

Fulton County Long Term Recovery Group

Minutes for May 11th, 2026—10:00 a.m.

A.) Call to Order

Present (Physically): Jessica Sparenberg (Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library); Gayle Blodgett (Spoon River Valley Library District); Richard Proffer (UofI Extension Office); Micah Garnett (Trinity Lutheran Church); Dave Coleman (Farmington United Methodist Church)

Present (Virtually): Chris Helle (Emergency Services Disaster Agency); Matthew Raymond (IEMA);

B.) Communications

There were no communications.

C.) Agenda Items

1.) Meeting at American Grille with Spiritual Organizations

Group members reviewed details regarding presentations to the public since the March meeting. These included the First Christian Church, the Fulton County Rehabilitation Center, the Rotary Club of Canton, and to Lauren Southwood, of the Fulton County Board.

Micah Garnett shared that he had been working to complete forms related to reporting disasters, and an organizational contact and capacity form. The former would be for individuals or organizations to complete in the event of a disaster, to assess for needed resources, and damages. The latter would be intended for area organizations, agencies, and city governments to complete, to share general information via a checklist regarding any available resources that organization could contribute to the COAD.

2.) Marketing and Outreach

Chris Helle shared that he and Sarah Nottle, of the Salvation Army, had met with representatives with the Heart of Illinois 2-1-1 program, to discuss its' current status, and to integrate Fulton County resources into the network. The HOI 2-1-1 program would allow those affected by natural disasters in need of aid to access a one-stop website to get contact information regarding resources available in their area. This program would act as an adjunct to the COAD, allowing the COAD to glean demographic and statistical data from the website, to facilitate the distribution of resources and assistance to these individuals in real-time. Matthew Raymond shared that individuals could also text the HOI 2-1-1 support line to get assistance, and that Tiffany Boehler is the state-wide representative, and could provide additional details about the program, if needed.

Mr. Helle also shared that Fulton County ESDA was partnering with Graham Hospital to develop emergency text notifications with participating partners. He would share progress in this regard at the next meeting.

Dave Coleman attended the meeting, and discussed various ways the COAD could continue to spread the word, including presenting at the Farmington Rotary Club (of which he is a member), and growing the COAD's network of Farmington area connections with various attending members. Mr. Coleman identified several other organizations which could participate in the COAD, including the Farmington Moose Lodge, the American

Legion, and the Farmington Odd-Fellows Lodge. He shared that Rotarians in Macomb could be approached, as they had utilized resources, such as Rotary vans, for disaster relief in years past.

Mr. Raymond discussed the Kankakee tornado disaster of earlier this year, and the ways their COAD addressed community needs. He stated that HOI 2-1-1 acts as a phone tree for many area COADs, and that this was a great resource for the Kankakee COAD, who had not experienced their first disaster yet. He shared details about how different area organizations provided assistance, and ways the Fulton County COAD could integrate these successes into their strategy. He emphasized the importance of maintaining continuing relationships with members and participants in the Fulton County COAD, to ensure timely responses when disaster struck.

3.) COAD Call Form

Richard Proffer shared that he and Micah Garnett would work together to integrate the current COAD Call Form he was working on with the forms already compiled by Pastor Garnett. They would present this form to the group prior to, or at the July meeting.

4.) Next Steps

Group members discussed next steps in growing the FCCOAD.

Jessica Sparenberg will coordinate with Dave Coleman to set up a day to present to the Farmington Rotary Club. She will also disseminate forms compiled by Richard Proffer and Micah Garnett (when available) to Fulton County library directors, for them to compile local resources known to them.

Mr. Proffer and Pastor Garnett would coordinate to complete a Contact Form to disseminate to the public.

Ms. Sparenberg asked that members please forward her names and emails for those who wish to be a part of the effort, or to add them to the contact spreadsheet, so that all could be informed of updates, and meeting dates.

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

Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 11:15 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13th, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church & Virtually via Microsoft Teams.