

Ohio Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC)

April 25, 2012

Chair Report – Pastor Jim Dinkel

Pastor Dinkel researched Saw Mills and Logging Companies that may be able to take some of the downed tree debris. He provided the contact information for the (3) closest to our area. This may be an option for residents to sell the lumber removed from their properties, except for Tate Township due to the Asian Long-Horn Beetle. Pastor Dinkel has contacted the logging companies, left messages and has had no response at this time. The selection of, and/or work contracted with logging companies, is to be negotiated by the village or townships; not the Long Term Recovery Committee. Reminder, contractors should be verified on the Ohio Attorney Generals Contractor List.

Mickey Hanselman will be contacting logging companies again to work in coordination with the Southern Baptist Chain Saw Teams coming to Moscow this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The Teams come with their own feeding crews. They are already scheduled to return one weekend in May and have stated that they will return again and again as needed.

Paperwork for the Ohio VOAD 501c(3) has been passed to Roy and is to be completed by Monday, April 30. Everything should be finalized so that Kathy and Pastor Dinkel can setup the bank account by Wednesday, May 2.

Pastor Dinkel distributed (2) forms, "Letter of Commitment", and "Case Presentation", being used by Ohio Valley LTRC for the discussion, assignment, and tracking of fulfilling unmet needs by case. Donating groups will sign the "Letter of Commitment" and designate what they are donating and doing for the specific case. St. Vincent DePaul and Catholic Charities provided a letter of commitment. This allows for orderly record keeping (have documents from '97 Flood).

Fundraising efforts:

Mathew 25 Ministries had a fundraiser. Individuals in need will receive a Walmart or Home Depot gift card.

- \$2,000 – Uninsured
- \$1,000 – Insured
- \$500 – Renters
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They will also help to meet furniture needs. Individuals should not contact them directly, they should go through Bev and she will make arrangements with Judy Archer at Mathew 25 Ministries. This will allow them to assist people already in the system first, and then others as needed and funds are available. Residents of Clermont, Brown, Adams and Pike are eligible.

Faith-based organizations are no longer our strongest source for monetary donations. They are now geared more towards rebuild projects and volunteer groups.

Vice Chair Report – Beth Nevel

Beth provided a red flyer with information on assistance from the Farm Service Bureau for farmers with debris/damages to their farm lands.

Beth will be meeting with the American Red Cross to discuss the void of service from the time shelters were closed to the opening of Family Support Centers. ARC is federally mandated to provide mass care and the time lapse between the two care centers being opened caused hardships to those in need.

Government Report

The Clermont County EMA webpage has been updated and has numerous links on the Long Term Recovery Committee (Assistance Programs, LTRC, and Frequently Asked Questions). The link is www.ema.clermontcountyohio.gov
The LTRC minutes are on the site. The minutes have been redacted to remove all Case Management Information.

If you have any information you would like to include on the site, please let Pam Broughton or Becky Ober know.

Village of Moscow Update

Mickey and Linda have identified a need for volunteers to assist with debris cleanup in coordination with the Southern Baptist Chain Saw Teams for the Village of Moscow. Rakes are also needed. They contacted the Donations Center but were told that only (2) were available. Both leaf and garden rakes would be helpful.

Question was asked about planting a tree in memory of Carol. Yes, but specifics have not been determined yet.

It was suggested that March 2nd become "Preparedness Day" in Moscow and to remember Carol. This date would annually serve as a reminder for the need of being prepared for a disaster and for communities and citizens to reevaluate their disaster kits. Moscow could become known as the "most prepared city" in the United States. The committee should make it a goal for this to happen by continuing to provide resources to the communities (Lists of Preparation Items, Flyers about being prepared, etc.)

Donations Management – Roy Nelson

Pastor Dinkel announced, per Roy's request, that the Donations Center has several 7 gallon water coolers/dispensers available if needed. They would be perfect for work crews or large feedings, and can be picked up this Thursday from the Donations Center.

Water has been donated to the Milford 5K Walk/Run event and some has been scheduled for the Village of Moscow. Mickey is to contact Roy if more water is needed and make arrangements for pick-up.

The Donations Center still has an abundance of plastic bags that could be used in clean-up projects where needed. Roy also asked if we could find long term storage in Brown or Clermont counties for flood kit materials. EMA (Beth and Pam) are to check for storage locations within the counties. It was later suggested that maybe the kits be passed out for storage by individual citizens living in flood prone areas, such as Moscow and New Richmond.

