

Fulton County Long Term Recovery Group

Minutes for May 12th, 2025—10:00 a.m.

A.) Call to Order

Present (Physically): Will Fergusen (Temple Baptist Church); Jessica Sparenberg (Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library); Richard Proffer (U of I Extension Office); Gayle Blodgett (Spoon River Library)

Present (Virtually): Chris Helle (Emergency Services Disaster Agency); Matthew Raymond (IEMA); Micah Garnett (Trinity Lutheran Church of Canton); Sarah Nottle (Salvation Army 360); Tiffany Boehler (IEMA)

B.) Approval of Meeting Minutes

Approved Motion: Hearing no objections, the April 14th, 2025, meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote. (Motion: J. Sparenberg; Second: R. Proffer).

C.) Public Comments

D.) Communications

Matthew Raymond shared that he had disseminated a survey to select members of the group to fill out. The survey asks for details surrounding the July 2024 natural disaster.

Richard Proffer shared that he had been invited to attend what would be the first meeting for a new community organization in Peoria; the InfraGard, formed by the FBI for homeland defense, and disaster recovery. Richard volunteered to share details about this organization, and its' possible application to the FCLTRG.

E.) Agenda Items

1.) Formation of Mission Statement

Richard Proffer shared that he had received a total of three responses from group members using the Mission Worksheet handed out at the March meeting. Group members agreed that Richard would use the current input to form a draft Mission Statement for group members to review and possibly vote to approve at the June meeting.

2.) Formation of By-Laws

Gayle Blodgett utilized online examples of other bylaws in use by other COAD organizations, and formed a set tailored to the Long-Term Recovery Group's needs. Gayle pointed out that a fiscal agent, and a Functional Area location to serve as a mailing address, were still needed to complete the document. Group members discussed possible places to serve as a Functional Area,

including the U of I extension office. Jessica Sparenberg asked members to review the bylaws draft, and have any corrections sent to Jessica prior to the June meeting.

3.) Reviewing Local Resources

Group members discussed other area agencies, including the Fulton County Health Department, who would be helpful members for the FCLTRG. Matthew Raymond reviewed the importance of trying to include as many community members and agencies, as possible, as this data would assist in demonstrating need when soliciting funds from IEMA and FEMA following natural disasters. Matthew discussed his experiences with other COAD groups he had interacted with, and the agencies they had reached out to in forming their groups.

Gayle Blodgett suggested that after the group had voted to approve bylaws and a mission statement that the group should think about marketing to the public, to increase awareness. Ideas included finalizing the group title, forming a logo, and a packet to share with potential agency partners containing the group bylaws, mission statement, and other information needed to answer inquiries. Additionally, Jessica Sparenberg suggested that once the groups formalized title, bylaws and mission statement had been formed, that the group could attend a city council meeting, to spread awareness to council members and the Mayor.

Group members also discussed methods of tracking volunteer hours, with the conclusion that the organizing agency providing volunteers should be responsible for tracking and maintaining records of volunteer hours.

4.) Possibility for Group Receipt of Donation Funds

Group members discussed the best way to receive monetary donations to support families following natural disasters on behalf of the FCLTRG. While not in attendance, Michelle Spiva had mentioned the possibility of being the FCLTRG's Fiscal Agent at the April meeting, and hold funds on behalf of the group through the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development (a 501 (c) 3 organization). Group members will inquire as to the process when Michelle is next in attendance.

Group members also discussed the possibility of opening up a specialized checking or savings account at MidAmerica National Bank for smaller amounts of funds, to be used for marketing materials, and administrative costs, as the reporting for these funds would not be tied directly to providing assistance to survivors.

5.) Next Steps in Group Formation

Group members discussed several steps needed to continue in forming the FCLTRG. These include:

Reviewing the bylaws compiled by Gayle, and to have input or revisions ready for the June meeting, to possibly vote upon the acceptance of said bylaws.

Reviewing the Mission Statement being compiled by Richard Proffer prior to the June meeting, and to have input or revisions ready, to possibly vote upon the acceptance of said Mission Statement.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Attest: _____
Secretary

Date: _____

The next meeting is scheduled for June 9th, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Church & Virtually via Microsoft Teams.