

# CERT Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2022

Attendance: Dan and Mary Lou Smith, Mary Wadman, Jim and Judy Brunett, Charlie Rizzo, Barry and JoAnn Campbell, Steve Watkins, Tom Briggie, John Riberio, Lowell and Karon Murphy (guests), Laura Freese.

Special Guest Speaker: Steve Park, Manatee County Emergency Services/ARES/RACES

Meeting called to order by Sharon Denson at 10:04 am.

Flag salute.

Introduction of Steve Park, MCES/ARES/RACES

A discussion was held pertaining to our recent drill. Steve Park gave us feedback regarding our drill from the perspective of Manatee County Emergency Services. He discussed the CERT Manatee County Working Group progress. There are 8 or 10 other working CERT teams in the County and they are working together on the communication issues. There is an ARES drill the second Saturday of every month. Tom participates monthly and some of our other HAM licensees participate periodically.

We had communication issues during the drill, with some zone teams unable to communicate with our team leader. This was due to inadequate broadcast area of some of our radios. Repeaters were stationed centrally in the District, but problems remained. A suggestion was made to purchase radios with a wider range.

Motion to spend up to \$700.00 for new radios passed.

Tom reported on the process to get licenses for the more powerful radios. Each Radio user must have a license. Cost \$35.00.

Sharon reported that the TE District Emergency Plan was coming along. It was suggested that TE maintenance workers should be included by us in our meeting in the days prior to an actual emergency (hurricane).

## **Other Business:**

Secretary's report approved as written.

Treasurer's report. We currently have \$690.76 in checking and \$2,344.30 in savings.

Trailer Update: Steve has installed shelves in the new trailer. Emblems have not arrived for the old trailer.

Sharon reported on the Manatee County Coalition and the Hurricane Expo yesterday.

Discussion continued regarding the drill held May 12<sup>th</sup>.

There were communication issues already noted as well as reporting errors on the part of people in the field. Wrong street names were reported for emergencies in a couple instances. Radio messages to central headquarters were not as concise and detailed as they could have been. The team members said the drill was very useful in working out bugs in our system.

Tom will purchase radios. He will notify Sharon when they arrive, and another drill will be scheduled to use the new equipment. Barry brought two radios to the meeting that he no longer needed. They were purchased by other CERT members.

**New Business:**

Laura reported that she would be out of town from May 28 to June 20.

Whitfield Estates is trying to establish a new team in that community. They are planning a community meeting in July. Members have volunteered to help them get started.

There will be a Hurricane Preparation Meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> in Trailer Estates presented by our County Commissioner, Misty Servia. She will bring other county officials as well as materials for residents to take home. CERT will furnish cookies and coffee.

Business cards were brought up. Dan reported that he still has a full box, and they can be re-ordered quickly if needed.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:55 am.