

# **Fulton County Long Term Recovery Group**

## **Minutes for January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026—10:00 a.m.**

### **A.) Call to Order**

**Present (Physically):** Jessica Sparenberg (Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library); Richard Proffer (U of I Extension); Gayle Blodgett (Spoon River Library)

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

### **B.) Meeting Minutes**

**Approved Motion:** The board voted unanimously to approve the Meeting Minutes from October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. (Motion: J. Sparenberg; Second: R. Proffer).

### **C.) Communications**

Sarah Nottle reported that she had presented to the Lewistown Chamber of Commerce over the holiday season to discuss the Fulton County COAD (FCCOAD), its' mission, and the need for participating partnerships.

Jessica Sparenberg shared that she had shared to the Rotary Club of Canton regarding the FCCOAD, and was told the group could do a more formal presentation at any time.

### **D.) Agenda Items**

#### **1.) Marketing and Outreach**

Group members discussed membership, and ways to engage the community in the FCCOAD's efforts. Richard Proffer shared a suggestion for how to proceed forward in the group. He shared that the current members of the FCCOAD were more "connective" in nature. His idea is to engage agencies and area businesses as entities for participation, rather than seeking individual members. These businesses and agencies could be categorized under the various committees outlined in the FCCOAD bylaws, with available contact information. The group would then form a list/booklet of area businesses and agencies willing to assist with what services or materials they might be able to provide in their capacity in the event of a disaster. These materials could either be distributed directly to families or individuals during or after disasters, or could be used as the baseline for referrals if group members are dealing directly with victims following natural disasters.

Matthew Raymond added that many COAD's and VOAD's operate this way, and had suggested in the October meeting that group members seek out area businesses, and social service groups, as well. He suggested the creation of a form for seeking assistance through the FCCOAD, with contact information for Ms. Sparenberg, or other officers of the group, to distribute to victims of natural disaster seeking aid.

Matthew shared that he had been contacted by Brian Glenn, with Shelterbox, about making contact and establishing relationships with area Rotary Clubs. Mr. Glenn intends to discuss membership in statewide VOAD's and COAD's to all Rotary Clubs throughout Illinois, in an effort to engage them in disaster recovery efforts/assistance.

Chris Helle shared that there would be a Mayor's Meeting to take place at Old Dog restaurant in Canton on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 6 p.m. He requested that Jessica Sparenberg join him, to present the FCCOAD to the members congregated at the meeting, to raise awareness, and garner participation.

## **2.) Classes and Training**

The group had no updates for this line item.

## **3.) Next Steps**

Group members discussed next steps in engaging the public regarding the FCCOAD. Jessica Sparenberg will create a new contacts list and distribute it to the group, as membership has fluctuated greatly in the last year. She will modify and distribute a spreadsheet already created by Matthew Raymond, to allow group members to add contact information for area agencies/businesses to corresponding categories outlined in the spreadsheet. She will re-distribute the completed flier containing the groups' email address, to allow group members to hand out to interested parties. She will assist Chris Helle in presenting at the Mayor's Meeting.

Richard Proffer agreed to create a form for the public to fill out when seeking assistance from the FCCOAD, and add contact information he may have to the group spreadsheet.

Gayle Blodgett will distribute a final copy of the groups' Bylaws for their records.

Sarah Nottle will reach out to Elaine Stone of the Fulton County Farm Bureau, to strengthen connections to Lewistown-area businesses and agencies.

Chris Helle will create a new Microsoft Teams link reflecting current meeting dates, which are scheduled for the odd months of the year; January, March, May, July, September, and November.

All group members will review their contacts, and update the spreadsheet accordingly prior to the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 10:28 a.m.

**Approved Motion:** The board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. (Motion: J. Sparenberg; Second: G. Blodgett).

**The next meeting is scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library Program Room & Virtually via Microsoft Teams.**