



Montana Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association
PO Box 794 • Helena, MT 59624 • (406) 443-5669 • www.mspsoa.org

Search and Rescue Subcommittee

Quarterly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024
Time: 10 am – 12 pm
In-person: Fort Harrison, HAFRC, Room 113
Remote: Via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

Introductions *Matt Boxmeyer (Chair); Scott Van Dyken (Vice Chair); Nanette Gilbertson (MSPOA); Jake Ganieany (DES)*

Attendees

Matt Boxmeyer, Chair – Gallatin County SO SAR
Jason Revisky – Gallatin County SO SAR
Landon Kotesky – Cascade County SAR
Kevin Wright – Lewis and Clark County SAR
Luke LaLiberty – Jefferson County/Elkhorn SAR
Corey Hansen – Cascade County SAR
Tyler Haffner – Cascade County SAR
Duncan Hedges – Madison County SAR
Ty Williams – Stillwater County SAR
Gary Burke – Yellowstone County SAR
Tom Curtis – Lake County SAR
David Welch – Madison County/Ruby Valley SAR
Amy Parks – Mineral County DES Coordinator
Burleigh Curtis – Ravalli County SAR
Tim Jurgonski – Madison County SAR
Tyler Padilla – Toole County SAR
Jon Trapp – Carbon County SAR
Frank Pelli – Carbon County/Red Lodge SAR
Brad Belke – Butte Silver Bow County/15-90 SAR
Stacy Bradley – Lewis and Clark County SAR
Cindy Super – Missoula County SAR
Jason Jarrett – Gallatin Co/MSPOA Mutual Aid
Nanette Gilbertson – MSPOA
Scott Secor – MSPOA
Krystal McQueen – DES

Review and approve minutes from previous meeting (10-10-23)

Motion: Approve the minutes from the October 10, 2023 meeting as distributed via email. Second. Passed unanimous.

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

➤ RTP Funds

Grant process is now open and each individual Sheriff's Office and SAR Team need to determine if they have a project that would fit the grant criteria.

Grant Information and Application: [Recreational Trails Program Grants | Montana FWP \(mt.gov\)](#)

*Grant Applications are due no later than **January 15**.*

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

➤ New Federal Mileage Rate Effective January 1, 2024: \$0.67/mile

SAR Financial Update

➤ Funds Balance

- *See attached financial update*
- *The SFY 2024 total appropriation is \$132,154, with just over \$110,000 remaining for the state fiscal year*
- *It is possible for the state to request additional spending authority, but it is not a guarantee. The committee should plan to expend all of the current appropriation, but not count on additional authority at the end of the year.*
- *Gilbertson reminded teams that mission reimbursement requests would be evaluated and voted on at each quarterly meeting throughout the year, but that training and equipment reimbursement requests would be evaluated and voted on at the last meeting of the state fiscal year, which will take place on June 11, 2024.*
- *Tom Curtis inquired about a Lake County Equipment Reimbursement request. Gilbertson reported that all requests submitted via Survey123 have been recorded and according to the records, there is not a request from Lake County for equipment. Curtis and Gilbertson will work together to figure out if there is a glitch with the system.*

➤ MSPOA Training Fund Balance

- *\$18,376.08*
- *Available to assist with training expenses on the front end*
- *Expectation is that the team submits for reimbursement via DES once training is complete and that MSPOA is reimbursed*

Training

➤ 2023/2024 Trainings

- *The following trainings are tentatively planned/scheduled. When additional details are available (such as exact date, location, prerequisite training, # of seats available for outside teams), the information will be shared via the SAR email list and the SAR web page:*
 - *Cascade County SAR – Ice Rescue – Likely February*
 - *Cascade County SAR – Swiftwater Rescue – June. Exact Date TBD*

