

August 12, 2025

Members present on the call: Chair PDG Joe Miller, Debbie Miller, Jill Pietrusinski, Wayne Gerlock, Robin Dean, Jeff Thornton, David Antelo

Chair Joe Miller called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

David Antelo joined us to answer any questions about the water filtration system.

There has been quite a bit of testing, and the replacement parts were not up to the original specs when installed. There has been a quality control testing system to make sure we don't have cracks in the hoses or issues with the membranes. The team is having to re-weld and retrofit the replacement parts. David has asked for an updated timeline with the head engineer. The high-pressure pump and components to include UV lamp were not the same as the original. The original parts came from Spain and the metric system parts is just not right yet. Ultimately now that production is in the US they will convert to standard fittings. David is taking full responsibility for the issues and the cold weather was the issue and they had not used the system in cold weather previously. Repairs are going to be covered by Hydrovolt as the issues were due to untested use in a below freezing environment upon our initial demonstration. He's a bit concerned as we are coming into Hurricane season soon.

Wayne offered to add David to our distribution list and provide meeting updates.

David is aware we are not intentionally planning on being on front line. He has a contact at Fort Bragg who is anxious to support and offered resources as well as a trailer to support as needed.

Jeff attended the regional VOAD meeting and was introduced to IPWMAN (IL Public Works Mutual Aid Network) who supports cleanup. Rotary was acknowledged for our work in Marion. For those who 'sign up' with IPEW you get 5 days of "free" help. The cost is nominal for an annual membership. <https://www.ipwman.org/>
The counties are limited in their communication methods. Cities, Counties and Townships can, and should, all join.

Joe participated in a tabletop exercise with Jackson Co EMA. The scenario was an assisted living center that was affected by a tornado. Part of the street was blocked, and they had to figure out how to evacuate 200 people.

Aur has offered to pull a trailer to a disaster preparedness in Carbondale 9/13 from 1-4. Joe is going to try to participate.

Wayne reported the \$25,000 Rotary Disaster Grant and we have published social media as well as district newsletter articles.

The \$9000 grant from Church of Latter-Day Saints has been awarded to provide radios to the COAD in all 6 counties and will be stored in the Disaster Aid trailer currently stored in Marion.

There is going to be an after-action report to analyze the Marion tornado. Wayne reported the VRC forms were only available at the check in center and some volunteers went straight to the site so weren't documented. Also, the VRC was closed prior to the end of work so billing FEMA may be an issue as there was no official "checkout" for some of them. In a disaster a radio and forms will be provided to take to the on-site staging area.

There has been a request from SPARC to merge with the COAD and Joe and Wayne are a bit. Joe mentioned SPARC is more aligned with Carbondale Memorial Hospital and they haven't been very active outside of that hospital. Wayne has expressed concern about that proposed merger. The COAD will have to register as a corporation if the merger happens so Wayne feels staying as a COAD without needing to be a corporation, and have tax impacts would be better.

Jill has been asked to serve DNA-RAG as the communications chair by chair Bob Stuart. She has proposed a committee description to the board of DNA-RAG. Wayne noted there is overlap of 4 board members with Disaster Aid USA. Wayne noted Disaster Aid was invited to the PETS Alliance group for the multi-district PETS meeting of all of the chairs. There will be a breakout at the Zone Institute in Columbus. They are working with a new software program that supports force multiplication of volunteer efforts.

Money from FEMA may be impacted and the expectation of local/regional financial resources be raised in addition to relying on federal funding.

We will have a table at the District 6510 conference Nov 7-8 and are able to sell 50/50 tickets.

Next meeting is September 9, 2025, at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

PDG Jill Pietrusinski