

COLUMBIA EMERGENCY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

December 7, 2010

Present:

Les Miller	U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Diane Dillard	CRF&R, Chamber, Sacagawea
Earl Fisher	County Commissioner
Kevin Owens	Manager Columbia River PUD
Val Koss	Public Relations Columbia River PUD
Greg Hinkelman	City of Clatskanie
Rick Whitehead	911
Sally Jones	911
Nancy Harwood	RSVP &
Adrienne Donner	Cities Readiness Initiative
Jay Tappan	CRF&R
Joe Errante	CERT
Doug Greisen	Scappoose Police Chief
Robbie Roberts	NW Natural
David Qualman	Conrad Forest Products
Lonny Welter	Columbia County Road Department
Nathan Nash	St. Helens School District
Mark Griffin	Military Sealift Command
Mark Kreutzer	Columbia River Fire & Rescue
Genell Grow	St. Helens Federal Credit Union
Brandi McAllister	St. Helens Federal Credit Union
Greg Godfrey	Dyno Nobel
Henry Heimuller	Columbia County Rider
Ray Murphy	Power Squad
Steve Salle'	St. Helens Police
Mike Greisen	Scappoose Fire District
Loren Klepper	ARES
David Morrison	ARES
Al Pierce	ARES
Kimberly Johns	Oregon National Guard
Jeremy Wilson	Service Master
Tiffany Misclevitz	Service Master
Theodora Tsongas	University of Portland
Larry Lucas	OSP
Terri Levie	911 Communications
Lee Knowlton	911 Communications
Ann Parrott	Columbia Co. Public Health
Andrea Wilson	Columbia Community Mental Health
Juli Knapp	" " " "
Renate Rudolph	Columbia County Emergency Management
Will Dubois	" " " "
Mark Gunter	City of St. Helens

Craig Allison
Beth Santangelo

Port of St. Helens
Armstrong World Industries

Next month's meeting is January 4, 2011 – it will be at the 911 center. We will be honoring retiring 911 Communications District Manager, Sally Jones, who will be retiring at the end of the year. More details to come on this event. Our guest speaker will be Brian Mahoney from Public Health and Pacific Stainless will be providing treats. Sally introduced Rick Whitehead (new 911 Communications Director) from Austin, TX – extraordinary skills – comes from law enforcement background – has diverse experience in interruptible communications. Congratulations to Larry Lucas who was recently promoted to Master Sergeant for OSP. Diane noted that Jim Huff sends greetings from Austin, TX. And Greg noted we welcome three new members last month – Juli Knapp, Andrea Wilson from CCMH and Ken Johnson from Seniors and People with Disabilities.

Honored guests - Earl Fisher – county commissioner and commissioner-elect Henry Heimuller. If you are not a member of the actual LEPC, we have application forms. WE also have brochures. We have several committees that are looking for members –The committees meet every other month at 9 a.m. (some met today) – LEPC board will meet at 9 a.m. at the 911 Center on Jan. 4.

Greg recently attended a SERC meeting in Salem. We have no more than a dozen LEPC's in Oregon – we asked for a commodity flow study.

Our guest speaker is Les Miller with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Les graduated from Washington State University with a BS degree in Civil Engineering. Worked for Factory Mutual as a Loss Prevention Consultant. In March 1980 Les joined the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in their Walla Walla District, where he worked on the Dworshak Dam leak in Orofino, ID; planning, training and exercising for the Cold War's nuclear threat; earthquake preparedness for Cascadia and New Madrid zones; and floods again in 1988. He is the Flood Preparedness Program Manager for the Corps and focuses on helping them improve the effectiveness of its flood fight augmentation to local and state government which in turn prevents loss of life and reoccurrence of economically crippling flood damage. His contact information is Les Miller, 333 SW 1st Ave., Portland, OR 97204-3495 – 503.808.4400 or d.les.miller@usace.army.mil.

