

Columbia Emergency Planning Association
Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2009

Present:

Record Attendance Today with 56 attendees!

Jim Huff	CRF&R
Diane Dillard	CRF&R
Steve Watson	911
Jay Tappan	CRF&R
Michael Cave	Dyno Nobel
Joseph Errante	CERT
Lorraine Churchill	Columbia Co. Emergency Management
Roy Barbour	American Red Cross
Marge Murphy	American Red Cross
Mike Sullivan	Portland General Electric
Henry Heimuller	Columbia County Rider
Terry Wolfe	Oregon State Fire Marshal's office
Al Pierce	ARES
Beth Santangelo	Armstrong
Mike Greisen	Scappoose Fire
Karen Ladd	Public Health
Cristin Corcoran	Cities Readiness Initiative
Loren Klepper	ARES
Chris Greenhill	Department of Homeland Security
Kimberly Johns	Oregon Military Department
Debbie Mattinen	Georgia Pacific
Kevin Hawkins	Beary Special Photograpy
Keith Locke	City of St. Helens
Rita Bernhard	Columbia County Commissioner
Earl Fisher	Columbia County Commissioner
Tony Hyde	Columbia County Commissioner
Rich Grant	Oregon DEQ
Joan Owens	Sacagawea and CCMH
Robin Loper	Sacagawea Health Center
Steve Salle'	St. Helens Police Dept.
Bill Goodwin	Columbia River Fire & Rescue
Doug Greisen	Scappoose Police
James Roddey	Oregon Department of Ecology
Russ Moon	City of Rainier
Pat Rubino	Private Citizen
Nancy Harwood	CRF&R and RSVP
Roger Barbour	RSVP
Jim Huff	CRF&R

Alexis Weddle	Riverside Training Center
Janet Wright	Columbia County
Jim Davis	City of St. Helens - retired
Lonny Welter	Columbia County Road Dept.
Vicki Harguth	Columbia Co. Emergency Manager
Gayle Case	MRC and SAR
Mike Simek	Oregon Department of Forestry
Ann Franzen	U. S. Gypsum
Kate Fagerholm	American Red Cross
Kimberly Johns	Oregon Military Department
Andrew Moyer	Columbia County Under Sheriff
Jack White	PGE
Gary Heide	Columbia Health District
Sharon Borrevik	Company & Care
Lee Knowlton	Columbia 911
Sally Jones	Columbia 911
C. T. Kooyman	Columbia County Rider
Anne Parrott	CHD Public Health
Karen Ladd	CHD Public Health

The meeting was called to order by Jim Huff. Thanks to Columbia 911 for treats and door prizes.

Introductions were made after a welcome by Sally Jones. Record attendance!

Subcommittee Reports - Steve – encouraged CEPA members to sign the LEPC membership form so they can vote. Steve is the chair of the CEPA Expo – slated for July 18 Saturday – theme this year is Shelter in Place. If you want to have a booth tell us size and we need names of volunteers reminded Roger Barbour.

Membership – Anne Franzen – no report

Finances – Mike Greisen – no report

Program – Diane Dillard – We have speakers through October 2009.

Agency reports – Tony Hyde said he was suppose to be in Alaska for FEMA but because of flu outbreak precautions they did not travel. Region 10 rep. still has not been named. He noted that 470 people died last year from the flu. Working on the budget – lots depends on May 14 State deficit forecast. Commissioners did not take a raise. Rita – hand sanitizers have now been placed at all the public facilities.

DHS - Chris Greenhill said as an outcome of the last presentation by Les Miller of the Corps of Engineers, he stopped by some of the agricultural contacts and they said they would loan us fertilizer hoppers for sandbagging if it was returned clean and in good working order. It would need to be tested to be sure it worked. Jay and Vicki will follow up and add to Emergency Plan “resources appendix.”

