

Columbia Emergency Planning Association  
Meeting Minutes  
March 1, 2016

Present:

Joe Errante	ARES/RACES
Jay Tappan	CRFR
Libby Calnon	CRPUD
Anne Parrott	Public Health
Diane Dillard	CRFR
Mike Greisen	Scappoose Fire
Mark Kreutzer	CRFR
Tony Hyde	Columbia County Commissioner
Henry Heimuller	Columbia County Commissioner
Susan Conn	City of St. Helens
Greg Hinkelman	City of Clatskanie
Paula Lichatowich	Port of St. Helens
Loren Klepper	ARES/RACES
Kristi Ward	GP/Wauna
Margaret Magruder	Lower Columbia Watershed Council
Alicia Kahl	Dyno Nobel
Casey Wheeler	Columbia Pacific Food Bank
Karen Izumoto	Columbia County Emergency Management
Craig Allison	Port of St. Helens
Steve Pegram	Columbia County Emergency Management
Adrienne Donner	Cities Readiness Initiative
Ali Vander Zanden	Suzanne Bonamici
Eva Frost	Warren Grange/CERT
Michael Bender	Portland General Electric
Lonny Welter	Columbia County Road Department
Beth Santangelo	Armstrong
Terry Wolfe	Oregon State Fire Marshal's office
Bill Henle	Guest Speaker
Shon Christensen	Portland Fire Bureau
Darryl Whipple	Envision Columbia County
Vince Aarts	Columbia County Emergency
Craig Allison	Port of St. Helens

The meeting was called to order at 10:08. Thank you Columbia River PUD for treats and door prizes. Please sign in. If you want to join LEPC we will send out new membership forms. Welcome Bill Henle, our guest speaker today. Congratulations to Patrick Trapp who was awarded Manager of the Year by Special Districts of Oregon. Introductions.

Speaker – gave us a lot of help on Hazmat plans – Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan – contractor who put together the initial response plan. Touch on the highlights of the plan – please remember this plan is a work in process all the time – and the plan needs to reflect the changes. Your

plan is not very good unless you exercise the plan – see how well it's going to work – there are grants coming out.

Highlights:

Part of OSFM operation is to have LEPC develop plans under EPA guidelines Terry developed a template – he defined our jobs well and he covered all the right things. Grant received last year to produce a plan – Scappoose Fire was the coordinator of the grant (Mike Greisen). Terry only makes recommendations but is an integral part of the planning process. We interviewed as many EHS facilities that we could – we looked at fire departments, facilities – one unique thing is the St. Helens Water Treatment Plant acknowledged they had chlorine but realized they did not really need it after our inquiry. There is a positive side to all of this. We looked at the County Emergency Operations Plan – we found you have a Highway Incident Management Plan (April 2008). We found some things that needed to change. Local fire districts are in charge of hazardous materials incidences but the plan indicates County Emergency Management is in charge. My associate is Steve Hermann (retired from Arizona Highway Patrol) – we were basically the two people working on this.

The facilities were identified by the LEPC and fire departments – some we found really weren't EHS facilities – we had a checklist of forms – and we requested a copy of the evacuation plans – and most were reluctant to give us a copy and we really didn't understand why, but continue to discuss.

We reviewed the 9 basic areas of the plan with some subsets that included “planning elements.” The purpose is to give us some kind of direction if we have a hazmat incident. Concept of Operations is basically about who is going to do what – we will have to rely on mutual aid in many events. Clatskanie Fire does not utilize Portland Fire – they will call Astoria because of the response time issue. For the first 1-1/2 hours, you are on your own until PFB can arrive and take over. Oregon should be proud of the system – again kudos to Terry Wolfe who worked with us many years ago. The IC is responsible and your plan needs to realize IC can be different people from different agencies – we use NIMS system and we have to all be reading from the same page. There is a standard set of ways we all run incidents.

Your EOC is located right across the street – you've got the facilities. Keep in mind if the EOC is in harm's way – then you have to move it perhaps to a mobile facility (we have a COOP plan ) which insures continuity of operations.

Some agencies have their own emergency responders – so you may need to find equipment. Most fire departments only respond in a defensive manner – leaves the actual “technicians” to stop the leak.

Evacuation – important is that you need to be concerned about the community around a facility. As a LEPC your concern should be how to protect people around the facility. You need to practice a “Shelter in Place” plan – the biggest thing in Portland is that most people don't have landlines anymore. Remember, Shelter in Place is an educational procedure – you need brochures and to practice it.