- Gallatin County SAR – Basic Inland Search Management – April. Exact Date TBD
- Lake County SAR – Basic SAR – Date TBD
- Lewis and Clark County SAR – Lost Person Behavior – Date TBD
- Lewis and Clark County SAR – Basic SAR – Date TBD
- Lewis and Clark County SAR – Wilderness First Responder Course – Date TBD
- Missoula Co – Swift water in the Spring (Basic and Advanced)

Resource List

- Updated Lists Provided via Email
 - *Review list and send updates to Chair Boxmeyer. The list will be updated on a regular basis and distributed to SAR team contacts to ensure all teams have current contact information for other teams in the state.*
 - *If you change emails, update Chair Boxmeyer.*

Reimbursement Requests

- Reimbursement Submission Deadlines
 - *Submit Mission Reimbursement Requests within 90 days of the mission, when possible, to assist with record keeping, balance tracking, etc.*
 - **Monday, June 3, 2024 – Must submit all SFY'24 Training and Equipment Reimbursement Requests**
 - *Chair Boxmeyer reminded subcommittee members that all spending requests are on a reimbursement basis and that teams should not count on the funding, especially for training and equipment requests because there is no guarantee that requests will be approved and/or that there will be enough money to fund all requests at 100%.*
 - *Secor informed the subcommittee members that all reimbursement requests come via the online Survey123 platform and are reviewed for accuracy and documentation and are corrected, if need be, prior to being placed on the agenda. All requests and appropriate documentation are housed in the online platform.*

➤ Mission

→ Dawson County SO SAR

June 30, 2023 - October 2, 2023

Total = \$1,401.50

Reimbursement Purpose = Fuel (Boat and Air)

Resources: *Jamie Chamberlin use of jet boat (Gallons of fuel), Craig Hostetler pilot (fuel),*

Narrative: *Renee Arcand reported missing on 6-30-23 to Dawson County Sheriff's Office.*

Believed to have drowned in Yellowstone River. Land, air, water patrols were initiated in earnest along with drones and canine units. Various ongoing searches have been conducted all summer and fall. We are now in a pause for our search efforts

Resolution: *As of 9-1-23 still looking on river twice/week boat patrols; once/week air patrol.*

As of 10-8-23 Renee Arcand still missing and search efforts have been paused.

➤ **Mission**

→ Roosevelt County SO SAR

August 26, 2023

Total = \$6,138.67

Reimbursement Purpose = Food, lodging

Resources: Below is a list of the Counties with number of people that was deployed. Rosebud County (1), Valley County Air (1), Fort Peck Tribes (2), Park County (2), Badlands Search and Rescue (4), Lewis & Clark County (7) & Lewis and Clark Helicopter (1), Stillwater County (3), Gallatin County (1).

Narrative: Locate missing adult male.

Resolution: Located body-deceased.

➤ **Mission**

→ Valley County SO SAR

August 12, 2023

Total = \$87.55

Reimbursement Purpose = Fuel (Boat and Air)

Resources: Lake Boat, SAR Volunteers, SAR Deputy

Narrative: On Saturday, August 12, 2023, At 18:08 hours Valley County Dispatch received a call from boaters on Fort Peck lake that were lost. This occurred during a storm that made navigation on the lake nearly impossible with wave size, wind, hail, rain. This couple had never been on the lake before and they did not have any navigation instruments to assist. They called 911 requesting help. We were able to determine their location with the 911 mapping system and SAR was activated by Sheriff Boyer. The SAFE boat was launched and proceeded to the last location where the boaters had been pushed by the wind and waves to the shoreline. The boat was beached and anchored. SAR arrived, at approximately 20:06, and the two adults were escorted back to the marina in the SAFE boat. Their watercraft was left on shore and would be retrieved the next day at their expense. They arrived back to the marina at 21:10. The mission was complete when the boat was refueled at 22:20 and returned to the barn.

Resolution: Members of SAR retrieved the lost boaters and transported them through the storm back to the Fort Peck Marina without incident. Deputy transported on land to their campsite. Lost boaters retrieved their water vessel the next day.