Bev was unaware of a previous discussion concerning citizen's involvement in the selection of larger furniture items from the Donations Center. It has been a standard process for years that all items provided to citizens from the Donations Center are selected by volunteer workers at the Donations warehouse. Roy agreed that we could initiate an item photo process that would allow Bev, the Case Manager to preview photos of furniture items with her cases, giving them an opportunity to have some say in the items they will receive. This process may be automated through WebEOC, a software application used by Clermont County EMA. Bev and Becky Ober (Clermont County EMA) will discuss the option of using WebEOC and will contact Roy to work out the details.

There was a question of where larger furniture items could be donated. It was stated that the Donations Center was no longer accepting furniture or appliances and have turned donations away. The Red Barn Donations Center is only accepting items that can be used and are not already being provided from other sources, such as beds (mattresses and frames) or large appliances (stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers) as these are being made available through a voucher system.

Case Management

Dawn Stutz, Habitat for Humanity, doing volunteer coordination and working with Ted Hastings to secure housing for volunteer groups coming in to work. Dawn received email from UMC stating that an assessor has been assigned.

Case work discussion brought up issue/suggested feedback to SBA that they should consider low interest loans for individuals to purchase homes damaged in impacted area.

Dan Domis, People Working Cooperatively, restated his offer to provide assistance and expertise on dealing with the Federal Home Loan Bank Grant Program, and a reminder of eligibility for Federal Home Loan if applicants decline SBA loans.

Volunteer Management

Sandy, Catholic Charities, provided additional information on the Knights of Columbus, stating that they have several groups in our area with multiple skill sets. She will call them to put something together and will advise their specific skill sets and availability to assist.

Home Depot has made it known that they would like to participate on the LTRC. Pam will contact them with an invitation to join us.

Other Business

Community & Faith-Based Fundraisers

Eastern Brown 7th and 8th graders have sponsored a fundraiser that has raised hundreds of dollars for the tornado victims. They are requesting information on where and to whom the funds are to be sent. Funds should be made payable to the Ohio Valley Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC).

We know that we also have monies coming in from other fundraisers, but have little or no specifics on how much has been raised or if there are stipulations on dispersing the funds.

- Rempke Biggs - \$13,000 plus, may be designated for Northern KY
- River Hills Bank
- Park National Bank – about \$9,000 as of last week's report
- United Way - \$100,000.00 – Regional donation for unmet needs
- Rotary of Batavia
- Fundraiser at Clermont County Fair Grounds – Lori to get back to Pam on who did this fund raiser. Per Lisa Davis, funds were to be donated to Matthew 25 Ministries.
- Bootsy Collins – Matthew 25 Ministries – specific for Moscow tornado victims
- Neediest Kids of All – unknown
- Tavern/Bar – unknown (believe this to be a private fundraiser designated for a specific individual/family)
- UMCOR - \$12,000 for unmet needs – Ted Hastings will check on this

Communications and Outreach

The discussion of monetary donations and case management raised numerous questions concerning the collection, disbursement, record keeping and public knowledge of donated funds. Citizens continue to question why some are receiving assistance and others or not. LTRC needs to be more proactive in making this happen. We need to work with the news media to provide this information to the public. They need to know the process for applying and that assistance is being provided to those with the biggest needs first.

Other suggestions for public outreach include:

- Working together to issue additional Press Releases
- Grass Roots Outlets – Working with the public in our communities to spread news of assistance
- Update LTRC website with current information and contacts (provide Brown Co. EMA information on Clermont EMA website for contact)
- Positive testimonials or stories of assistance posted to the website
- Flyers to be distributed to the communities

It is also important that citizens know to see Bev with minor needs. They need to be in the system and should do so by initiating the loan application process, even if not eligible for loan assistance. Then as those with the most needs are assisted, the unmet needs of all will be recorded to work with funds from outside sources. Typically repairs to landscaping have not been covered, but they may be as a result of donated funding for unmet needs.

Our dependency on agencies like the American Red Cross and Mathew 25 has changed. They have become first responder agencies and are no longer able to support our long term recovery needs. Most citizens are not aware of

these changes and are questioning their lack of support. We are following a “triage analogy” in how those with the greatest needs receive assistance first then so on to more minor cases.

LTRC Meeting

Next LTRC Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 2 at 10:00 am. New phone conference system should be in place by the next meeting to improve communications with those calling in.