

Fulton County Long Term Recovery Group

Minutes for September 8th, 2025—10:00 a.m.

A.) Call to Order

Present (Physically): Jessica Sparenberg (Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library); Micah Garnett (Trinity Lutheran Church of Canton)

Present (Virtually): Chris Helle (Emergency Services Disaster Agency); Sarah Nottle (Salvation Army 360) Matthew Raymond (IEMA); Tiffany Boehler (IEMA)

B.) Approval of Meeting Minutes

As there was not a voting quorum at the September meeting, the approval of the August 2025 meeting minutes was moved to the October 2025 meeting agenda.

C.) Public Comments

D.) Communications

Jessica Sparenberg shared that she had received a message from Will Ferguson in which he stated that, due to prior and current commitments, he was unable to continue to serve as the President of the Fulton County Long Term Recovery Group. He would still like to continue participation at the community level.

Matthew Raymond shared details about the storms which occurred further north on August 18th and 19th. He displayed the database used by IEMA to track needs and demographic information, and stated that the Fulton County LTRG could gain access to this database for community needs following disasters. Micah Garnett suggested the group gain access to this database using the new group email: www.flutoncountyil.coad@gmail.com. Group members discussed the need for the creation of a Survivor's Survey, to track needs, and numbers in Fulton County following natural disasters.

E.) Agenda Items

1.) Group Name

Jessica Sparenberg suggested that as the new group by-laws stated the group name as the Fulton County Community Organization Active in Disaster (COAD), perhaps the group should change its' title to reflect this name across all documentation; agendas, minutes, marketing, etc. Matthew Raymond stated that we, as a group, more closely reflected a COAD than a Long-Term Recovery Group, and that we would be less likely to be confused for other assistance organizations. Members present were inclined to agree to the name change. As there was not a voting quorum present, this item will appear on the October agenda for vote.

2.) Local Resource Guide

As Gayle Blodgett was unable to attend this meeting, this agenda item was shelved until the October group meeting.

3.) Website Formation

Group members discussed how to approach the creation and maintenance of a website for the public to be able to establish contact with the group during and following natural disasters. The easiest and most cost-effective method seems to be to have a listing on the Fulton County website, as all that is needed on the site is contact information, links to pertinent information, etc. Establishing contact with employees at the Fulton County Courthouse was the agreed-upon first step.

4.) Marketing and Outreach

Jessica Sparenberg shared a Marketing flier she had created for the group which outlined the basic function of the group. The flier contained the regular group meeting timeframe, as well as a solicitation for organizations or agencies to join the group. The group discussed contact information, and the title of the group once more, as Ms. Sparenberg had titled it “Fulton County Community Organizations Active in Disaster” on the flier. Overall, group members approved of the look and content of the flier. Ms. Sparenberg will present another which reflects the contact email for the group at the October meeting.

5.) Next Steps

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

Group members navigate to the Fulton County website to observe layout, and think about what content to include in the groups’ page.

Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 10:45 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 20th, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library Program Room & Virtually via Microsoft Teams. Meeting to take place on this date, as October 13th is Columbus Day.