→ Cascade County SO -- CCMPSAR

November 27, 2023

Total = \$199.13

Reimbursement Purpose = Mileage

Resources: CCMPSAR (5), CCSO Deputies 17 and 34, Great Falls Fire Rescue (3), and Memorial Ambulance

Narrative: On November 27, 2023 at 1145 hrs, the Cascade County Sheriff's Office was summoned for mutual aid to the Kershaw, MT Grain Elevator for a male who passed away and fell inside a large grain bin on a catwalk and made it impossible for other employees to access him. CCMPSAR was requested and responded along with 2 CCSO Deputies, to assist.

Rescuers were able to descend to get the decedent out of the grain elevator.

Resolution: *The Occurrence of this was that a grain elevator employee was atop of one of the extremely large grain bins when he fell inside the grain bin and onto a catwalk inside. The decedent fell against the catwalk door which did not allow anyone access to him. Hence, that is one of the reasons our CCMPSAR was called to assist with the high angle rescue to lift him out and off the grain elevator.*

→ Butte Silver Bow County SO – 15-90 SAR

December 3, 2023

Total = \$1,331.05

Reimbursement Purpose = Mileage

Resources: *29 Units in 20 vehicles with 5 atv/utvs.*

Narrative: *After approximately 6 hours of searching the Camp Creek/ Soap Gulch/ Trapper Creek areas the family received a phone call that the 2 missing trappers has been picked up in the Gibbons Pass area, 80 miles from the area the Unit had been guaranteed they were trapping/hunting in.*

Resolution: *The 2 missing trappers were found in good condition in the Gibbons Pass area, 80 miles from the area the Unit had been guaranteed they were trapping/hunting in.*

Motion: Approve all of the above SAR Mission Reimbursement Requests, for a total of \$9,157.90, with funding authorized by State DES (Hansen). Second (LaLiberty). Approved unanimous.

➤ **Training**

See addendum for SFY24 Training Reimbursement Requests. Training reimbursement requests can be submitted throughout the year, but will not be evaluated and voted on until the final meeting of the state fiscal year.

➤ **Equipment**

See addendum for SFY24 Equipment Reimbursement Requests. Equipment reimbursement requests can be submitted throughout the year, but will not be evaluated and voted on until the final meeting of the state fiscal year.

Open Comment/Public Comment

- *Tom Curtis: Scope of Practice for Medical Response in SAR Teams. If teams are going to go with a licenses position, such as EMT, the licensure and training can be expensive and onerous. Lake County has developed an accepted scope of practice that details what medical procedures teams can and cannot perform. Need to ensure voluntary SAR members are not providing services outside their scope of practice. MT Department of Labor and Industry regulate emergency medicine scope of practice. Certain criteria for “emergency medical responder” which has licensure requirements as well as liability protections.*
- *State of MT does establish certification levels for certain emergency medicine practitioners (EMR, EMT, paramedic) and people must perform duties ONLY within their scope of practice and within licensure.*
- *There is a way to deliver medical care through simple certifications that do not require a medical director on the team.*

- ***Put on old business for a full discussion (and perhaps presentation) for the April meeting. All SAR teams are not created the same nor do they have the same resources. Some teams have certified medical responders and others do not.***
- *Jurgonski: Madison County working on licensure for some SAR/EMT members who are responding to SAR calls.*
- *Tom Curtis – This is an important discussion for SAR teams. Lake County will have a document to guide medical procedures SAR team members are able to perform until they can be handed off to advanced medical care.*
- *Burleigh Curtis – Ravalli County is using a non-transporting license from the state, which was not an overly difficult process and solved the issue for the team in Ravalli County.*
- *JJ: What is the decision point for this subcommittee?*
- *Gilbertson: There really is not one. The purpose of the discussion is to ensure teams to learn from each other and share information. This subcommittee does not have the authority to establish any criteria or mandate any certain/specific level of care or licensure for SAR Teams.*
- *Jon Trapp: Carbon County has a robust medical team. For new members they provide baseline medical training via a wilderness first responder class or a wilderness first aid class and the team members are required to bring back the knowledge to the team. It is not a licensure, but is based on a national standard. Also require basic first aid and CPR for all team members. Hold a wilderness first aid course once per year for SAR members.*

