

## CATF Minutes

December 4, 2025 | 2:00 pm

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### Members in Attendance:

Krystle Baecker, Pri Bunham, Claire Christen, Zosia Eppensteiner\*, Jane Fitkin, Christy Foye, Jenn Hill\*, Brian Hummel, Robert Kulisheck, Emily Leach, Brad Neumann, Erik Powers, Chloe Ravenscraft, Cathay Ruprecht, Karen Schmitt, Greg Seppanen, Cera Shelafoe, Anna Solberg, Amy Stephens, Jes Thompson, Nico Vermaat, Darlene Walch, Abby Wallace\*, Kelsey Wermager, Johanna Worley\*

*\*Joined via Zoom*

**Guests in Attendance:** Kim LeTourneau\*, Maureen Skayhan Dutra\*

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### a. Welcome and Introductions

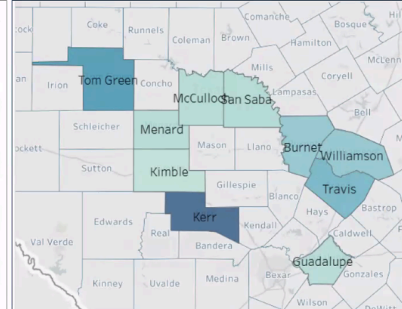
### b. Special Presentation: Maureen Skayhan Dutra, Community Disaster Program Manager for [American Red Cross](#)

- Flooding in Texas Hill Country, July 4, 2025
  - i. Texas Hill Country is prone to flooding with steep slopes, covered by shallow, rocky, soil atop extensive limestone beds, funneling down to rivers and valleys
  - ii. July 4: remnants of Tropical Storm Barry stalled over Texas Hill Country following an extended drought, causing a catastrophic flash flood
  - iii. Flooding surpassed 100-year flood thresholds within minutes; the Guadalupe River rose over 26 feet in 45 minutes, surpassing event 500-year flood expectations
  - iv. Homes along the riverbank were inundated to their rooftops, small structures and cars were carried into treetops or lodged against bridge pylons. Some roads were impassable, hampering rescue attempts and delaying medical care for the injured.
  - v. Downstream in Kerr County, other communities opened shelters as residents needed to evacuate. In Kerrville there were over 100 water rescues
  - vi. Further downstream, floodwaters spread out displacing residents from homes that never experienced flooding before
  - vii. Counties impacted: Kerr County, Kendall County, Travis County, Burnet County, Williamson County, and Tom Green County

- This map and list shows the total number of FEMA Individual Assistance applications by county.

Summary	
Total Applications	8,626
Referred for Individual Assistance	6,175
Referred for Housing Assistance	5,441
Eligible for Any Assistance	3,816
Eligible for Housing Assistance	2,594
Completed Inspections	6,064

County #	
Burnet	726
Guadalupe	175
Kerr	3,229
Kimble	18
McCulloch	200
Menard	177
San Saba	254
Tom Green	1,922
Travis	1,177
Williamson	748
Grand Total	8,626

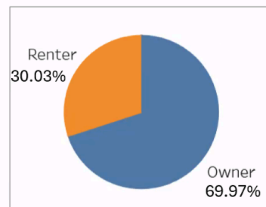


- Maureen went down specifically as housing liaison and was primarily working to find housing solutions for people, whether temporary, long term, or permanent. Below is an example of Tom Green County's residence types and how many had flood insurance.

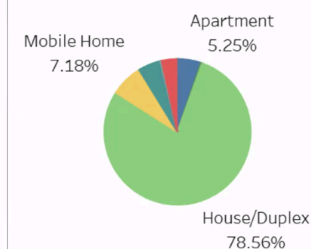
### Tom Green County

#### Flood Insurance:

- Had Flood Insurance: 3.59%
- No Flood Insurance: 96.41%



#### Residence Types:



Summary	
Total Applications	1,922
Referred for Individual Assistance	1,781
Referred for Housing Assistance	1,595
Eligible for Any Assistance	1,346
Eligible for Housing Assistance	905
Completed Inspections	1,763

- When Maureen goes in as a housing liaison, they work with volunteers working directly with those in the shelters.
- Housing Landscape: Initial Considerations
  - They consider:
    - Shelter data - number of shelters, overnight population
    - Disaster assessment, when available
    - Maps of impacted areas, when available
    - SOVI (Social Vulnerability Index) data for impacted area
      - SOVI - takes into consideration backgrounds, family makeup, ethnicity, income, etc. anything that will make it more difficult
  - They start by thinking about initial data: how many shelters are open, what's the overnight population, etc.
- Housing Landscape: Gathering Information About Local Housing Inventory
  - Number of available units through Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Voucher Program and Public Housing Authority Facilities
  - Number of unsubsidized available affordable housing units (as defined as affordable for the local market). Obtained from

