

MINUTES OF DEPT MEETING
FEB 7, 2005
DAMASCUS COMMUNITY CENTER

PARTICIPANTS

George Moy	Stan Kowalewski
Paul Laing	Ken Phillips
Joe Corey	Ray Gustin
Jim Baron	Frank Jacobs
Doug Noble	Bob Gladhill

George opened the meeting by saying that Doc had flu-like symptoms and couldn't make it tonight. In his absence, Doc requested that George chair the meeting.

RED CROSS REPORT

George Moy gave a report highlighting the DEPT meeting with Matt Swinburne of the Red Cross and Cathy Mathews of Montgomery County on January 6, 2005. The details of the meeting are attached. RC has urged that we do DAT, but it means being on call 1 out of every 3 weeks. George will forward DAT Training information.

COUNTY MEETING

Ray Gustin gave a report on the meeting with Gordon Aoyagi of the County on Jan 13. They're playing it close to the vest, saying there's nothing to delegate at this time. There were objections to the values of a siren such as distance coverage and malfunctions. They are not encouraging the use of sirens. They're not supporting grants for sirens, but would quite possibly support grants for generators. Ray asked if John Miller was working with Kay Bowen on grants, as Kay was effective in doing them.

WALT EDMUNDS MEETING

Bob Gladhill gave a report on the meeting between Walt Edmunds, pastor of Damascus United Methodist Church, Bob Wirth who is in charge of all Emergency Preparations for Montgomery College, George Moy, Doc Taliaferro, and Bob himself on Thursday night. Bob Wirth meets regularly with the Red Cross and the Emergency Management Teams of the County, where there have been big discussions about DEPT with lots of friction. They had definitely heard about DEPT, and had frank discussions with our group. There was a communications problem, and what's needed is more civility. However, there are two areas the County said we could help:

- A. Taking care of People with Pets during an emergency
- B. Providing lists of handicapped people

The meeting ended with the forward step of finding ways to work with the County, and Walt will set up a meeting with Cathy Mathews.

GOOD HEART REPORT

Discussion tabled until Doc can be available to make a report. However, it was stated that Doc wants to write a manual for the Churches, and one of the Churches has a member who is from FEMA. There's also someone who is the maintenance person from the School system, and apparently there has been big problems with the Generator Maintenance.

CERT REPORT

Paul said the Meeting this Thursday will be on HAZMAT. Last month it was on Disaster Services. CERT is working on an Operations Procedure, as well as putting a "GO-Bag" together priced at about \$50. Paul will bring one to the next DEPT meeting.

COUNTY DISABILITIES MEETING

There's a meeting on Feb 10th from 9-4 on the County's handling of people with disabilities. Although it's an all day meeting, it might be valuable for someone from Good Heart to attend. George will try to find the e-mail describing it and send it to Bob Gladhill.

OTHER

George introduced Stan, who is new to DEPT and attended tonight's meeting because he read about us in the paper. He's also a HAM (WB3CFJ)

Someone mentioned that Fred is moving, and he still has our Banner. It might be good to contact him before he moves.

Ken has contacted the President of the Lions Club in La Plata, who said he would talk to someone else about what was done after the Hurricane. Bob thought lots of churches were involved in the effort, and will contact one of the larger Methodist Churches there.

Doug said he is still having problems contacting Montgomery County on communications. He can talk to everyone except them. Several states and counties used HAMS for backups, for example, in the forest fires out West. Cell phones can be overloaded, towers could be down, but HAMS can continue to operate. HAMS have been on the air even without power. Right now, Doug has found a couple of hundred HAMS in the Damascus area. Emergency Communications is handled through the ARRC. A Technicians License is needed to operate HAM radios. Information on becoming a HAM can be found on the ARRL.org website. GMRS only requires a license costing \$70. It would be good to have 2 people from each church be HAMS, plus a backup for the Fire Station.