Many acronyms in this plan – so have to make sure people have the definitions. Regulated facilities need to be identified and listed – with emergency names and contact information. The LEPC needs to identify the pipelines that exist. You can add information to this “barebones” plan (Terry Wolfe). Rail planning work needs to mesh with this plan. In the plan we identified “Transportation Routes” – for our fuel storage facilities ask Commissioner Fisher. You have the right to ask facilities to be added to the plan. It all has to do in guarding the public. The LEPC needs to connect with neighboring jurisdictions, e.g. Longview – so we can be prepared for a release across the river. You're an entity of your own but you

need to connect where you overlap. Michael Bender said PGE's pipelines cover both states and he attends their LEPC meetings.

We have found people who refuse to evacuate. There are really no good positive directives for law enforcement. The IC will pretty much set who needs to be evacuated – keep in mind evacuation takes manpower and time. There are so many variables in “evacuation planning.”

We interviewed all fire departments and listed their personnel and equipment – we also looked at the Training Schedules for responders as this relates to hazardous materials. Please keep in mind that the Fire Service is under many mandates for training – in order to be compliant with all these trainings, the fire departments don't have a lot of time for other things. Port of St. Helens is providing some funds for IC Commander training – that is an OSHA requirement. Exercises – I am recommending that exercises take place this year.

There are guidelines for position requirements – HazMat 7 is response team for all of Columbia County except Clatskanie – we came up with some plume projections.

Appendix K – identifies 7 facilities including Wauna Papermill that are under your LEPC – as you can see there is a lot of applicable federal and state planning. We've just taken a first step – change will occur and the plan needs to change – the Planning Committee has a big piece of this process. You have an annual meeting once/year where the public is welcome. The public usually won't show until there's a major release...the community becomes complacent. Your plan can't cover every incident but it can cover the basics.

The rail coordinator will be available to assist you in your planning efforts. HazMat personnel aren't so concerned about Bakken/crude as they worry about a tank car full of ammonia! Today's presentation is right on track with mission of LEPC.

CEPA Expo is July 23 – Karen Izumuto is planning coordinator – and you are all invited to participate – as presenters. Diane has sent out an RSVP form if you wish to participate. We are dealing with limited space this year – let us know your space needs. Our next meeting is March 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. – please feel free to attend.

Donkey Basketball – scheduled for April 23 – “battle of the badges” – 3:30 is setup time – working with Kiwanis Club.

New Business – board meeting this morning – special meeting to talk about succession planning/mission – more planning on March 11 at 2 p.m.

Programs – thanks to Alicia for the help.

Emergency Management – potential wind event- it has been upgraded. Good event on Saturday with ARES. OEM inputs.

CRPUD – thanks to Columbia County Emergency Management for helping us get FEMA reimbursement. Tony – the fact that we didn't meet IA from FEMA – proud of this county for its mitigation efforts. Even a CNN reporter wanted to interview a representative from Columbia County.

OSFM – proud of CEPA's effort.

Clatskanie – going to be at 1 p.m. meeting to look at FEMA reimbursement.

Port of St. Helens – Patrick Trapp - Master planning at airport has come to a close – whole section on drones. It is a federal offense to shoot down a drone.

NW Natural – business continuity facility being built in Sherwood (Todd Felix).

Road Department – will be at 1 p.m. meeting

Hazmat 7 – Portland Fire Bureau – came out to train Volunteer Academy – big marina fire in Portland –

at Sundance Marina - investigation continues. HazMat outreach plan needs to be put together. Will

participate in CEPA Expo. Question last month about Longview’s hazmat response – they have nothing.

The notification system was a little spotty at the truck/railcar incident in St. Johns – people aren’t getting

calls because they haven’t registered their cell phones. Last Wednesday we had a serious storm in

Washington DC – our phones were lit up with “alerts” – similar to process weather alerts. You can

register your phone through an “888” number – there was an issue with water supply system at Hayden

Island –

CERT team is preparing classes for basic public preparedness.

Susan – talked with Cowlitz Co. commissioner – thinks two LEPC’s need to interact together more.

Michael Bender will get dates of next meeting.

Text 888777 – add zip code. This will give you emergency alerts. Police/fire alerts – no charge. Thanks to Bill Henle.

Darryl – thanks for great program.

Dyno Nobel – Brian Poole is our interim operations manager – still searching for permanent plant manager.

Tony – there is a concept for change in FEMA (Stafford Act) – so they are always fully funded. New

concept is they won’t come or offer assistance unless we have the basic steps for mitigation in place –

before they’ll do a declaration of public assistance. There is a lot of discussion on underfunding coming

out of FEMA that could end up as a local issue, so if you have an opportunity to weigh in on this, please

do so.

CERT people trained Cub Scouts and their parents in Sheltering in Place – we got a lot of good information. Need to learn choking information.

Door prizes – thanks again to CRPUD!

Next meeting April 5 – 10 a.m.