[www.rent.com](http://www.rent.com), [Apartments.com](http://Apartments.com), Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, and other online searches for “Affordable Housing.” They gather information on willingness to take individuals with poor credit and eviction histories

- Number of homeless shelters including number of available spaces
- Number of group homes in the area, number of available units within group homes, and the population they serve - bi-polar disorder, schizophrenia, etc.
- Number of boarding houses in the county and the number of available rooms
- Number of retirement communities in the county and number of available units within retirement facilities
- Number of assisted living facilities in the county and number of available units, number of nursing homes in the county, and number of available beds
- Disaster impact on existing, available housing inventory
- Affordable housing projects under development
- Availability of additional non-HUD housing voucher programs
- Housing Landscape: Gathering Information About Local Supportive Housing Programs
  - Possible programs and information sources:
    - Continuum of Care(s) (CoC) or Balance of State for impacted counties
    - Local NGO (non-government organizations)homeless housing programs/shelters
    - Coalition for the Homeless Programs
    - Reentry programs for the justice involved
    - Local housing programs for underserved county populations
    - Supportive housing programs for the elderly
    - Supportive housing programs for the disabled
    - Supportive housing programs for people with mental health diagnoses
    - Department of Health and Human Services/SocialServices/Child and Family Services - inquire about supportive housing programs, i.e., Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
  - They also worked with:
    - HERAS - housing help in various counties and funnel out help to other organizations that can help.
    - Other programs and organizations: homeless organizations, etc.

- They also had a housing market that was specific to housing information on a day.
- Housing Landscape: Review demographic data for area population that is undocumented, unhoused, living at or below the poverty level
  - US Census Data: <http://data.census.gov/>
  - American Community Survey (local housing stock and comprehensive demographic data):  
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs.html>
  - Social Vulnerability Index (SOVI):  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/interactivelegend/index.html?appid=4d92395405c844a49a36eea90aa6bbfb>
  - Resiliency Analysis and Planning Tool (RAPT):  
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/0a317e8998534c30a9b2d3861c814d42/>
  - National Risk Index: <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/data-resources>
- Housing Landscape: Explore Additional Sources of Information
  - Demographic and census data from the county on unsheltered population
  - Realtors (MFA) provide information about current houses on the market for sale and available rental units
  - The Red Cross region staff (such as Regional Client Care Program Manager, Regional SRT Lead, Community Disaster Program Manager)
  - Local non-profit organizations' POCs and community groups that specialize in affordable housing and programming (such contacts often have established relationships with local stakeholders such as landlords, property managers, and developers who have knowledge and are willing to support/offer affordable housing options.
  - What was their homeless population ahead of time? Right now everywhere is full - there's less ability to absorb people in those capacities right now. Realty organizations can also assist by starting with some long-term/temporary housing. They also helped with pricing on this.
- Housing Landscape: Identify Community Partners
  - Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
  - Local continuums of care (CoC)
  - US Department of Agriculture
  - In coordination with GovOps, identify county, city, local, tribal, and state housing taskforces, coalitions, and street outreach organizations
  - In coordination with Community Engagement Partnerships (CEP), work with state VOADs and COADs

- Local non-profits, churches and faith based organized active in the affordable housing space
- Other organizations such as the county's emergency food and shelter program that support the individuals that are unsheltered
- Housing Landscape: Gather Information About Additional Possibilities
  - Research market rents vs affordability rents, how to gap the two (establish federal release of Emergency Housing Voucher to FEMA registered clients to take anywhere in the US post disaster)
  - Explore possible partnerships in the multi-family industry leaders and build out resources available after disaster
  - Work with mortgage bank industry to support mortgage subsidy to owners who turn home into disaster victim housing
  - Explore corporate lease options (or partnership with)
  - Gather information about area legal resources available for tenant displacement, mortgage foreclosures
  - The red cross also has some national partnerships which become very helpful in these situations (IE - hotel chains and airbnb)
- Tom Green County (2020 Census: 120,003 population)
  - Approximately 170 displaced residents initially put in non-congregate shelters/hotels by Tom Green County
  - Red Cross helped staff these partner-managed shelters and provided shelter resident transition support (SRT)
  - Moving from non-congregate shelters to congregate shelters
    - The Red Cross was asked to open a congregate shelter in Tom Green County
  - Cases were opened for anyone displaced to provide assistance and connect them with resources
  - For those who moved to the congregate shelter, SRT continued to be provided
  - Non-congregate shelter to congregate shelter: they made the switch and people started coming. The only people that are going to the congregate shelter are the people who REALLY need it. Generally about 10% of the population will show up at the congregate shelter.
  - Shelter-Resident Transition Support: figure out what they have that might assist them, what obstacles do they have to getting shelter? Etc. This is where Maureen came in. She engaged:
    - The Red Cross community engagement and partnerships volunteers
    - Temporary short-term and long-term housing options
    - Alternative housing solutions
    - No state or county policy in place for elevating disaster-displaced residents
    - San Angelo Housing Authority

