, CAP (\$400,000 for housing with Hope City and bilingual case management and extended hours within ROC an Staffing), SAY, Council on Aging, Integrative Medical Clinic, Promotores funding, On the Move por La Plaza.
- Provided over \$1.5M to other counties.

American Red Cross grants for Sonoma County:

Ceres Community Project	\$8,000	Health Services	Healing Meals for Fire Survivors with Medical Needs
Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County	\$400,000	Recovery Management and Planning	Disaster Recovery Outreach and Enhancement Proposal
Council on Aging for Seniors	\$96,780	Direct Assistance: Financial Assistance	Disaster Relief - Senior Financial Services
Healthcare Foundation Northern Sonoma County	\$100,000	Mental Health Services	Wildfire Mental Health Collaborative
Hope Crisis Response Network	\$500,000	Rebuilding or Major Repair of Housing	Hope City
Individuals Now, Inc. / Social Advocates for Youth	\$155,655	Mental Health Services	Recovery Youth Behavioral Health Services and Training
Integrative Healers Action Network	\$103,672	Health Services	Emergency Integrative Healing Clinics
Integrative Medical Clinic Foundation	\$31,479	Social Services Provider Support	Imagine YOU Resilience and Client Navigation Skills Training for Crisis Counselors and Disaster Case Managers
Latino Service Providers	\$112,316	Mental Health Services	Latino Service Providers Youth Promotor Project
On the Move	\$297,357	Mental Health Services	Napa/Sonoma Recovery and Resiliency Project

**Pepperwood Preserve - Lisa Micheli**

- Responding to community needs and rebuilding on their property
- Hosted hazard tree removal workshops

- Involved in multiple collaborations including the watershed collaborative to leverage science in recovery. Conducted rapid assessment of visible areas of vegetation management in the county – “ladder assessments”.
- Has also partnered with Regional Parks on efforts.
- Now a hub for an early warning system, partnered with Water Agency
- Serving as a fiscal sponsor for a forest adaptation plan – 100’s of experts in the community are being interviewed.
- Chairing Sustainability Committee for Rebuild North Bay.
- Wants people to come see how to create sustainable, fire safe landscapes as demonstrated on their property.
- Founding hub for Fire Cameras – has 2 cameras on their property – looking to leverage data with UC Berkeley.
- Lisa referenced and handed out the 2018 Annual Report, available online as well - <https://www.pepperwoodpreserve.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2018-Annual-Report-digital-web.pdf>

#### **Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) – Phyllis Onstad**

- VOAD embraces the “4 C’s” - cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration.
- After the fires, coordinated meetings with non-profit organizations.
- VOAD helps to get the word out that non-profits need to track volunteer hours and services as these can be used to defray costs in a disaster – County can use the value of these hours to help with local match.
- May be changing name to “COAD” – Community Organizations Active in Disasters.
- Helps to coordinate services and resources available to connect with those in need.
- Help to create ROC Sonoma County.

#### **ROC Sonoma County – Jennielynn Holmes**

- Long term recovery group in Sonoma County.
- Focused on individual recovery for people.
- Formed out of the local VOAD .
- First effort of its kind in Sonoma County.
- Will be able to use this structure in future disasters.
- Housing Committee – Mayor Schwedhelm chairs this – have been able to rehouse over 200 people.
- Unmet Needs Committee – Utilizing funds to help people meet gaps.
- Resources Committee – coordinates resources, donations, etc.
- Emotional Support Committee – provides physical, emotional support to people
- Disaster Case Management (DCM) - \$2.7 million FEMA grant for 18 months.
- Focused on most vulnerable individuals who lost housing in this disaster.
- Community Action Partnership has helped provide funding space.
- Handed out progress report and reviewed data (handout is attached)

#### **Community Foundation – Karin Demarest**

- Raised \$15 million in funds after the fires to the “Resilience Fund” from 7,500+ donors from around the world. Funds are committed to helping the most vulnerable populations in our community.

- Provided \$300,000 in emergency grants to 11 nonprofit organizations immediately after the fires to help fund vital needs like food and shelter.
- Provided \$2 million in grants to organizations helping individuals recover financially and emotionally.
- Helping individuals recover, Healing from trauma, finding Housing solutions are the 3 main goals of Community Foundation
- Provided funds to United Policyholders and Legal Aid for the work they are doing to support people impacted by the fires.
- Also provided funding to the Resilience Collaborative to implement the evidence-based resilience program created by the Center for Mind Body Medicine.
- Funded the Wildfire Mental Health Collaborative to bring attention to the impacts of trauma
- Currently exploring funding fire departments to do a peer support group
- To support housing solutions, Community Foundation is launching a regional strategy with the Napa Valley Community Foundation to develop a tool kit to encourage people to build Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's).
- Funding incubation of cross sector leadership group in housing to help inform elected officials of good policies in housing. Group will be working with other jurisdictions in the State.

#### **SoCo Rises – Ana Lugo**

- SoCo Rises started a week after the fires with the focused goal of “how do we take care of the community and don’t have anyone fall through the cracks?”
- Emphasis is to ensure that all individuals in the community were served.
- Last June - brought in experts from other communities who had gone through natural disasters to share stories and lessons learned with the community.
- Continuing the conversation on defining what equity means for the community.
- Will be doing community dinners to continue to build relationships with community partners.

