

Volusia Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)

Meeting Summary – 13 January 2026

Members and Guests in attendance:

Brown, Corry	Howell, Charlie	Peterson, Kendra
Bruno, Frank	Jackson, Tina	Troxler, David
Butler, Donna	Ljung, Lisa	Volner, Machel
Collis, Linda	Martinez, Ed	White, Pat
Garrison, Dawn	Mecham, Clint	Winhoven, Holly
Greenberg, Warren	Needham, Don	
Henderson, Kayla	Nolan, Sarah	

Mr. Frank Bruno opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and called for introductions.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Ms. Pat White reported that our bank account has \$11,439 in it.

Mr. Clint Mecham gave us an update from Volusia County Emergency Management. Holly will be leaving on the 23rd to take an Emergency Management position in Monroe County. We are in the break between our disaster seasons. We have construction going on, expanding the EOC. We hope to have it ready by June. We are in the RFP process of technology upgrades for the EOC. We have our first hurricane season meeting with weather forecasters in February. It appears that we are setting up for a mild hurricane season due to the El Nina season. Wildfire season is coming up. Holly has been updating our plan to include “no notice” events. This would provide a plane for those events, such as wildfires. The Daytona 500 is coming up, and we will be expecting high volumes of tourists in February. We are still waiting to see what is going to happen with the restructuring of FEMA. There is a parallel effort in the US House, called the Graves Bill. It is the Fixing Emergency Management Act (FEMA). It parallels closely to what the review committee is recommending. The Graves Bill will separate FEMA from DHS, and it will become a cabinet level agency. This is dramatic. It removes FEMA from the social services program and gets it back into response and out of the long-term recovery business. The long-term recovery will be handled by other agencies. There will be 1 application to apply to all recovery programs. The onus will be pushed down to the state and down to the locals.

Ms. Donna DeMarsh Butler gave us an update on Transform 386. We have a total of 1820 applications, 1465 from Ian and 355 from Milton. Of the 1820 applications 995 are no longer in the program. We have done over 700 damaged assessments. As of right now 226 cases are complete. 105 are completed with construction and 121 with reimbursement. We have made 1 offer with the buyout program. The total through all of their projects are 123 million and the match is 87 million. We are identifying storm water projects and working on some multifamily housing projects.

Ms. Lisa Ljung of Red Cross long-term recovery is in the 3rd round of financial assistance for displaced families. We will be able to help 3300 families in Florida.

Ms. Linda Collis of Red Cross participated in a shelter for practice. It was a good learning lesson for the volunteers. The shelter was at First Presbyterian in New Smyrna Beach. We need more cots for the shelter.

Ms. Kayla Henderson gave a report on VIND. VIND has 1 roof and 1 mobile home being vetted for Hurricane IAN and 1 roof being vetted for Hurricane Milton. There is 1 mobile home being replaced.

Ms. Corry Brown of Community Services and VRRC gave a report of the programs available and the recent December training.

Mr. Ed Martinez of VCEM gave us an update of the plans for the expo. The expo is planned for April 18th at the Daytona International Speedway. All organizations that are a 501(c)3 are free, you get a table and 2 chairs for your organization. All departments of county and municipal government are invited to participate for free. We should have flyers soon. He showed us a layout of the area around the pavilion where we will set up. The speedway will handle traffic flow and security. We created an emergency plan for the event. Ed will be the point of contact. We need a system for vendor registration and sponsors. The county PIO is reviewing all documents. We will not have a registration table for the public. There will have a table for tickets for drawings. We signed the contracts with the speedway. We cannot have sponsors that compete with the speedway's sponsors. There will be guest speakers.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 AM.

Submitted 02/10/2026

Charlie Howell

Secretary