- Alternate housing solutions: low-income people qualified for specific housing subsidies - HUD housing especially.
- Churches are also a good example of big help for local people: whether through housing, hotel assistance, food, etc.
  - Local churches and local clubs (moose, lion, eagles, etc)
  - Even people within churches helped “adopt” families and individuals and help them get back on their feet. When there are others not supporting, churches are a good system to give to those who have been impacted
- Activity is getting greater year by year: Michigan has been fairly okay so far... but trendlines are going up.
  - Resources: Red Cross is currently meeting assistance needs. There’s a certain level of what we can do when there’s a larger disaster. But generally when we come in, we’re there for so long, but the expectation is that it gets turned over to other organizations (including local and state orgs) for long-term assistance.
  - Funding Cuts: Working to change what they’re doing at the local level rather than relying entirely on federal support and help when disasters come.
- How to plan: think about what we have in place, what we need to put in place, etc. The Red Cross will always be there to help us out with it.

### c. Committee Updates

- Outreach, Emily Leach

#### Climate Health Guidebook Outreach

- i. Background Information on Guidebooks:
  1. The process for creating **Marquette Area Climate and Health Adaptation Guidebooks** ([Volume 1](#), [Volume 2](#), [Volume 3](#)) began in 2017 in conjunction between MSU Extension, CATF, and MDHHS.
  2. MDHHS learned about a community engagement project where they used visual design to show how a site may be improved - not for resiliency, but in a place-making application.
  3. Through conversations they thought they could do this with climate adaptation where communities can improve resiliency through things like design: green infrastructure / design being one example.
  4. DHHS wanted to do some pilot projects. Marquette county was one of those! Over 3 years, they had a series of community meetings and developed 3 guidebooks. The first guidebook looks at climate health concerns (did interviews and workshops in the

community). In the first guidebook they use the visual process to see what adaptations would work for our specific concerns (ie. flooding, wildfire, etc)

5. The second book gets into more specific planning and design policies to implement into local plans. The county was the study area, but CATF was the steering committee, rather than a local unit of government. This way more planning entities could adapt what applied to them.
  6. The third volume gets to implementation. It identified priority policy areas as places to start out of the second volume. The third volume details short, medium, long term actions to respond to that policy and who would be responsible for carrying that forward.
  7. We got to a point where there were 4 different action teams that were having conversations / organizing internally on implementation of this. And then the pandemic happened. The Health Department was a key partner in all of the planning, and they were under a lot of pressure during the pandemic, so they had to pivot away from these guidebooks and the work was put on pause.
- ii. Background Information on [Marquette County Climate Action Plan](#)
1. The Marquette County Action Plan passed in April - so it's ready for implementation and action! It includes a 40 year plan and wildfire protection plan. Much of the plan was taken from the above mentioned Guidebooks.
  2. The Planning Department is excited to announce that they've received a third round of MI Healthy Climate Fellows, so this individual will be helping to figure out what parts of the plan can be implemented at this point and into the future.
  3. One strategy in the plan was to update the wildfire protection plan, which was fully drafted and approved by the Planning Commission last night. The next step will have it going to the County Board for their approval. You can find it on [the website](#) (action steps start on page 80)
  4. Early projects from the CAP: E-ride electric UTV at Perkins Park in Big Bay. Purchased high efficiency water pumps for the courthouse.



- iii. After assessing the **Marquette Area Climate and Health Adaptation Guidebooks** ([Volume 1](#), [Volume 2](#), [Volume 3](#)) and the [Marquette County Climate Action Plan](#), the Outreach Committee has created a spreadsheet to track the goals and tactics of these plans and to conduct outreach to organizations who have been tasked with meeting these goals. As such, we are in the phase of figuring out the best point of contact at each organization tasked with a component of this work. This is where you all come in!
  - 1. Please take some time to look over the [first tab regarding CATF's Communication Plan](#) (thank you, Isabelle for making this!). We ask that you help us fill in contacts at the organizations listed in Column A.
  - 2. If you would be interested in being our CATF member responsible for reaching out to the designated organization, please write your name in Column E.
  - 3. Next Steps: Do NOT reach out to these organizations yet. The Outreach Committee will be creating an outreach packet that you can use to speak with these contacts. More information to come!
- Membership, Brad Neumann
  - i. We brought on members from new Marquette organizations.
    - 1. Amy Stephens works at Marquette County
    - 2. Claire Christen and Cera Selaphoe work at KBIC.
  - ii. Brad will be following up with new members regarding our [new membership packet](#) and information about meeting minutes and other information.
  - iii. The membership committee is working with Kim LeTourneau (Zonta) about possible membership.
  - iv. There are currently 2 open invitations to other individuals that have been through our initial process. We are waiting for their initial meeting.
  - v. The Membership Committee is also connecting with members who have expiring terms (with 3 year terms ending in December). Those who want to remain members of CATF have re-upped their membership.
  - vi. The Steering Committee has been engaged in entertaining bylaw tweaks that would make membership more flexible. More to come in 2026.