#### **Community Action Partnership – Ana Lugo**

- Providing Disaster Relief program – one of the greatest needs determined was clearly rental assistance.
- Funded ROC Sonoma County resource center space for people to come and get their needs met.
- CAP emphasizes partnerships which is why they funded ROC.
- April 1<sup>st</sup> FEMA date is of concern – possible chance for an extension – but if no extension, will be very difficult for many people.

#### **Sandy Sanchez – La Luz Center**

- After the fires, jumped into action to help the Sonoma Valley community.
- La Luz received donations and Redwood Credit Union funding and Granted out \$1 million.
- A big fire impact for Sonoma Valley residents was job loss.
- Created training program to support workforce. Trained 100 people in partnership with SRJC and SCOE to train them on basic construction skills. Will continue to help connect these trainees with apprenticeship programs.
- Growing their micro loan program to support business development.

#### **Sonoma Ecology Center - Caitlin Cornwall**

- Mapped roadmap for climate resilience.

- Sonoma Valley is 10% of total geographic area of the County, and ¼ of Sonoma Valley burned in the fires.
- First step the Ecology Center assisted with was to address toxic materials, including placement of waddles and other BMP's. Protected 80% of houses within 100 ft of streams.
- Helped to protect homes and the environment in anticipation of rains.
- Developed and added fire history and ecology to curriculum in Sonoma Valley schools.
- Conducting fire recovery walks to help people with their own recovery.
- Partnering with county roads and private roads
- Working on invasive weed control efforts
- Helping people to re-imagine their landscape to increase fire resilience. Created pamphlet "Reimagine Your Landscapes." Caitlin handed this out – it is also available online at [www.sonomaecologycenter.org/fire-recovery/](http://www.sonomaecologycenter.org/fire-recovery/)
- Created Sustainable Sonoma – housing has of course risen as a big issue in this group, so Ecology Center is now working towards housing as well.

#### **North Bay Organizing Project – Ana Salgado, Irma Garcia, Susan Shaw, Linda Evans**

- Shared they do not feel the recovery funds distributed by non-profits have not been given to the Latino community or the immigrant community.
- Thank you to the County for making a commitment that services must be equally provided to all people.
- Appreciate that the new warning system is available in Spanish and that County Facebook page has been translated.
- County committed to providing interpretation and signage at shelters and Local Assistance Center.
- Saw positive changes at LAC – including signs translated in Spanish, bilingual intake workers, and bilingual California HOPE counselors.
- County government must adopt policies for language access. Also for equity and access.
- Policies must help enforce keeping ICE away from shelters
- North Bay Organizing Project and members continue to meet regularly with the Office of Recovery and Resiliency.
- Government to show you care about renters
- Community engagement is important – training volunteers will help.
- Urge county to adopt community action plan.
- Provided update about UndocuFund: Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, Graton Day Labor Center, Jobs with Justice and NBOP formed the UndocuFund as the fires still burned. Thanks to our community in Sonoma County and across the country, with support from the Community Foundation Sonoma County, Kaiser Foundation, Tipping Point, Redwood Credit Union, Catholic Charities, California Human Development, Corazon Healdsburg, 100 vol and 8,000 donors, we raised over 6.5 million dollars which was given to over 2,000 families. And we are giving funds received at the end of 2018 to undocumented families who were affected by the flood in west Sonoma County.
- Provided update about Rapid Response Network: Napa, Solano and Sonoma Counties
- NBOP coordinates this network, which is all volunteer and provides:
- A 24 hour - 7 day a week hotline
- Legal Observers who are available to provide documentation and witness of ICE raids (700 trained)

- Accompaniment of 170 volunteers – also trained
- Know Your Rights trainings for the community and workplaces
- We have received 1,913 calls to the hotline
- Responded to 46 incidents with legal observers

#### **Wrap – up:**

Acknowledged so many collaborations in the room and so much important and great work being done by all the organizations here. Acknowledged and thanked Block Captains and all the work they are doing. Agreed there is value in a face to face meeting every month. Office of Recovery will send out a survey to help schedule a monthly meeting and get feedback.

Recovery process changes as you move down the timeline. New needs will continue to emerge. We need to focus on preparedness collectively.

Supervisor Gore provided closing comments:

- We need to be part of a collective impact group. We need to keep meeting to prevent silos.
- These meetings could be a place to submit challenges as well as a report out on what we are working on.
- In future meetings – have a workshop on preparedness and what each organization will do.
- Still lobbying for an additional \$15 million for Sonoma County with Congressman Thompson.
- Go back to your organization and think about what you would do during a disaster.
- If you are working on recovery, make sure you are getting input from survivors.

Supervisor Gorin provided closing comments as well:

- Will go back and discuss best frequency of meeting.
- Outreach to this group to find out what they would like to do and who is missing.
- Collaboratively determine next steps.
- Maybe invite more block captains here – both to get information as well as to hear from them.