



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, September 10, 2024
Time: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
In-person: Gallatin County Sheriff's Office @ Four Corners • Bozeman, MT
Remote: Via Zoom

MINUTES

Introductions *Matt Boxmeyer (Chair); Brent Colbert (Vice Chair); Nanette Gilbertson (MSPOA); Jake Ganieany (DES)*

In-person

Matt Boxmeyer, Chair, Gallatin County SO SAR
Tim Jurgonski, Madison County SAR
Jason Jarrett, Gallatin County
Jason Reviski, Gallatin County SO SAR
Jake Ganieany, DES
Krystal McQueen, DES
Scott Secor, MSPOA
Nanette Gilbertson, MSPOA

Zoom

Brad Belke, Butte Silver Bow County – 1590 SAR
Frank Finnegan, Butte Silver Bow County – 1590 SAR
Gary Burke, Yellowstone County SAR
Thomas Curtis, Lake County SAR
Burleigh Curtis, Ravalli County SAR
Frank Pelli, Carbon County SAR
Ty Williams, Stillwater County SAR
Corey Hanson, Cascade County SAR
Anthony Jenson, Lincoln County SAR
Stacy Bradley, Lewis and Clark County SAR
Mike LaBeaty, Park County SAR
Luke LaLiberty, Jefferson County – Elkhorn SAR
Kolby Maleisch, Beaverhead County SAR
Ellie Cosgrove, Missoula County SAR

Review and approve minutes from previous meeting (6-11-24)

Motion: Approve the Search and Rescue Subcommittee minutes from the June 11, 2024 meeting as distributed via email (Jurgonski). Second (Malesich). Passed unanimous.

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

➤ OSHA Rule

Nanette provided a brief overview of the OSHA rules which would likely negatively impact rural states with volunteer SAR units which are not part of paid fire departments and which conduct the majority of their operations/rescues/missions in the wilderness vs. an urban setting.

MSPOA submitted a letter to the federal register in opposition to the proposed rule. Cc'd Senator Tester and Senator Daines with a request for assistance. Senator Daines submitted a letter to OSHA as well and his policy advisors continue to work on the issue. The Western States Sheriffs Association as well as many other rural states submitted letters. Below are documents which will provide additional information. Based on the September 17 OSHA statement, it appears they are reevaluating the rule and the impact to volunteer based SAR units and will be seeking additional feedback from impacted stakeholders.

- [OSHA Rule](#)
- *September 17, 2024 OSHA Statement (attached)*
- *Western States Sheriffs Association Letter (attached)*
- *MSPOA Letter (attached)*
- *Senator Daines OSHA Letter (attached)*

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

➤ None

SAR Financial Update

➤ Funds Balance (as of 8-7-24)

- *HB2 authority (840H5) - \$132,154*
- *CF authority (840F3) - \$36,183*
- ***Total SFY25 authority - \$168,337***
- ***Cash Balance: \$268,213.02***

➤ Number of FWP Conservation Licenses Sold in SFY24 (07/01/2023 – 06/30/2024)

- *Resident: 318,733*
- *Nonresident: 285,580*
- *W/ Search and Rescue: 455,285 (254,061 resident, 201,221 nonresident)*
- *W/O Search and Rescue: 149,028 (64,672 resident, 84,356 nonresident)*
- *Overall total: 604,313*

➤ EPP Update/Legislative Ask

- *Nanette will talk to subcommittee members about appetite for additional authority and follow-up with SAR subcommittee.*

➤ *Chair Boxmeyer encouraged SAR units to continue submitting reimbursement requests because it shows the need across the state. Additionally, the SAR subcommittee will track mutual aid assistance to ensure there is an accurate representation of where the resources are utilized.*