**d. 2026 Planning**

- Suggestions for presenters/presentation topics
  - i. With the end of CATF's Learning Circles, we had the goal of diving deeper into topics and internally learning more about some of the conversations that came out of the learning circles. So we did some professional development and shared learning around key topics. We would like to continue with the thought of having presenters join us at the top of meetings, and we'd like to hear suggestions!
  - ii. If people have contacts, ideas, thoughts, etc. Please share them with Jes.
  - iii. Ideas proposed at this meeting:
    - 1. David Allen from Brownfield Authority has agreed to present at our February meeting.
    - 2. Brian could piggy back on what Maureen discussed at today's meeting during our April meeting.
      - a. Given that last summer was another season with smoke from Canada wildfires, we could discuss the "worst place scenario" with an example location based on our new Wildfire Protection Plan. Example questions: What would happen if we had an out of control fire in a designated place? What are the steps? What should we be looking at?
- Year-End Report Request
  - i. As we close out 2025, we will be working to compile our Year-End Report. For this report, we ask that you please share summaries of the work your organization has done related to climate adaptation. [Here is an example of last year's Year-End Report](#) for reference.
  - ii. Anna will be collecting your summaries over the next month in preparation for having the final report prepared for our Q1 CATF meeting. You can submit your summary [via this Google Form](#) or send your summaries directly to [marquettecatf@gmail.com](mailto:marquettecatf@gmail.com). Thank you ahead of time for your work on this.
  - iii. Deadline: January 31, 2026
- 2026 Quarterly Meeting Dates @ 2:00 pm  
*Location yet to be determined*
  - i. Thursday, February 19
  - ii. Thursday, April 16
  - iii. Thursday, September 10
  - iv. Thursday, December 3

e. [Member Updates](#)

- We are making some updates to how we share member updates. Before each meeting, Anna will send out a link to a Google Form where each member can share updates about their organization (anything from events and wins to struggles or questions). For this meeting, we ask that you submit your updates with this [CATF Member Updates Form](#). Please do so by Sunday, December 7 so Anna can send them out with the minutes.
- We are trying this process to help us streamline meetings and stay on schedule. This link is specifically for updates that do not need larger discussion. We will still leave the “Good of the Order” section of the meeting for larger group discussion.

f. **Good of the Order**

- Darlene Walch, Marquette County Townships Association (MCTA)
  - i. There are 19 townships in Marquette County. They don’t do official business for each township, but it’s a place to talk about shared issues and questions. Meet monthly except in the summer.
  - ii. CATF is on the agenda for March 25, 2026 - looking for someone to give a brief presentation at the meeting. Timeframe: 30 minutes at most. The meeting starts at 6. Could have a couple of people present.
  - iii. Lucky if half of the townships have representation, but minutes and information does get dispersed afterward.
- Brad Neumann, MSU Extension
  - i. Extension has started offering a webinar on Financial Disaster Preparedness and Recovery. The next webinar is **Dec. 8, 2025, 12-1 p.m. ET** via [Zoom \(register here\)](#) and is free! Facing a disaster is tough, but your finances don't have to be another casualty. This course guides you through proactive steps to protect your assets and streamline recovery. We'll cover everything from building an emergency savings fund and securing important documents to purchasing insurance and accessing outside aid. Get your finances in order so you can focus on what matters most when a crisis hits. [Pre-registration is required](#).
  - ii. Next Thursday, December 11, KBIC will be hosting a community meeting to initiate the process of reimagining the old BP Station (east side of 41 as you approach the turn to Ontonagon). They’re goal is for it to be a resilient hub and place for community and socialization. Anyone is welcome and there will be free pizza!

- Jenn Hill, Lake Superior Region Indivisible
  - i. Jenn is working with a group on national cryptomining to try and be proactive about cryptomining. They're looking for cosponsorship of their upcoming event.
  - ii. As CATF tries to stay neutral on all issues, we cannot cosponsor the event, but individual organizations who have members on CATF are able to cosponsor.
  - iii. Anna will forward information about cosponsorship to the CATF membership after our meeting. If you have any questions or need an extension for comembership, reach out to Jenn Hill.

**g. Upcoming Meetings**

- Thursday, February 19 | 2:00 - 3:30 pm
- Thursday, April 16 | 2:00 - 3:30 pm
- Thursday, September 10 | 2:00 - 3:30 pm
- Thursday, December 3 | 2:00 - 3:30 pm

**h. Adjournment @ 3:30 pm**