Les began with asking for a moment of silence to remember those who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor in 1941. He began by saying, "I love floods but I hate what they do to us." The 1964 flood still remains either #1 or #2 when you compare it to 1948. In 1964 we had the best snow pack in history and then we got a Chinook wind and up went the creeks and rivers. Les happened to be in the Tri-Cities and observing a "flood control channel" built by the Corps – but the thing had never been tested. Communities need to become Flood Fighting Communities – in other words resilient communities with a written plan identifying areas that typically flood. I will tell you that in 1996 Tony Hyde was in Vernonia and he was the finest city mayor I've seen – and we promised ourselves that when it was over we'd have a plan for the future!..Remember that 60-70% of businesses that go through a flood experience economic failure.

We must learn to work together – I love the response we see from community members when there is a natural disaster such as a flood. It is important that we gather to organize a Flood Fight thereby protecting our shared values – we know that permanent flood mitigation may take years, but with a little planning we can prevent major damage. We need to get the younger generation involved in our planning. And it is important to know your community resources – look at Dyno Nobel here – they fill 50# bags with fertilizer --- just think we could fill them with sand if need be. You currently have one of

the best and brightest emergency managers in the State in the name of Derek White. You must remember plastic can be one of your best allies in forming barriers by stacking rolls of plastic. Find and collect feed and seed bags that farmers usually just throw away – they can be stored. The City of St. Helens just ordered a Megga Bagger – which can fill a one ton bag of material. And as you can see from these pictures from different flood communities there are all sorts of devices that can be used for flood control. But you got to make the plan and then rehearse it, rehearse it. Know roles and responsibilities – invite everyone to participate. Use the right tools. Develop a flood fighting database – get area coordinators and then share the plan with your Emergency Manager and his staff.

The big gauge in Columbia River by courthouse – it gives information on Washington only. It is your community – I love coming out here. Your CEPA group is one of the most effective in the State.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Program committee update – Diane noted we are quickly filling guest speaker slots for 2011 and shared the list of planned topics.

Mike - Finance committee meeting – going to start working on the new Business Plan – getting ideas from committees. Also Donkey Basketball --- Steve Salle’ – history of this is fundraising goes to Kiwanis and CEPA --- decision made by – police fire and Kiwanis will carry the insurance. The date is in April.

Fire

Mike – slow, but had some interesting incidents – quick water response team – sent to Vernonia for a rescue this weekend –

Jay – pretty quiet at CRF&R – down about 5% on incidents for the year. Have our Toy and Joy program – about 100 more applications than last year – auction Saturday, Dec. 11 at the fairgrounds – distribution Dec. 17.

Law

Doug – same old criminals – most important thing is Dec. 18 – Donut Day --- if you go to SH, Rainier, Clatskanie, Scappoose – one can of food equals one Krispy Kreme – bought 100 dozen donuts – St. Helens bought 175 dozen, Clatskanie has 50 dozen, Rainier 100 dozen ---

Steve – usual customer for Donut Day – brings 3 or 4 items of food – they buy the rest. We have a drive-through.

OSP – Master Sgt Larry Lucas – fatality motor vehicle near MP 43 – Hwy 30. Traffic re-routed – worked real close with road department – first meeting last night with Hwy Traffic Safety group – co=chaired by Senator Johnson and Earl Fisher – we would like more attendees – ODOT will be establishing a website where all the information will be posted – Justin Oxenrider and Dave Peabody and reserve (Greg Brody) will be receiving awards by the Sheriff’s Assn in Bend at their conference for their heroic deeds when the worker was attacked by bull. They saved the guy’s life. Ray Murphy said the guy is alive and doing well.

Service Master – this is a busy time of year – we have already seen the cold snap and tell you what it kept us busy – know where your water shut-offs are. Going back to school – his replacement is Tiffany.

Dyno –

Greg recently attended a SERC meeting in Salem to review emergency management grant requests. LEPCs are moving to the top of the priority list to receive these grants. We have no more than a dozen LEPC’s in Oregon, but the number is growing. Our biggest grant request was for a commodity flow study.

