



Minutes of the New Mexico Search and Rescue Council (NMSARC) Board  
November 18, 2019

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the New Mexico Search and Rescue Council (NMSARC) was called to order at 7:04 p.m. on November 18, 2019 via teleconference by David Price.

**Present**

Jon Hitchcock  
Terry Ann Miller  
Ruth Ann Neal  
Ron Nelson  
David Price  
Tamar Stieber  
Larry Zentner

**Absent**

Erik Nelson

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the July 15, 2019 and September 27, 2019 meetings were approved as amended.

**Old Business**

◆ Insurance

- Discussion about directors' and officers' insurance for the board was tabled pending receiving quotes from insurance companies.

◆ Mapping

- David said he received an order for maps, which he printed and sent. He noted that it cost as much to buy the mailing tube as printing and postage. He suggested adding a sliding-scale surcharge for shipping. There were no objections, so he will proceed with adding the surcharge.

◆ ESCAPE

- Ruth Ann said she purchased a second hard drive for \$70.00 for ESCAPE data. She will turn in a receipt for reimbursement.
- Ruth Ann needs a volunteer from the board for the silent auction. She will also see if Roberta Armstrong can do it again this year.
- David said he'll see if Uli Blann can help.
- Ruth Ann said someone who is not affiliated with SAR will help her at ESCAPE. She also needs volunteers to do fundraising, as discussed at the previous board meeting.
- David said he sent a list of possible donors.
- Terry said she can do what she has done in previous years: gather dog-related auction items and find sponsors.
- Ruth Ann said it would be helpful if everyone could do their fair share of what Terry has done.
- David said he would divide up a list of businesses among the board members, who can contact those businesses about being sponsors.
- Terry said she would like names for people who can be the face of NMSARC for interviews and fundraising, ideally a long-time SAR volunteer. When requesting sponsorship from media organizations like *Outside* magazine, it would be very helpful to offer a name.
- David said he has done a couple of interviews, though he said he's "not great at them." He said he can do written interviews well. He said Spenser Moreland and Al Webster come to mind.
- Ruth Ann said that Bob Rodgers cut the ESCAPE facilities budget from \$6,000 to \$3,600, though it is enough to cover all site costs including classrooms, the assembly hall, AV equipment, etc.
- David noted that this makes fundraising even more important.
- Ruth Ann said there are a few things on the budget that can be cut.
- Ruth Ann said the performer at ESCAPE will be Sim Balkey, who just got back from recording in Nashville.
- Ruth Ann said she's waiting for the contract from Philmont Scout Ranch and asked David if he'd sign it. David said he would. Ruth Ann asked if she's authorized to sign. David said he believes so.
- Ruth Ann said she asked Philmont for a description of the rooms to put on the ESCAPE website and is still waiting to hear back.
- Ruth Ann said Spenser has a good start to the list of classes for ESCAPE. She will need a volunteer to help collect money because Jon will be leaving early. Larry volunteered, noting that it gets chaotic at the end of ESCAPE.
- Ruth Ann said she still needs a guest speaker and asked David if he's looking into that. David said he is. Ruth Ann said the people she has contacted are "no-go's." She hasn't

- been in SAR long enough to get the big names and said it would be helpful if anyone on the board could make suggestions. David said he has some ideas.
- Ruth said she's already thinking about ESCAPE 2021 and whether to hold it at New Mexico Tech again. That would require delaying ESCAPE until May, when the students leave campus.
  - David pointed out that Ruidoso owes the Council a big discount for canceling for 2019. Ruth Ann said she doesn't have contacts there but will ask Aimee.
  - Ruth Ann asked about merchandise to sell. David said he has a box of items, including raffle tickets and notecards from ESCAPE 2016 and some t-shirts.
  - Ruth Ann asked about patches. Jon said Larry has them. David said they're field certification patches.
  - Jon said he got requests for caps or hats with NMSAR on it and suggested someone look into that. He noted that caps are not expensive because there aren't multiple sizes.
  - Ruth Ann said she has a lot more ideas following her meeting with Aimee. She said the Council also needs to think about what to charge for ESCAPE to cover all costs, and she asked whether to raise the registration price by \$5.00.
  - Ruth Ann asked when the board wants the registration process to go live. She suggested doing it in three months' time.
  - David said registration began in February last year.
  - Ruth Ann said that would make it January for this year (because ESCAPE starts a month earlier).
  - Larry said that, historically, the board has approved the ESCAPE budget and time line at its January meeting.
  - Ruth Ann noted that NMSARC is paying \$72.00 per person for food and is charging \$75.00.
  - Jon said 2019 ESCAPE collections began in earnest in January.
  - Ruth Ann suggested that if the board approves the ESCAPE budget at the January meeting, the registration form can be posted the following week.
  - Jon suggested refining the budget to see what the shortcomings might be before making any determinations rather than wait for something to come up that has not been thought out soundly.
  - Ruth Ann noted that many questions remain, including who the guest speaker will be, costs for the vendor lobby, the PayPal auction software and lots of miscellaneous issues. She noted that she did not go over those kind of details with Spenser. Their discussions were about classes.
  - Jon said that, off the bat, the PayPal costs will be \$2,000 or \$2,250. He stressed that the Council will also have to collect money for housing at Philmont, which was a big item last time and shot up the PayPal fees.
  - Ruth Ann asked whether it might be better to increase the housing fees for participants rather than the registration fees.

