

Date sent: Wed, 2 Oct 1996 19:00:06 -0400 (EDT)
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Subject: ASRC BOD Mtg Minutes, 17AUG96

ASRC BOD Meeting Minutes
17 August 1996 Charlottesville, VA

ATTENDANCE

Dave Carter	TSAR	dcarter@norfolk.infi.net
Kevin Reynolds	TSAR	
Michael Barber	RSAR	
Kelli Midgette	RSAR	
Melody Midgette	RSAR	
Terri Midgette	RSAR	
William Dixon	BRMRG	whd4y@virginia.edu
Robert J Koester	BRMRG	Robert@Virginia.edu
Rob Christie	BRMRG	75714.1425@compuserve.com
Darren Chen	BRMRG	dtc9c@virginia.edu
Peter McCabe	MSAR	pmccabe@msn.com
Kevin Brown	SWVaMRG	
Greg Sazonov	SWVaMRG	gsazanov@vt.edu
Teresa Drag	PVRG	
Karen Vandersall	PVRG	kvl3@umail.umd.edu

Please note that representatives from SMRG and AMRG were not present at the BOD meeting. Peter McCabe brought a guest. His name is Lee J Wray. He is a photographer who may be able to help update the Hug-A-Tree program slides.

Meeting began at approximately 1030 hours.
Please note that the Secretary did not arrive at the meeting until 1049 hours. William Dixon took notes until her arrival.

Corrections to last meeting's minutes:

Greg Sazonov of SWVaMRG is now a BOD delegate. This should have been reflected on the 30 June 1996 ASRC BOD Meeting's minutes. Just a reminder: if you are a delegate, please indicate this on the sign-in sheet.

Secretary's Report (Terri Midgette):

The minutes were handed out to each group present. Included with the minutes from the 30 June 1996 BOD were handouts from the VASARCO meeting on 27 July 1996. Each group can expect the minutes

from this meeting to be in your mailbox by 2 September 1996.

Treasurer's Report (William Dixon or Bob Koester):

\$570.00 in account. There is a concern about no income for the ASRC. The Manassas fund has been carrying us a long way, but we need to worry about next year

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Medical (Rob Christie):

- ASRC recertification is 1-31 October 1996.
- Must have all groups' personal data forms by 1 October 1996.
- Have received (5) certifications and 60 out of 370 forms so far.
- There are (5) ASRC members training in paramedic classes.
- Have reviewed Dr. Keith Conover proposal for the Red Cross Std Wilderness first aid. Is ok.
- Will have a computer automated system for tracking personnel training certifications. Peter McCabe will provide a copy of the current GTO database.

Questions and Comments:

(William) Will the computer system with the personal data sheet information be under lock and key?

(Rob) It will have password protection. There is no truly sensitive personal information on this sheet.

(Peter) What about Medical certifications?

(Rob) TO and MO will get together.

Operations (?): Abbreviated version of the Ops manual is available now. See attachment.

Gary Mechtel not present.

Communications (?):

There is a concern over monotype accepted radios - those which have been modified after the manufacturer's sale configuration.

(Rob) Modified HAM radios are not allowed in the Conference anymore.

(Bob) They were NEVER allowed.

(Rob) Well, they're really not allowed now.

Training (Peter McCabe):

The TOs have been asked to revise standards, but first the TOs actually have to review them.

Mitch went away for the summer, so it has been a struggle. PVRG, SMRG, and MSAR were supposed to get together over the summer, but that did not happen.

Finance (Charlotte Menk):

Not available

Alerting (Darren Chen):

- There have been (5) incidents since the last report.

- BRMRG is having a problem with their computer. The Dispatch incident logs have been corrupted.

501(c)(3) status:

(Dave) Nothing has been done concerning the ASRC's 501(c)(3) status. Must get material from Patrick Turner.

(Peter) As a policy, the Chair should not work alone on the 501(c)(3) paperwork.

Vision development:

Dave has talked to Blue & Gray and Dogs East. They are guardedly optimistic about joint trainings. There are three individuals in the ASRC who have air scent dogs already. These groups will allow them to train with them, but they MUST come to the scheduled trainings. For Dogs East, that means every Sunday. Every Sunday.

William and Dave were supposed to get together, but have been unable to yet.

SARTA:

Dave brought SARTA's training materials to the meeting - one for each group. There is a SARTA re-order form for the materials. DO NOT send the form to DES. Send it to SARTA.