911 – Sally reported that the legislature is trying to do their best to fund essential services – they have diverted some 911 excise tax to the general fund – we have tried to educate legislators that people pay that 75 cents on their phone bill to get 911 services. The Columbia 911 district able to continue at same level – keeping administrative wages at same level.

Public Health was able to get grant station and they will allow agencies to use it – set up at the Columbia Learning Center. Starting smoking cessation program – starting June 4 503 397 4651 – only \$5 class.

Red Cross – Thomas Bruner Division VP of chapter operations and he will be leaving Oregon Trail Chapter. – WalMart donated \$115,000. Kelly Scott has been named the Emergency Services Ops Manager

Robin Loper – 7th Annual Sacagawea Art Auction – is May 16, 2009 – The center provides free health care to children in our community

Keith Locke – bomb scare recently – Public needs to learn to leave things alone This was an actual device with explosive capabilities – located in 6th Street park near the dugout.

Karen Ladd - She participated in the recent CDC and National Association of city/county health officials – conference call. This is their information. Several people died in Mexico – eventually it came to the US – over the last week you can look across the nation at increased cases. In Oregon we have three different flu viruses still circling. When they started looking at the bigger numbers – medium age range 16-22 – those of us over 50 probably know to stay home. We have had some hospitalizations and one infant died that came from Mexico and had other health issues. We have had no one die. There has been no transmission from health care provider to patient or vice versa. We have let go of category traveling to Mexico. In Oregon until Sunday night no confirmed cases - - we are now at 17/18. For Clackamas, Washington, Multnomah, Columbia and SW Washington – we have 8 confirmed cases – 6 are in Multnomah. For Columbia Co one case influenza A – but was not H1N1. CDC's goal hopefully to reduce transmission and illness – We are scaling back on our phone calls – will stand down from our ICS structure today or tomorrow – it is beginning to look just like a normal flu. They are saying that in the flu – could look different and more severe in the fall. Anne – Pub Health became involved Friday April 24 *when the Health Alert Network began sending out alerts to the Public Health agencies.* On Monday we began gathering information. *After discussing the situation with Karen, we decided it was important for county residents to be informed. We located approved messages for public and community stakeholders and began distributing that information.*

We were informed on Wednesday that the state Public Health Division would be standing up their Agency Operations Center (AOC). Public Health implemented the pre-operational organizational chart and began looking at our points of distribution (POD) plans. We met last Thursday with law, fire, schools, EM, 911, and the county commissioners to share our plans. Information from Vicki Harguth was appreciated and thanks also to Janet Wright who gave some of her time in dissemination of information.

State cache of medications (*tamiflu*) has now been distributed will arrive in Columbia County today. The medication *will be* available through public health. The strategic national stockpile has arrived in Portland at an undisclosed location – at this time no plans to distribute this medication.

Public Health has not received a lot of calls from the public *but we did have* questions from a daycare provider *and there have been some issues from the schools*. The topic came up about cleaning *and information was disseminated to the school districts and Columbia County Rider*. As of yesterday we received a call *about a rumored case at the high school and Robin said it was just a rumor*. The School Districts *have been* doing a good job in getting out information. Public Health has a website www.chdpublichealth.com with H1N1 information on it.

The state Public Health Division developed a website, www.flu.oregon.gov, with a lot of very helpful information *that has been* translated into many different languages. Public Health has a Spanish speaking employee who assisted getting information out on Saturday. Sally Jones at 911 offered the ability to translate.

Lot of news about school closures: Western OR University closed May 4 and will remain closed through May 8. Forest Grove closed yesterday and today and a decision should be made whether to keep it closed. Cornelius Elementary closed May 4 through 8th – North Bend re-opened yesterday and so did Willamina.

In our region (*Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and southwest Washington*) there are 8 confirmed cases. We received notification from state coordinator for MRC that Oregon's volunteer pool had been placed on stand-by. As of yesterday there are 9 MRC's on standby in Columbia County. At this time we need to continue our surveillance and monitoring of H1N1 influenza in the county.

