

VA Search and Rescue Council

Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2008

Meeting Convened 1035 hours

Motion made and passed to accept April meeting minutes.

Attendees:

ASRC; Black Diamond; Blue & Gray; CSAR; Dogs East; ER-NCRC; GARD; K-9 Alert; Orion/SARTA; PSAR; SARTI; SMRG; TROT-SAR; TSAR; VSRDA; VDEM

Group Reports:

- Reports submitted by hand or electronically to Secretary by Angel; Black Diamond; Blue & Gray; Dogs East; GARD; K-9 Alert; PSAR; SARTI; SMRG; TSAR; and VSRDA

Officer Reports:

- President – no report
- VP – no report
- Secretary – to be addressed later
- Treasurer
 - Beginning balance: \$1,609.71
 - Expenses: \$
 - Deposits: \$
 - Current balance: \$3,028.14

Committee Reports:

- IS – VDEM still has to make changes/recommendations on language – still pending
- FTS/FTM/FTL approved
- Equine Standards – approved
- ByLaw Committee – distributed to members for comment and recommendations. Discussion at October meeting
- Cadaver – no report (will start working on third quarter)
- K-9 First Responder – no report
- Trailing Standards – Committee will meet on 8/16/08 to review comments.
- Water standards – no report
- Communications – no report
- Wilderness Rescue Technician – on hold with VDEM
- Full SAR Exercise – to be distributed by secretary
- Conference – Roy Hutchinson (chair).
 - 2009 Conference committee to be same as 2008. Date will be available in October.
 - Let committee know of any potential conflicts in May/June
- MOU Committee:
 - SWVMRG field test completed June 7, 2008 - recommended for M.O.U. Motion made, seconded and passed to approve membership in VASARCO.

Old Business:

- Website status in flux. Updates have been sent in to VDEM, not published yet. Mark Eggeman is working on issues. (E-mail list has been updated for use in communications)
- Orion status - re-working documentation and evaluation process. Has a sponsor for evaluation and M.O.U. Bob Allam has a committee working on documentation. Steve Weiss has expressed interest in using similar process.
- Elections - update
 - Still soliciting nominations for Officers – let a current officer know if you are interested.
 - Elections to be held at October meeting

- To date, nominations made for:
 Chair – Bob Allam
 VC – Dave Carter, Alex McLellan; Bryan Saunders
 Secretary – Leah Coffman
 Treasurer – Sharon Jones

New Business:

- Mileage allowance needs to be updated. Leah Coffman will update mileage allowance on Excel form to reflect current rate of \$00.585/mile. Verbiage should reflect current IRS allowance.
- Also need to update value of volunteer hours (Points of Light Foundation website has references available).

VDEM Report

- Distributed FY2008 SAR Report (will distribute as digital file and post on web – when web becomes available)
- Budget cutbacks for FY2008-2009 – awaiting additional decisions on impact; especially on new hire.
- Budget support for training is tentative
- LMS (Learning Management System) will go live October 1, 2008. Mark will notify when system is available.
- Mark needs schedule of meetings from all groups. Would like to visit each group during regular membership meeting.
- Working on committee for national SAR credentialing. Information has been re-written and will be posted for comment/review. May eventually impact VDEM/VASARCO
 - State credentials should correlate with national credentials
 - Physical requirements (25 pounds; 2 miles in 30 minutes on a flat surface)
 - State-wide taskbook/log to maintain data on training/TAFs

Training

- SARTI – studying body decomposition at Radford University in August
- VAVRS offering SAR First Responder classes – open to public. Schedule will work around scheduled VDEM classes
- SAR First Responder 8/8-10/08 in Lexington, VA
- FTM in Pittsylvania County 9/12-14 and 10/10-12/08
- VA State Police training 9/16 and 10/21/08 in Richmond
- FTM & PSO 9/19-21 and 10/3-5/08 in Rockingham County
- GSAR at Hungry Mother State Park 10/31-11/2 and 11/14 – 11/16/08
- Inland SAR School 12/15-18/08 in Yorktown (USAF/USG)
- Black Diamond Invitational – March 29, 2009 @ Hungry Mother State Park
- FTM 5/6-9/09 Prince William County Police Department
- Inland SAR School 4/20-24/09 in Yorktown (USAF/USG)

Learning Points

- Dogs East brought up question about search in Isle of Wight. Search was cancelled at 10:00am while still viable. What can 'volunteers' do if search is suspended by RA/LE. RA has ultimate authority.
- Communication issues with EOC duty officers when suspending searches; searches are over; and when requesting additional resources. Communications and dispatch committee to meet and review protocols. Any changes/suggestions will need to go through watch officers.

Motion made and passed to adjourn at 1205 hours.
 Next meeting will be Saturday, October 25, 2008 at 1030

Respectfully submitted,
 Leah K. Coffman