(Peter) Each group can use these for Group Trainings. This will help with the standardization of training among members of the ASRC.

ASRC Dispatch Problem:

(Dave) Never received a letter with recommendations on the best way to fix the "ASRC Dispatch Problem". On 4 July 1996, no one was manning the Locker because they were all on the Mall in DC. Facts seem to indicate that whenever UVA has a break, the BRMRG's leave.

The Dispatch Coordinator must notify the groups to curtail this problem.

DES Problem:

(William) On 13 June 1996, an 83 yr old male with Parkinson's disease was missing in WV. An overhead team was to arrive by NOON at the incident (this was the message from DES). DES had no information to provide William, who was acting as Alert Officer at that time.

William went through the Alerting process, but then the information from DES changed. Paul Dem (sp?) was finally able to provide the information to the AO which the Watch Officer of DES was unable to supply.

It turned out that this incident was HUGE. There were a lot of resources on-scene already. However, there was no management of these resources. DES forwarded the IC's request for 50 FTMs (making this a 150 person incident), but there was NO I.S. on-scene. There was only the IC (John Hemple). So, one person would have had to

plan the entire incident all night.

William determined that there was no assurance of the efficient use of state resources. Unfortunately, this is not the first time this has happened. Reference the Yorktown incident where two state ICs arrived on-scene, found 4 air scent dogs being told to standby for hours, and many political claims to who was in charge. The two ICs decided that ASRC should not be involved in this incident and cancelled the ASRC response. That was the first time anyone can remember this happening. The Floyd Co. incident reviewed in the 30 June 1996 ASRC BOD Meeting minutes is another example of requests for ground resources being made without any assurance of effective coordination ability on-scene.

William did send out an E-Mail concerning this problem. It basically said that he does not trust our AOs handling a response from DES/following the direction of DES. DES SARDOs are not investigating the incident, nor are they requesting proper resources.

There are five points to summarize the problems encountered when dealing with DES recently:

1. DES is not assessing the situation to be sure of appropriate and efficient use of state resources.
2. DES has not spoken with the legal RA, rather taking some individual's request who may or may not have authority on scene.
3. DES not helping to establish a state recognized IC's position in the incident.
4. DES forwarding verbatim a request by a local RA for a particular agency, in the Floyd county case requesting ASRC, when closer MOU recognized SAR teams could have responded, such as Botetourt Mounted SAR (30min from scene). Thus the subject and the incident is made to suffer the longer transport time of ASRC resources. DES should have suggested the use of Botetourt MSAR to Floyd County instead of just making the request to ASRC. Floyd County was happy to work with Botetourt MSAR in this case as William found out when he called to suggest that.
5. When the on-scene situation seems confused about who is in charge on scene, DES has not been supportive of state resources by dispatching a State Coordinating Officer (typically Regional Coordinator or VA State Police Sergeant) to the scene to help resolve political conflicts.

(Peter) In April 1994, CAP ICs and ASRC ICs had a meeting. DES is not supporting the agreements made then to call out CAP ICs to assist with ground search management.

The concerns expressed here need to be formally sent from the Chair of the ASRC to DES.

(Dave) I wrote a letter to DES expressing my concern over this lack of efficiency at DES. A meeting was requested with George Forsman. When Winnie Pennington was made SAR Coordinator, 80% of her duties were to be SAR related, but it seems that 20% of her time is spent on SAR business. There has been no official response.

(Bob) I have had a meeting with George Foresman, an upper DES manager, already. Dog teams are concerned over DES's reluctance to provide a state mission number. DES must act according to the Law. (Remember that Liability protection comes with a state mission number. An EOC number is different.)

(Peter) In some states, SAR is not considered to be an "official" emergency resource.

(Bob) Expressed concern to George about inadequate training of SAR Duty Officers of DES.

(Darren) The problem before was the lack of Alert Officers in the ASRC. Now the problem is the lack of information from DES for the AO to respond properly.

(Dave to William and Darren) Please get a letter to me by 26 August 1996 to give to DES. DES is not being proactive, only reactive

NASAR Convention:

(Dave) Winnie is pushing hard for VA SAR involvement. Some of the West Coast groups have expressed the sentiment that they don't understand why they are coming to VA for the convention since SAR isn't done in VA. Ouch!

(Bob) Submitting 2 abstracts. One is on Fatigue and the other is on

Alzheimer's patients. Please see the NASAR handout attached to the back of the minutes.