- Tamar suggested adding a surcharge for paying via PayPal. Ruth Ann said that's still foreign about how to set that up.
- Jon pointed out that if someone pays with a credit card, it's a commitment. If people say they'll pay by check, it's uncertain whether the Council gets it or not.
- Ruth Ann asked about raising the housing fee by \$2.00 or \$2.50 a night.
- David said the Council knows exactly what the PayPal costs would be. Jon said it works out to 2.8 percent, which is not a big deal.
- Ruth Ann then suggested increasing the cost of housing by \$1.00 per night so as not to increase the cost of registration and then add 2.8 percent on other items to cover PayPal costs.
- David said there's no point in losing money—at least not that way. The Council should collect its expenses.
- Jon said he'd like to see an updated rough budget for ESCAPE and suggested meeting with Ruth Ann and Aimee in mid-December to discuss it.
- Ruth Ann said that would be fine. She added that the guest speaker cost is still a question mark.
- Jon noted that the guest speaker fee is an expensive item and that it would be good if the Council could find a local speaker. He noted that, last year, the Council had to fly the guest speaker to Albuquerque and then rent a car for him.
- Ruth Ann said the budget allocates \$1,100 for a speaker, which should cover everything, depending on where they come from.
- David said that Ruth Ann and Aimee will be getting ESCAPE-related emails from nmsarc.org. He said he sent a test email that didn't arrive.
- David thanked Ruth Ann for her work.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- ◆ Referring to the financial statements distributed prior to the meeting, Jon reported on the following:
  - Referring to the Class activity between 9/1 and 11/17:
    - There were \$280 in general donations and \$500 in donations for teams. Disbursements went out to four teams.
    - Nora Miller has been contributing \$50 a month to the Council since June. He didn't notice it until he looked at the PayPal account. She has paid through November. The payment is processed on the eleventh of the month.
    - Woytek Tworzydlo from Austin donated \$100 for general support of the council. Sarina Solis donated \$30. None of these donations are associated with a particular mission.
    - David commented that it's nice of them to donate.
    - Terry asked if they get a nice letter.
    - Jon said he only has their email addresses and sent them each a receipt with an appropriate message. He has no phone numbers or mailing addresses.

- Terry suggested that David write a nice letter to thank Nora Miller for her donation of \$50.00 each month so that she knows the Council is receiving the donation.
- Jon said Nora Miller gets an emailed receipt each month with a note thanking her for her support. He said an additional handwritten note would be nice. He doesn't have her mailing address but will send David her email address.
- David said he'd be glad to get in touch with her.
- Jon said GoToMeeting expenses totaled \$182.92 for the year.
- Mapping revenue totaled \$20.00.
- The Council collected \$209 in dues from three teams.
- Jon next reviewed the YTD Class activity through Nov 18. Highlights included:
  - ESCAPE netted \$1,476.
  - G&A showed a net of \$ -595.
  - Mapping revenue totaled \$59.00.
  - SAR team donations totaled \$1,600.
  - Training involved a payment of \$15.76 for sending a 1099 to the tracker instructor for 2018.
- Referring to the YTD comparative to the same period in 2018:
  - There's a net of \$37.62 for 2019 versus \$9,018.68 in 2018.
  - Looking at comparables, one area in which the Council has fallen behind is in mapping sales, which netted only \$59.00 in 2019.
  - Jon noted that the Council has no printer.
  - David said Tony Gaier gave the Council a good deal on printing. Tony bought the materials and charged the Council against what it used. David thinks Tony might even have rounded down the amount.
- Referring to the balance sheet Jon said 2019 assets are \$45,687.51.
  - Jon said Larry's credit card was used as a holder for the GoToMeeting charge.