Training

- 2024/2025 SAR Trainings Needs
 - *Stillwater SAR asked if there was statewide interest in Jet Boat Operator & Paddle Board Operator Training. Ty Williams said they are aiming for Spring 2025 for the training.*
 - *YES! Lot of interest from other SAR teams.*
 - *Ty will share training information once details are confirmed.*
 - *Cascade County SAR is hosting an Aerie Wilderness First Aid course November 8-10*
 - *Reach out to Corey Hansen if you are interested: ccmpsar17@gmail.com*
 - *Gallatin County SO SAR will be hosting a Managing Inland Search Course in the Fall of 2024*
 - *Contact Matt Boxmeyer if you are interested and want more details: Matt.Boxmeyer@gallatin.mt.gov*
 - *Flathead County conducts K9 training throughout the year for both cadaver and live person dogs*
 - *Nanette will ask if the training is open to other SAR teams*

Resource List

- Updated Lists Provided via Email
 - Review and send updates to Chair Boxmeyer
 - If you are not getting SAR subcommittee emails, let Matt know

Reimbursement Requests

- SFY25 Training and Equipment Reimbursement Requests
 - *Submit by June 2, 2025*
 - *Can submit throughout the year, but the deadline is June 2*
 - *Will be approved at final meeting of the SFY (June 10)*
- Documentation
 - *Provide appropriate documentation to include the following:*
 - *Make sure scanned documents are legible*
 - *Roll-up of mileage, fuel, food/beverage/equipment receipts, etc. (see attached excel document)*
 - *Reimbursement for vehicles is based on the federal mileage rate and reimbursed on a per mile basis, which DOES NOT require fuel receipts.*
 - *Reimbursement for fuel for boats, side by sides, four wheelers, snowmobiles, etc. is based on actual costs and DOES require fuel receipts.*
 - *For training reimbursement requests, please include the total number of attendees in the narrative.*
- Reimbursement Submission Deadlines
 - *Submit Mission Reimbursement Requests within 90 days of the mission, when possible, to assist with record keeping, balance tracking, etc.*

➤ **Mission**

→ **Stillwater County SAR**

July 3, 2024

Total = \$332.19

Reimbursement Purpose = Fuel

Resources: 2 jetboats, 9 swift water techs, 1 K-9, 1 Helicopter

Narrative: On July 3, 2024, Columbus Police Department entered a subject as a missing person who was last seen at a camp ground on the banks of the Yellowstone River. A suicide note was located stating the missing person was going to jump into the river. Searches of the river, via jetboats, helicopter and K-9 were conducted intermittently over the course of the following week. The missing person was located safe and alive on July 10 in Oregon.

Resolution: Missing person was located in Oregon.

Motion to approve the Stillwater County SAR Mission Reimbursement for \$332.19 with funding authorized by State DES (Jurgonski). Second (Hansen). Passed unanimous.

→ **Lake County SAR**

July 3, 2024

Total = \$192.45

Reimbursement Purpose = Fuel

Resources: Lake County SAR Boat - 6 days two 6-hour shifts, 4 crewmembers per shift; Lake Co Sheriff Boat - 6 days on water; Flathead County Sheriff Boat and Dive Team; Missoula County Dive Team; Kootenai County Idaho Boat and Underwater Drone

Narrative: Person was fishing alone from his boat when he fell into the water while the boat was still under power. He attempted to swim after the boat while yelling for help. Someone on shore heard his cries for help and called 911 while another person got in a kayak and tried to get to him. the rescue from the bystander was unsuccessful and they lost sight of Chad. We spent the next six day searching the area before we located his body and he was recovered.

Resolution: His body was found using an underwater drone by a SAR member while on the Lake County Sheriff's boat. Missoula County Dive Team was called in to do the recovery.

Motion to approve the Lake County SAR Mission Reimbursement for \$192.45 with funding authorized by State DES (Jurgonski). Second (Hansen). Passed unanimous.

→ **Dawson County**

July 14, 2024

Total = \$680.79

Reimbursement Purpose = Vehicle Mileage, Hotel, Meals

Resources: Rob Key came from Cascade County with his cadaver dog and searched the Yellowstone Elk Island for our missing female Renee Arcand.