Next Meetings

- Tuesday, April 9, 2024
- Tuesday, June 11, 2024

State Fiscal Year 2024 Training and Equipment Reimbursement Requests

Requests can be submitted throughout the year, but will be evaluated and voted on at the last meeting of the state fiscal year.

1st Quarter Reimbursement Requests

➤ **Training**

➔ Butte-Silver Bow County – 15-90 SAR

July 8, 2023

Total = \$ 365.88

Training Type: *Montana Rescue Training, Emergency first aid and packaging and Helicopter extrication*

Description: *25 members responded to Highland Mountains July 8th, 2023. Where 4 victims in moulage were located by ELT and drone. Victims treated and packaged and transported to LZ, picked up 1 victim by LifeFlight. Training dealt with plane location by ELT, triage, treatment, triage, transport and helicopter procedures.*

Training Provided By: *In-House & Lifeflight*

➔ Butte-Silver Bow County – 15-90 SAR

September 15, 2023

Total = \$1,200.00

Training Type: *Emergency Medical Technician*

Description: *EMT training for member with teaching experience. The course is 13 weeks long, approx. 150 hours for Basic certification. In 4th week of course now.*

Training Provided By: *Whiteline Training*

Total Training Reimbursement Request for Q1: \$1565.88

➤ **Equipment**

None to date

2nd Quarter Reimbursement Requests

➤ **Training**

➔ Stillwater County – Stillwater County SAR

September 30, 2023

Total = \$4,740.00

Training Type: *Swiftwater Tech Training*

Description: *Training for 12 Stillwater SAR members to become certified swift water technicians. The class was taught by WRI out of Missoula. The training was opened to local fire departments, along with Sweetgrass County SAR and Carbon County SAR.*

Training Provided By: *WRI*

Total Training Reimbursement Request for Q2:

\$4740.00

Total Training Reimbursement Request for FY '24:

\$6305.88

➤ **Equipment**

None to date

FINANCIAL UPDATE – 12-28-23

As of today, the cash balance in 02170 is \$233,830.16.

Amount	Business Unit		
Acct Lv	Account	52010	67010 Total
10000 Assets		210,428.25	23,401.91
	1104 Cash In Bank	211,179.00	23,401.91
	1203A Acct Rec Ext - Non Open Item	(750.75)	(750.75)
20000 Liabilities		0.00	0.00
	2107 Vouchers Payable	0.00	0.00
40000 Fund Equity		686.25	(7,953.43)
	4130 Fund Balance - Committed	686.25	(7,953.43)
50000 Revenues		(211,114.50)	(41,058.06)
	501509 OHV Temporary Use Permits	(7,338.00)	(7,338.00)
	502015 License Dealer Receipts	(1.50)	(1.50)
	502505 Winter Trail Pass	(617.00)	(617.00)
	581432 Donations	(203,158.00)	(203,158.00)
	582800 Transfers In-General		(41,058.06)
60000 Expenditures			25,609.58
	66156 Special Projects		25,609.58
Total		0.00	0.00

There is still \$16,215.42 cash in 02156 (the fund that is now gone) and I’m working with FWP to hopefully get to keep that cash. But, for now, only go with what’s in 02170 above.

The SFY 2024 total appropriation is \$132,154 (current balance available is \$111,281.07). I don’t know that we’ll be able to get additional appropriation so this will need to be accounted for when deciding how much to spend.

Let me know if any questions stem from this information! I will be on vacation January 5-12, but happy to answer any questions before then. My cell number is in my signature below, so feel free to call any time.

Thanks!
Janae

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