#### Questions and Comments

- Larry said he has New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) forms that go to vendors and asked if he should hold them or mail them to David.
- David said he could use at least one form to give to the printer.
- Larry said he has about 10 tax forms left and asked if there are there any vendors that should get them
- Larry asked if he should order more corporate tax forms from the state.
- Jon said that four or five vendor forms might be needed for ESCAPE.
- Larry said he didn't want to get caught empty-handed.
- Jon said it's a great idea and that it's better to order them now in case Ruth Ann needs some.
- Larry noted that they don't expire.

- Lastly, Jon presented historical financials for ESCAPE 2015 - 2019. He pointed out that registration fees have dwindled since 2016, slowly trending downward. The silent auction took a big hit in 2018. Sponsorships were at their highest in 2016.
  - David said ESCAPE hasn't necessarily had fewer attendees; it's just that the Council has reduced the registration costs significantly. Ruth Ann concurred.
  - David said he suspects that if it were divided out, registration is slightly up, even though it's bringing in less money.
  - Jon said it's really critical to have the counts and that he thought Aimee had counts for prior years based on the type of ticket purchased. He noted that 2018 was the only year the Council had to deal with housing and said it will have to deal with it again in 2020.

## Membership Report

- ◆ Terry reported on the following:
  - Reminders for memberships dues have been sent out. Three teams have paid. Five other teams have filled out the forms and indicated that they will send out checks.
  - There are 30 more teams to write to, and since she promised Jon she'd try to get all the money to him before end of year, Terry said she will send another reminder out at the end of November or the first of December. The letters will include a reminder that team members cannot receive a discount to ESCAPE unless the teams are members. She said that will get people moving.
  - Terry said there are two applicants to vote on for individual membership. She noted that the board has been discussing what it means to be an individual member and that she sent out a copy of the bylaws dealing with that. She said she thinks the keywords are "contribute to search and rescue."
  - Terry said she has been able to filter out a lot of new people sending queries about SAR by sending them just a little information about what is involved in joining a search and rescue team. She can continue to do that.
  - Regarding the two applicants before the Council, Terry said the board can discuss how the applicants have contributed. If they are active in search and rescue, she thinks it's worth voting on their memberships.
  - Terry said that she spoke to Aimee, and they agreed that, in future, the website should have a button for new memberships and that the Council can use that opportunity to define better what each category is, including asking potential individual members how they have contributed to search and rescue and to provide examples. She will ask the board to work on the wording so that it has a little more backbone.
  - Larry said the dialogue in the email exchanges is crystal clear. His question for the applicants before the board is, where in their letters does it show their contribution to support the Council, as referenced in the language of the bylaws. He said their letters don't say how they're going to work to maintain their individual status. They should identify themselves and summarize their accomplishments. The letters ought to include

- how they're going to contribute as individual members. It's not so different as a team justifying why they should be accepted into the search directory.
- Terry clarified that, as with teams, individual members should show their worthiness to search and rescue, not necessarily to the Council. If they're contributing to SAR, that's what the Council is looking for.
  - Larry said that Article II speaks to the purpose of the Council and the SAR community. He is referring to all the teams and the activities in which they engage. Article II has some 15 examples of those purposes. That's the article he was thinking of when referencing the Council and capturing the team spirit.
  - Noting that the first applicant has been an incident commander and coordinator, Larry said he's concerned that after two years of participation in SAR, he's not affiliated with a team.
  - Terry said that the applicant wrote to her that he has recently moved and is looking at teams again. She feels like he's in between but wants to be seen as active. He works for the sheriff and the county but is not on a team. He wants to be part of NMSAR more visibly. That's where both applicants are coming from, she thinks.
  - Tamar asked if the bylaws ought to be changed to be more specific about individual memberships.
  - Larry and others agreed that the bylaws don't need to be changed but that the Council needs a mutual understanding of "individual membership." The board's dialogue clearly indicates that there is not a consensus.
  - Terry said she agrees and would like to negotiate tighter wording. That can be an opportunity to explain it on the website so that people don't misinterpret anything.
  - Terry said that when people ask her about individual membership versus joining a team, she tells them to join a team.
  - Tamar asked if the Council wants to discourage individual membership.
  - David said there isn't much point in individual membership unless someone is already an incident commander or has retired from a SAR career. He gave as an example James Hiller, who is an incident commander but is not on a team. He still wants to be a member of NMSAR.
  - David said the Council wants to encourage new members to join a team. Individual membership is more expensive, and the non-member fees for ESCAPE are more expensive. The way the Council has set it up is that the benefits for individual membership are minimal.
  - David said he thinks that the individual membership classification was set up not quite as an honorary membership but as reserved for people who, for whatever reason, were not on a team but contributed to SAR quite a bit.
  - Larry mentioned Tom Bemis and Herb Kinney as examples of long-time SAR individuals who want to retain their association with NMSAR but are not active on a team. The two new applicants before the board don't fit that paradigm from his perspective, though he's willing to expand his paradigm to include them.

