

***Montana Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association***

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**Search and Rescue Subcommittee**

Quarterly Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, October 4, 2022

**Time:** 10 am – 12 pm

**In-person:** Fort Harrison, HAFRC, Room 113

**Remote:** Microsoft Teams meeting

**DRAFT MINTUES**

**Meeting Follow-up Action Items**

* DES add the survey123 links to the Search and Rescue Reimbursement section on the DES SAR webpage (DES)
* SAR Teams submit Training and Mission Reimbursement Requests (all teams)
* Explore statutory language for a volunteer SAR member retirement pension plan (Tim and Nanette)

**Attendees**

*Scott Secor (Chair), Gallatin County SAR*

*Erin Metzger, Gallatin County SAR*

*Nanette Gilbertson, MSPOA*

*Jake Ganieany, DES*

*Stacey Bradley, DES*

*Tim Weisenburger, DES*

*Charlie Gorman, DES*

*Tim Jurgonski, Madison County SAR*

*Kevin Wright, Lewis and Clark County SAR*

*Bill Pandis, Lewis and Clark County SAR*

*Ralph DeCunzo, Lewis and Clark County SAR*

*Kent O’Donnell, Yellowstone County SAR*

*Cory Hansen, Cascade County SAR*

*Mike McCloskey, Cascade County SAR*

*Luke LaLiberty, Elkhorn SAR*

*Burleigh Curtis, Ravalli County SAR*

*Cindy Stuper, Missoula County SAR*

*Frank Pelli, Carbon County SAR*

**Review and approve minutes from previous meeting (6-14-22)**

*Motion to approve minutes from 6-14-22 meeting. Second. Approved unanimous.*

**Old Business** (Issues previously discussed which require follow-up)

* **On-line Reimbursement**

*On-line form has been active since July 1 and it is working well. The form has layers of redundancy to ensure the reimbursement request is not missed or overlooked. The subcommittee voted to allow both pdf email submissions and the online survey123 submissions through June 30, 2023. Starting July 1, 2023, reimbursement requests must be submitted via online survey123.* [*mtsar.org*](https://mtsar.org/reimbursement/) *has links to the survey123 online submission form.*

*Tim Weisenburger with DES has been the point person for the survey123 platform for SAR reimbursements and his is leaving DES this week. The SAR subcommittee will have a new person to work with on survey123. Nanette Gilbertson also has access to the backend of the program, which allows the SAR subcommittee to run reports and view all reimbursements submitted via survey123.*

*DES will add links to the survey123 links to the* [*DES Search and Rescue webpage*](https://des.mt.gov/Response/)*.*

* **Review and vote on updated SAR Operating Procedures**

*New language added to Sections 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4 to provide for the on-line reimbursement submission option. That is the only change to the SAR Operating Procedures.*

*Ralph DeCunzo suggested that it would be better if the SAR Operating Procedures did not identify a specific person to whom reimbursement requests should be submitted. All agreed that it would be better not to have a specific person identified, but decided to revisit the language after July 1, 2023 when the Operating Procedures will have to be updated to reflect the online submission option via survey123 as the only way to request reimbursement.*

*Motion to approve changes to operating procedure language as written knowing we will have to update the operating procedures in July 2023. Second. Approved unanimous.*

* **SAR Standards** – Discuss timeline for evaluation, review, and revision

*The SAR subcommittee is prioritizing the organizational structure and procedures for both the subcommittee in general and specifically regarding training. Once the training component is organized and fully operational, the subcommittee can dedicate time and resources to reviewing and revising the SAR Standards.*

*Ralph DeCunzo sent the SAR standards to Chair Secor and those have been distributed. The subcommittee will determine how to move forward and the process for evaluation, review, and revision in the future.*

**New Business** (Emerging issues which require attention from the SAR Subcommittee)

* **2023 Legislative Ideas/Concerns**

*Review overall SAR financial picture (motor vehicle account, FWP, changes per HB 678), prior to requesting an additional appropriation or increase in the conservation license fee via the legislature. Currently there is more budget authority than revenue for SAR reimbursements.*

*Tim Jurgonski brought forward the issue of a pension benefit for volunteer SAR members who serve in a volunteer capacity for 20 years, similar to what is available for volunteer firefighters. Nanette and Tim will coordinate and do research into the volunteer firefighter statute, benefit, and how it could be applied to volunteer SAR members.*