Narrative: Missing female from last year still hasn't been found. Someone reported a smell on Elk Island in the Yellowstone. Had a cadaver dog from Cascade County perform a search. No alerts. Reimbursement request is for this dog to come to Dawson County. The round-trip mileage for Robert Key from Great Falls to Glendive was 769 miles at .67/mile in addition to one-night hotel, and meals. Dawson County has reimbursed Mr. Key so this reimbursement comes to Dawson County.

Resolution: Searched on Sunday July 14, 2024 and had no luck.

Motion to approve the Dawson County SAR Mission Reimbursement for \$680.79 with funding authorized by State DES (Jurgonski). Second (Hansen). Passed unanimous.

→ **Lincoln County - DTSAR**

July 23, 2024

Total = \$200.59

Reimbursement Purpose = Vehicle Mileage and Boat Fuel

Resources: DTSAR K9 Team; DTSAR Boat Crew

Narrative: On 7/23/24, a DTSAR K9 team was requested to respond to Hungry Horse Reservoir to assist with an on-going search for a missing paddleboarder. A DTSAR K9 team and boat crew responded and assisted with the search.

Resolution: Missing paddleboarder is still missing.

Motion to approve the Lincoln County DTSAR Mission Reimbursement for \$200.59 with funding authorized by State DES (Jurgonski). Second (Hansen). Passed unanimous.

Open Comment/Public Comment

Nanette reviewed the reimbursement roll-up document and reimbursement process. The roll-up tracks all mission, training, and equipment requests and itemizes how much is requested and how much is approved. Provides documentation showing how much has been requested per quarter and helps track reimbursement requests throughout the year. Added new information to the tracking sheet for SFY 25: columns to indicate if the request is part of mutual aid assistance and columns identifying the SAR and Sheriffs' Office point of contact, which will make issuing the reimbursements easier for DES.

Nanette also reviewed the process by which requests are checked prior to being added to the agenda for the next quarterly meeting. All requests are reviewed for accuracy and proper documentation. The goal is to ensure all information is accurate, all expenses are appropriate, and teams are getting maximum reimbursement.

Next Meetings – Mark Your Calendars

- Tuesday, January 7, 2025
- Tuesday, April 8, 2025
- Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Financial Report

Per DES

Cash balance: \$268,213.02

Approp balance: \$168,337

Amount		Business Unit		
Acct Lvl 0	Account	52010	67010	Total
10000 Assets		28,012.00	240,201.02	268,213.02
	1104 Cash In Bank	28,725.75	240,201.02	268,926.77
	1203A Acct Rec Ext - Non Open Item	(713.75)		(713.75)
20000 Liabilities		0.00	0.00	0.00
	2107 Vouchers Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00
40000 Fund Equity		753.75	(237,031.79)	(236,278.04)
	4130 Fund Balance - Committed	753.75	(237,031.79)	(236,278.04)
50000 Revenues		(28,765.75)	(3,169.23)	(31,934.98)
	501509 OHV Temporary Use Permits	(3,276.00)		(3,276.00)
	502505 Winter Trail Pass	(1.50)		(1.50)
	581432 Donations	(25,488.25)		(25,488.25)
	582800 Transfers In-General		(3,169.23)	(3,169.23)
Total		0.00	0.00	0.00

Journal Detail

**Journal ID: 0005023978 Journal Date: 06/30/2024 Source: IU Budget Status: N Journal Status: N
Description: FY2024 (15-1-122 MCA) DMA Vete**

Line	Error	Unit	Ledger	Account	Fund	Org	Program	Sub-Class	Amount	Journal Line Description	Budget Period	Statistic Amount
1		00000	ACTUALS	00051	01100	110105	2024	500V1	20,258.47	VET CEMETERY		0.00
2		00000	ACTUALS	00051	01100	110105	2024	500V1	00,947.32	VET SERVICE		0.00
3		00000	ACTUALS	00051	01100	110105	2024	500V1	5,684.24	SEARCH & RESCUE		0.00

562000	
DOC#	
OS APPROVAL	
AMOUNT	\$5,684.24
FUND	2170
ORG	DES
SFY	2025
SUBCLASS	R02
PROJECT	SARMV
PROGRAM APPROVAL	