Dyno – company just put in a \$1.6 million project purify natural gas to the plant from the pipeline that runs down Hwy 30 – good to see this kind of investment in our plant. Doing very well right now with safety and financial. OSHA came in late August – going to do a six week long audit of PSM program. Then EPA will come in to audit a similar program – so it has been busy around here. Hiring four more employees. Going to be hiring two more engineers and also hiring two corporate engineers that will be at this plant.

911 – transition between between Sally Jones and Rick Whitehead is taking place – one person starting the beginning of January and then doing more dispatch positions. Clatskanie Mtn. is basically finishing up. Great partnership with OWIN - Henry Heimuller – wants to thank everyone involved in the hiring of our new director – thanks to the PUD for loaning us the expertise of Val Koss – and also many CEPA members that were involved.

County Commissioners – Earl Fisher - Hwy 30 safety project encompasses the entire road that goes through our county. Last week in Vernonia celebrating the recovery from the flood and it was nice to see how all these people pulled together. Encourage you look at disaster plans – Derek continues to work on relocating our EOC – next Tuesday hosting a joint meeting of different governmental agencies – as we head through the next two years during this difficult economic environment. Congratulation to Les for speaking to this issue today.

Emergency Management - Renate working on getting EOC relocated. Big thing working on Shelter Training classes in Vernonia – have 20 students registered – learning how shelters are set up working with Red Cross.

Red Cross – Kelly – looking forward to training – positioned a 100 person trailer in Clatsop County.

National Guard – no report today

Transportation – Henry reported that on Christmas Ships Day we go out on facilities bound seniors and take them down to see ships – quite an undertaking with all our volunteers – bringing some very vulnerable people and give them special joy. Another very good example of community volunteerism.

Chamber – Diane invited folks to Emmert Motors After Hours Event – slated for Thursday, December 9 – get to see the new Chevy Cruze and other 2011 models.

Schools – Nathan – no report today but school board member, David Morrisson noted -- many of you are aware we are beginning the search process for a new school superintendent – looking for volunteers to get involved in this screening process.

Sacagawea – no report

ARES – we got a donation 30 jell cell batteries from Intel

Cities – Clatskanie – we have a police officer opening. Got through the snow event – went pretty well.

Power Squadron – getting some classes that we'll be starting up after the first of the year including GPS, radar, weather, chart reading --- those will be advertised in the paper.

PUD – Kevin – no safety events – good to see the leaves are leaving the trees – did wrap up our United Way campaign for next year – exceeded \$20,000 in donations. Val – had a little incident in the storm with our call center --- hopefully most of you here at CEPA have our supervisory on-call list. About 6 customers were out for about 12 hours. We are also recruiting for employees – see our website. The PUD just got power lines buried up on Gregory Road.

Conrad Forest Products – no report

CERT - Joe Errante – looking for new members for this organization

Columbia County Road Department - Lonny – Nov. 22 first snow event – kept us busy for 3 days – crews were doing 18 hour days – took care of primary roads – Going through 100 tons of sanding material per day – couldn't use the anti-icing material because it was so wet. Member of Safety Corridor committee. Also participating in Portland on a Debris Management study for this region – prevent flooding – rubble, contaminated debris, garbage -- we don't have enough public lands to dump this stuff on – so we will be looking at private land. All the cities in the County have an agreement that they will stock 5000 sandbags – and we have a supply of 10,000 for residents.

CCMH – Juli – collaborating with police – putting in an emergency panic button for calling them. Having a meeting tomorrow. With the winter weather – we have a concern with our clients who need medications if we encounter snow and impassable roads.

Nancy – **RSVP** – had a great time in Italy.

Port of St. Helens – Craig Allison - commission is very close to a decision on new executive director.

Public Health – continuing flu shots – working with cities on Push Partner registry - revision of our handbooks

Credit Union – starting to add back some of the staff that we had to reduce – feeling good about that. Encourage people to be generous and buy gifts from the Giving Tree. Last year there were 370 families who need help and this year there are over 420.

CRI – Adrienne – Ann covered.

Door prizes – each gets a compact fluorescent and a PUD calendar. Today --- tie-dyed silk scarves – Fairy Cove Silk Cover

Les has sandbagging brochures here too.