(Dave) Winnie also wants us to get together some ideas for interesting displays/demonstrations. Mark Eggeman of TSAR has been working on ideas for a "SAR Olympics" similar to the ECO Challenge. It will probably be on Bells Island. Are there any volunteers?

Group Recertifications:

Greg Sazonov of SWVaMRG showed a certificate indicating that the group had met its recertification requirements in February 1994. The group is due for recertification in February 1997.

The certificate (or copy) was not turned over to the Secretary to put in the permanent record.

William Dixon (the Vice Chair) took over the responsibility for the recertification of groups in the ASRC. This was determined by consensus.

(Peter) Propose that within 30 (thirty) days a recertification list, showing groups' recertification dates be prepared by William Dixon. This, too, was determined by consensus.

Shenandoah National Park/BRMRG Agreement:

(Bob) Shenandoah National Park is working with BRMRG to come up with a quick response system for the Sugar Hollow area. They are

making pre-assigned maps, LZs, etc. A draft plan is to be presented soon.

(Peter) There is a question here as to whether or not groups can seek "initiative". A group can respond as a group, not as the ASRC. The agreement here should be between BRMRG and SNP with the ASRC's blessing.

MOTION (William):

BRMRG seeks approval from the ASRC BOD to enter into a response agreement with Shenandoah National Park for rapid rescue-type response of injured persons in the Sugar Hollow Wilderness area.

Discussion:

(Melody) Don't you want to make sure your people are covered?

(Bob) They are. Missions would not go through the State. They would go through SNP.

(Dave) Will we see paperwork to reflect this?

(Bob) Yes.

Yes 9 No 0 Abs

Training Officer Nominations:

(Dave) I make a motion that Mark Eggeman become the TO for TSAR. (William) Second.

The Ayes have it. (Congratulations, Mark!)

IS Nominations:

On behalf of SMRG, Peter relayed the information on the papers he had in his possession. A copy of these papers was not submitted to the Secretary for inclusion in the permanent record. One of the letters was from Julius of SMRG, recommending Gene Harrison be nominated for IS. The other letter was from Gene himself listing his qualifications.

Peter McCabe's IS Nomination:

Gene Harrison

Discussion:

(Rob) Is/Are his Medical certification/s current?

(Bob) Yes.

(Dave) He has served as a Communications Officer and as an FTL.

Yes 8 No 0 Abs 1

(Congratulations, Gene!)

IS/IC Renewals:

(Peter) We seem to be through that. Current now. December 1996 will start a new round.

Preventive SAR (PSAR):

(Peter) There have been changes in searches over the last few years. It's an exception rather than the rule to have a search

incident over 24 hours. The complexion of our activities are changing.

Hug-A-Tree may not stay a viable program. The ASRC can create a similar program. MSAR has told HAT people that they have lined up some photographers to re-shoot the slides used in the HAT program. Finally, HAT has acknowledged the need to update the slides.

Some funds are earmarked for this project. Propose that the ASRC and MSAR coordinate this project. Expand on it. The program would not be just for kids. Alzheimer's patients and their families could also have a class tailored to their needs.

(Dave) Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, the retail chain, tried to come up with materials for HAT. HAT did NOT want corporate people doing it. However, the Hug-A-Tree type program is being offered already - at Blue Ridge Mountain Sports. Hunters, kids, first-time backpackers - all different needs addressed.

(Bob) There is a 9 minute video for police officers that focuses on Alzheimer's patients (what to tell caregivers). A laminated card can be stored in the officer's car for future reference.

(Dave) At the October BOD, can an abstract be together to develop this? (Peter) Yes.

Possible replacement of Ops Officer:

(Dave) Has not spoken with Gary Mechtel, the ASRC Ops Officer, but he has missed 2 (two) BODs in a row. One of these BODs, the 29-30 June 1996 weekend, had an Operations Committee meeting. It was especially necessary to come to that meeting.

(William) He's done a heckuva job in the past, he's just not visible. It would be different if we had an Ops Officer who never did anything and never came to meetings. The right thing to do is ask him if he'll be able to attend the BODs in the future. If not, then we have to find another Ops Officer.

(Peter) The Operations Manual is not an Ops manual - it's a technical manual. He makes a solid contribution, but he is unresponsive.

(Dave) Should I handle this between Gary and myself?

(Teresa) Someone needs to speak to him. The BOD will need to present what is necessary to be the Operations Officer, then discuss possible replacements.

(Bob) The Ops Officer is an officer of the Chair. It's his decision.