**SAR Financial Update**

* Funds Balance: Jake Gainieany

FWP - $64,412.55

Off-Road - $145,204.13

TOTAL: $209,616.55

* Payout Review: Jake Gainieany

*Written documentation provided by DES.*

* Funds Flowchart: Jake Gainieany

*Stacy will draft a visual of how the funds flow to ensure all subcommittee members understand the funding mechanisms, percentages, etc.*

* Conservation License Update

*Request additional information from FWP to ensure the subcommittee has accurate numbers for the total number of conservation licenses sold and the total number of people who opted out.*

**Training**

* **SAR Training and Funding Procedures**

*Chair Secor provided an overview of the SAR subcommittee training concept, plan, and procedures. The purpose is to replace the annual Rendezvous with on-going, quarterly training covering core SAR topics and provided by reputable and qualified instructors. The trainings will be hosted by local SAR teams in geographically diverse areas of the state. If teams need monetary assistance, MSPOA has a mechanism to assist.*

*Teams hosting training are encouraged to provide seats for outside SAR teams and share training information via the SAR email list serve (email Secor details) and* [*mtsar.org training page*](https://mtsar.org/training/)*.*

*Secor and MSPOA offered to assist with training forms, logistics, etc.*

*Motion to approve the SAR Subcommittee training operating procedures. Second. Approved unanimous.*

* **SAR Teams who want to host SAR training in 2023**

*Lewis and Clark County – SAR Basic. Date TBD. Will likely use with ERI/Stoffle.*

*Cascade County – Managing the Inland Search. May. Instructor TBD.*

*Madison County – Tentative. Details forthcoming if Madison County SAR is able to host a training.*

*Gallatin – Tentative. Details forthcoming if Gallatin County SAR is able to host a training.*

* **Upcoming training opportunities**

*Cascade County SAR – Wilderness First Aid – November 5 and 6. Contact Cory Hansen (*[*ccmpsar17@gmail.com*](mailto:ccmpsar17@gmail.com)*)*

*Cascade County SAR – Ice Rescue – February 11 and 12 (Tentative). Contact Cory Hansen (*[*ccmpsar17@gmail.com*](mailto:ccmpsar17@gmail.com)*)*

* **SAR Website** --- <https://mtsar.org/>

*Check the website for meeting information, training information, and to access reimbursement forms.*

**Resource List**

* Updated Lists Provided via Email

**Reimbursement Requests**

* As of 7-1-22 Federal Mileage Reimbursement Rate = $.625

*For maximum reimbursement benefit, use the most current federal mileage reimbursement rates.*

* Submission Time Frame: 90 days after mission and training

*Operating procedures stipulate reimbursement requests must be submitted 90 days after the training or mission has taken place. Please adhere to that procedure to ensure the subcommittee is current with reimbursement requests throughout the year and at each quarterly meeting.*

* **Mission**
  + Cascade County

June 17, 2022

Total = $305.03

Reimbursement Purpose = Mileage

*4 individuals (2 men and 2 women) were swept down and across Belt Creek in the Sluice Boxes State Park. They were unable to return to the bank side of the Creek due to one of them having an injury. The above units responded, after a medical assessment was done on one of the females. They were then walked out of the area by SAR units, cleared medically by Belt ambulance and then all cleared the scene.*

*Motion to approve the Cascade County Mission SAR Reimbursement for $305.03 with funding authorized by State DES utilizing the appropriate fund source. Second. Approved unanimous.*

* Cascade County

June 18, 2022

Total = $209.84

Reimbursement Purpose = Mileage

*CCSO receives a call for medical assistance for an injured hiker that had collapsed, was disoriented and vomiting. SAR, Belt Fire and Ambulance responded to the Upper parking lot at the Sluice Box State Park, 266 Evans-Riceville Rd. Medical personnel had located the individual prior to SAR's, BVFD and CCSO arrival and began treatment. Upon manpower and litters arrival, the victim who was non-ambulatory earlier elected to walk out under her own power under close supervision of responders to BVFD "UTV" for transportation to the awaiting BV ambulance. SAR and medical personnel were transported to the IC and released to return to quarters.*

*Motion to approve the Cascade County Mission SAR Reimbursement for $209. 84 with funding authorized by State DES utilizing the appropriate fund source. Second. Approved unanimous.*