Kristin Concoran – CRI specialist – push partner registry program – the people who need to understand – vulnerable populations – started in CDC in 2001 – and since 2007 I have been program coordinator. Every county that touches Multnomah County – this gets the national stockpile to local – if we had to give medication to every single person in CC – that system would fall apart – we have to know who these people are in Columbia County that would need medication –

Strategic national stockpile – has currently sent tamaflu and masks – my program is to push partner registry program – mask and prophylaxis. The bridge is that public health and emergency management need the information at their fingertips. Enrollment sheets need to be signed – we ask for a contact person and two backups – take forms and my business card.

The plan is to return unused portion of vaccines.

Vicki introduced our guest speaker, James Roddey. She said it was a pleasure of introducing James as he is well known throughout the State and nation. Unique style of presenting information – prophet of doom – everytime I hear him I learn something new! James Roddey.

Thanks Steve and Lee for helping me set up – and to Diane and Jim for inviting me – in atonement – created a digital watercolor poster – this bears on what I am going to be talking about today – sitka spruce root – in Youngs Bay, Oregon – digital watercolor – photograph that has been manipulated.

Call on the 24th from OSU newspaper – asking me about the upcoming earthquake – Cascadia Peril is over now. Statewide exercise simulated magnitude 9 – until OEM got overwhelmed with the winterstorms.

Historical narrative called the Flood 1909 from the Coos tribe – last great subduction earthquake – our goal is to recover and get back to life – we are the first generation in modern history that understands dangers – we are going to get one of the largest earthquakes in the world – it was until the mid-80's that scientists realize that we have the probability of a 9+ earthquake – how we prepare for and respond to this event – it is going to affect all of you – this will define our region and our society for decades. In one word Katrina – say that word and it defines New Orleans. My talk is a little unorthodox – anthropology, history, and for the arts and crafts portion of the talk we'll be braiding ropes.

Are we prepared? We live in earthquake country – recorded history in 1841 – 1993 K Falls – 5.9 and 6.0 within 10 minutes. Scotts Mill . 5.6 which caused \$30 million damage. Cascadia sub-duction zone – 600 miles – we live in one of the most dynamic landscapes in Oregon. The earth is broken up into giant plates – we get earthquakes when they bump into each other. Juan de Fuca plate 1 inch year – moving northeast and North America plate moving west an inch per year. Most earthquakes happen in the Ring of Fire. The red lines are sub-duction zones – Pacific plate is diving under other plates. Juan de Fuca is the only one that has not had a major earthquake in the last 50 years. The coast begins to bulge upward. We've got the Cascades and the coast range because of the bulging. If you go to Mt. Everest you will find marine fossils. Top of the himalays used to be 20,000 feet under the sea.

Cascadia subduction goes from northern California to British Columbia – they work very differently rather than normal earthquakes – crustal earthquakes there is a single epicenter. What we saw in Sumatra in 2004 and what scientists say may happen here is the fault will rupture from south to north at a mile a second so it will last minutes and minutes and creating a tsunami. In Oregon we get all the other earthquakes we get subduction and we get interplate earthquakes – 6.8 did \$2 billion damage – including the state capitol and it was 35 miles deep – compared to North Ridge - \$50 billion dollars in damage.

Crustal, interpolate, subduction and volcanic eruptions – four types of earthquakes. Mt. St. Helens had been rumbling – magnitude 5 earthquake – north face slid away. Three huge geologic events within seconds of each other. Southern Oregon closer to the subduction zone – Blanco fracture zone – that is where earthquakes are happening. Somehow we are in a quiet zone between Washington and California – WA gets six times more earthquakes than Oregon. California has been at earthquake preparedness for over 100 years – their buildings have been reinforced – we did a survey of all the schools in the state – we found about one-half of the schools are at risk of collapse in an earthquake.