- David said the board could stop openly advertising the individual membership position.
- Terry said she'd rather have it. The website needs a membership page anyway, and it should include the Council's interpretation/wording of what it's looking for, including what "contributing" means to the Council. That will help in not scaring people away and provide a better understanding that individual membership is not a lark.
- David said that it sounds like a plan.
- Larry said it sounds as if the issue has opened a Pandora's box, though perhaps that's too strong a metaphor.

◆ *Larry made a motion to accept both applicants for individual membership on the Council under the current administrative process. Tamar seconded the motion. With no opposition or abstentions, the motion passed unanimously. David announced that Jim Hiller and Chris Morehkaash are accepted as individual members.*

- Terry said she will work on wording for a button on the website that will define what the different membership levels are.
- Terry said Bob Rodgers will provide her with the state's resource directory so she can invite current teams to join. She asked when might be a good time to send out invitations. She suggested the end of December.
- David said that it's Terry's purview; that whenever she thinks everything is ready and the time is right, she should go ahead and do it.

## Training Report

- ◆ Tamar reported the following:
  - Referring to a training proposal that Delinda VanneBrightyn of Taos Search and Rescue submitted to Bob Rodgers months ago, Tamar said the process has been difficult and is a deterrent to others. She asked how it could be simplified. She said she's working on request-for-proposals letter to post on the website and send out to all the teams. She'd also like to create a new bullet-point checklist for proposals along with proposal samples.
  - David said that there's no good way to simplify the process. He recalled that Delinda's budget went back and forth quite a bit and that he knew this would happen. He noted that even when you think you have things set in stone, they can change at the last minute. He said it's difficult to make a simple guide.
  - David said the best thing to do is to get certain details that Bob always wants, e.g., the number of attendees, specifics about what the training will be and a basic budget. After that, there will be lots of back and forth. It's possible to work with people to get a rough draft, which has to be submitted long before the training.
  - David said that trainings don't need to be funded by the Department of Public Safety. Groups he has suggested in the past, including the Air National Guard and the Border Patrol, have their own funding for things like helicopter training. They just require volunteers to show up. He knows a couple of teams in Las Cruces that got rides in National Guard helicopters. It does not have to go through Bob.

- David added that Rio Rancho sometimes brings out helicopters to work with SAR groups and that Socorro Search and Rescue recently had a helicopter training.
- Tamar asked how many trainings the Council sponsors each year. David said there have been only a couple per year over the last few years and that the Council would like to improve on that.
- Larry suggested organizing SAR exercises like the ones Al Webster has conducted. David said the Council did not have a hand in those. He's thinking of more direct involvement.
- Terry said it's helpful if the Training Committee chair becomes a point of contact and facilitates whatever goes through Bob or is organized by someone else or the Council. She recalled sending in ideas in years past and never hearing back from anyone. So the ideas die, and the instructors no longer make themselves available.
- David said it's good to beat on doors.
- Tamar asked how the board feels about the Council sending emails through the forum for training requests.
- David said that's what the forum is designed for. He said not to put in a ton of effort, recalling that the previous chair of the Training Committee put in a ton of effort without results.
- Tamar said that's very discouraging. She suggested sending a letter alerting members that she's the new chair of the Training Committee, that she's looking for ideas and to contact her.
- David said she's not going to get a lot of excitement back, that it will take more than that.
- Tamar begged her fellow and sister board members to send her training contacts.

### **Communications Report**

- ◆ Ron reported the following:
  - The new SAR list is ready and, with Erik's help, he will be getting it out soon to members.
  - There are two new digital-plus analogs that will go to New Mexico Mounted Search and Rescue and Santa Fe Search & Rescue.
  - The exercise that Al Webster and others organized on the prior Saturday used Civil Air Patrol aircraft with on-board repeaters. Ron attended the exercise and heard IDs from other repeaters. He doesn't know who they were. They ID'ed positively as public safety communication repeaters. Switching frequency on those repeaters can help avoid interference. He's going to push that concept on the Council forums. The Civil Air Patrol will be taking the lead on that.
  - There were no questions or comments.

### **New Business**

- ◆ There was no new business.

### **Adjournment**

- ◆ There being no further business before the council, the NMSARC general meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. by David Price.

**Next Meeting**

- ◆ The next NMSARC general meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference.

**Minutes submitted by:**

Tamar Stieber, Board Secretary