* Cascade County

July 2, 2022

Total = $446.92

Reimbursement Purpose = Mileage

*Missing fisherman rolled RZR down a steep hillside and spent the night by RZR. 4 deputies were dispatched to assist 4 Search and Rescue units. Male located.*

*Motion to approve the Cascade County Mission SAR Reimbursement for $446.92 with funding authorized by State DES utilizing the appropriate fund source. Second. Approved unanimous.*

* Gallatin County

August 16, 2022

Total = $9,045.00

Reimbursement Purpose = Helicopter

*On August 16, 2022, at 10:39 am, Gallatin County Dispatch received a call that a rock climber had fallen approximately 100 feet and sustained severe injuries near Bear Basin in Big Sky. The reporting party was with the patient and advised they were on a small ledge about 300 feet up from the bottom. Gallatin County Sheriff Search and Rescue Big Sky Section, the SAR Heli Team, Big Sky Fire Department, and Life Flight responded to assist with the call. Big Sky Section ground teams deployed on foot to the patient with ropes and rigging gear while the Heli Team deployed from the Valley. After conducting a recon flight, two members of the Heli Team were flown to the patient where they were able to perform a medical assessment. The patient was packaged and short hauled to an awaiting medical unit. The patient was transferred to a Life Flight helicopter and flown to Bozeman Health for further medical care.*

*Motion to approve the Gallatin County Mission SAR Reimbursement for $9,045.00 with funding authorized by State DES utilizing the appropriate fund source. Second. Approved unanimous.*

* Lincoln County (DTSAR)

May 8, 2022

Total = $150.94

Reimbursement Purpose = Mileage

*Kayaker in trouble on the Yaak River. Subject was floating alongside the kayak. Helicopter, boats, and SAR teams searched for the subject. At 1532, subject was spotted and recovered (deceased).*

*Motion to approve the Lincoln County Mission SAR Reimbursement for $150.94 with funding authorized by State DES utilizing the appropriate fund source. Second. Approved unanimous.*

* Lincoln County (DTSAR)

May 24, 2022

Total = $46.75

Reimbursement Purpose = Mileage

*Called to assist a subject at the Kilbrenan Lake area. Subject needed help getting across the lake. FWP was also on scene and assisted the subject across the lake.*

*Motion to approve the Lincoln County Mission SAR Reimbursement for $46.75 with funding authorized by State DES utilizing the appropriate fund source. Second. Approved unanimous.*

* Lincoln County (DTSAR)

June 3, 2022

Total = $329.04

Reimbursement Purpose = Mileage

*3-day search event for a missing child in the Bull Lake area. 21 DTSAR members, boat, vehicles, Lincoln County SO, Flathead County SO, Drone Resources, Libby and Bull Lake fire, National Guard Helicopter, K-9 units, and civilian walkers were all part of the search effort. Lost subject found on June 5, 2022 (day 3).*

*Motion to approve the Lincoln County Mission SAR Reimbursement for $329.04 with funding authorized by State DES utilizing the appropriate fund source. Second. Approved unanimous.*

* Lincoln County (DTSAR)

July 12, 2022

Total = $328.35

Reimbursement Purpose = Mileage

*On July 12, DTSAR was called out for assistance in looking for a missing male subject. 4 DTSAR members went and located the missing subject’s camp and vehicle, but not the male subject. On July 16, 9 DTSAR members searched the area around the missing subject’s camp. On July 20, DTSAR members continued searching for the missing subject. Search continued on July 23 with a K-9 unit and Lincoln County SO member. On July 24 the missing male subject was located (deceased) and recovered.*

*Motion to approve the Lincoln County Mission SAR Reimbursement for $328.35 with funding authorized by State DES utilizing the appropriate fund source. Second. Approved unanimous.*

* **Training**
* Powell County

May 21, 2022

Total = $837.36

*Members were trained on basic and advanced life saving measures in the wilderness. Training ranged from uses of saline spray to hard and soft splints. Training provided by Montana Health and Safety.*

*Motion to approve the Powell County Mission SAR Reimbursement for $837.36 with funding authorized by State DES utilizing the appropriate fund source. Second. Approved unanimous.*

* **Equipment**

*None at this time. All equipment reimbursement requests will be considered toward the end of the state fiscal year (May/June).*

**Open Comment**

* Volunteer SAR Retirement

*Added notes regarding this discussion under legislative issues.*

**Next Meeting**

* Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Location TBD