Ghost forests – The Orphan Tsunami of 1700 began banks of Washington river – Western red cedars all dead – Brian Atwater realized there was something going on here. Tree ring samples showed they all died at the same time – between 1625 and 1700 AD – began to find evidence of tsunamis. This is Youngs Bay, Washington – tidal mud tsunami sand, top soil and it repeats itself. In Japan they had an orphan tsunami in the 1700's and found that it was a result of the 9 p.m. Jan. 26 1700 a magnitude 9 earthquake in the northwest – hit Japan hit 10 hours later - that convinced everyone that we have the potential for these great subduction zone earthquakes. We have had 20 of these over the past 10,000 years. Nobody paid attention to the Indian history – Native Americans have lived in coastal villages for the last 10,000 years – they have passed this on for generation to generation – they even began to build their long houses differently - Thunderbird vs. Killer Whale – eventually Thunderbird killed Killer Whale – and vanquished Subis as well – it's hard to imagine how big a 9 magnitude earthquake - each times you go up 1 magnitude it is 30 times bigger – 810,000 times bigger than a magnitude 5 earthquake – subduction zone earthquakes are so large they can shift the north pole, shorten the earth's rotation and change the shape of the earth – the largest ever recorded 9.5 largest ever off the coast of Chile. Larger than all of the earthquakes in the 20th century --- the earth rings like a bell for months. Dec. 26 2004 – aftershock 2005, aftershock 2007 – huge aftershocks. 250,000 people died from the tsunami – the 1964 great Alaskan earthquake only 8 people died – wood frame home is very survivable. If the earth shakes head to high ground. The earthquake fault that ruptured in the Indian Ocean is the same length, size and type as the fault that sits off our coast 22,000 people live in the inundation zone and 14,000 people work there – and there are 56,000 day visitors to state parks – one of the tragedies in the Indian Ocean – they could have been warned –

When our scientists saw what had happened in the Indian Ocean – we began re-mapping the Oregon coast – runups to the land could be as high as 100 feet in Cannon Beach – On one creek one-half mile in water would be 60 feet above the bridge. We are doing new work at Bradley Lake near Bandon 4500 years ago – happened about every 300 years then a huge 1000 year gap – over the last 1000 years there was a 750 year gap until the 1700 event that suggest we may be in for the next round of every few hundred years – We have a 25% chance of having another one of these in the next few years. In the southern part of the sub-duction zone – Florence and south – Episodic tremor and slip is also occurring – pushing whole chunk of coast to the east. There will be tremors in the northern part of the Juan de Fuca plate – every 14 months a subset moves back slightly and you have episodic slip – mag. 6 earthquake over two weeks. When is the next slip going to take place ---

In recap magnitude 9 can last 3-to 5 plus minutes – will directly 10 million people – have occurred 14 times over the last 4800 years or an average of once every 343 years. It will change life as we know it. Smaller communities need to be planning so they can be on their own. Coast will drop 3 plus feet, a tsunami will be 30 to 70 feet high – last occurred 9 p.m. – we tend to make it a disaster because of the choices we make – if we learn preparedness we can be prepared and get back up and running in a timely manner . This is going to be awful – thing to concentrate on is surviving the earthquake and getting local government back up and running – now you are all deputized – you are the perfect group to talk about it – go visit your neighbors – 80% of all people who are rescued get rescued by neighbors – we are the first generation that understands it – you must talk about it – get prepared for it.

Close – Jason Younker – Coquille tribe – weaving long ropes – if you don't have long ropes you will be swept away – only those who listened were prepared. An ancient message from a culture who looked upon earthquakes as hazards. I have already numerous comments that this was one of the best programs ever at CEPA and we are grateful to James Roddey for his presentation. He has also agreed to help CEPA as we embark on public education programs. He will help us get on the OEM agenda soon.

Next meeting is Tuesday, June 2 at 10 a.m. at the 911 Center. The guest speaker is Terry Wilson – Chief Engineer – KMUN radio – Astoria. You will be hearing about a communications system that aided greatly during the winter storms. U. S. Gypsum is bringing treats and door prizes.