(Dave) The Ops Officer must be knowledgeable and not new to the ASRC. The individual must be able to function at the Corporate level. It takes awhile to get up to this level. Even when approving IS and IC positions, experience is important.

(Bob) The full document (Ops manual) may end up only going to IS.

(Peter) There needs to be a change because his work will not allow him to come attend/dedicate more time.

Dave to talk to Gary to see what Gary's plans are for the future

Other Issues: -----

Lack of Response from members: .

(Dave) There are 410 people in the Conference. They range from COQs to ICs. Only (if we're lucky) 5% respond to searches.

There are different reasons for this low response rate.

- The mission will be over with soon - why go?
- The closer a group is to a mission location, the more members will respond positively. If members live/work farther away, it is more likely they will not respond positively.

BOD delegates need to ask their group members in an informal survey, "Why don't you respond to missions?"

(William) Previous email announced the following two goals:

1. If a member is "available", that means that member can be ready and out the door in 1 hour.
2. A full group availability for the next 24hrs should be reported back to ASRC dispatch within 1 hour from the response page.

Every group, by the end of next year, needs to have a Quick Response Group consisting of 2 IS, 3-4 FTLs.

In any event, groups need to keep track of what they CAN respond with. (Greg) Will make up a Duty Board and see how it works.

Infectious Control Plan:

(Terri) I missed the first part of the meeting, so I am unsure if this has already been answered, but in the 28 April 1996 ASRC BOD minutes, Rob stated in his Medical report that the Infectious Control Plan was at the printer and will be mailed to groups. Has it been?

(Rob) The question was answered. The computer has been down. They will be out to groups within 30 days.

ASRC Minutes:

(Terri) I asked for all of the past ASRC minutes from Dave. How is that coming along?

(Dave) Have E-Mailed Candi, but have not yet received a response.

Weekly E-Mail:

(Peter) Could we start up the Weekly E-Mails between groups again?

(Darren) It can be done, but correct addresses are essential.

RSAR Training Officer Situation:

(Peter) Andy Bayne only recently discovered that he was RSAR's Training Officer. (Peter then referred to a letter he wrote to RSAR's Chair, Melody Midgette. See attachment. He also referred to a phone conversation with Melody.)

Peter subsequently expressed concerns that RSAR had operated without an accredited (by the ASRC) GTO for more than one year and questioned member certifications.

At this point, Melody addressed Peter's concerns by stating that Andy Bayne did in fact know that he was RSAR's GTO because he was appointed by the ASRC Chair, Dave Carter, as Interim GTO for RSAR at the 26 August 1995 ASRC BOD meeting.

Dave Carter referred to the minutes of the 26 August 1995 ASRC BOD meeting, and stated that Andy Bayne was in fact serving as RSAR's Interim GTO.

Discussion about State certifications versus ASRC certifications took place. Dave stated that though a member may be certified at the State level through a GSAR college, the member must also meet the requirements set forth in the ASRC Training standards and Ops manual.

It was determined that the position of TO for RSAR had to be resolved. Therefore, Melody stated that Mark Eggeman had already accepted the position of GTO for RSAR, and had been unanimously voted in at RSAR's July 1996 meeting.

(Melody) Motion to make Mark Eggeman RSAR's TO?

(Bob) Second.

Yes 8 No 0 Abs 0

(Dave) Are all parties satisfied?

(Melody) No, but you will receive my response in writing

Training Announcements:

None. Please see the attachment for SWVaMRG's training schedule.

Announcements:

(Bob) Working on a study of suicide victims (distance traveled to do the deed). Also working on a grant.

(William) Congratulations to 2nd Lt. Teresa Drag, just graduated Marine Corp Officer Candidacy School.

There are 2 (two) books out that could be used as staff training. One is by Bob Koester entitled Ground Search Management. The other is by Dave Carter. It is called Search and Rescue Operations.

(Peter) Are we doing anything with the MOA for WV?
(Dave) Speaking, but nothing has been done yet.

The October BOD Meeting!

- It will take place 19-20 October 1996.
- We will meet to continue working on our Vision.
- All Ops Officers and TOs for all groups need to be at this meeting!
- The meeting site has not been determined. This information will be given to groups by 1 October 1996. (It will probably be a campsite.)

DATE CHANGE for the December 1996 ASRC BOD Meeting:
It will now take place in January 1997. (Tentative date is 4
January 1997.) The February 1997 BOD has not been changed.

Meeting adjourned 1358.

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17 August 1996