

## Columbia Emergency Planning Association

### Meeting Minutes –May 6, 2014

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|----------------------|--|
| Diane Dillard        | CRFR, Sacagawea                        |
| Jay Tappan           | CRFR                                   |
| Craig Allison        | Port of St. Helens                     |
| Patrick Trapp        | Port of St. Helens                     |
| Janine Salisbury     | St. Helens School District             |
| Mike Greisen         | Scappoose Fire                         |
| Loren Klepper        | ARES/RACES                             |
| Lonny Welter         | Columbia County Road Department        |
| Willie Bence         | American Red Cross                     |
| Marge Murphy         | Private Citizen                        |
| Joe Errante          | CERT and ARES/RACES                    |
| Terry Wolfe          | Oregon State Fire Marshal              |
| Earl Fisher          | Columbia County Commissioner           |
| Brandon Gimper       | Columbia Pacific Bio-Refinery          |
| Brian Little         | NW Innovation Works                    |
| Mark Kreutzer        | CRFR                                   |
| Mike Bender          | Portland General Electric              |
| Kevin Owens          | Columbia River PUD                     |
| Anne Parrott         | Public Health of Columbia County       |
| Kris Hansen          | Oregon Health Authority                |
| Robbie Roberts       | Oregon Emergency Management Assn.      |
| Annie Christensen    | Envision Columbia County               |
| Vince Aarts          | Columbia County Emergency Management   |
| Shaunee Moreland     | Columbia County Emergency Management - |
| Erica Welch          | American Red Cross                     |
| Willie Bence         | American Red Cross                     |
| Jacque Lomsdal       | Dyno Nobel                             |
| Brianne Harris       | Columbia County Mental Health          |
| Dee Wooley           | Columbia 911                           |
| Paulette Lichatowich | Private Citizen                        |

Jay called CEPA meeting to order – 10:08 a.m. Thank to the Port of St. Helens – treats, door prizes and tickets. Guest speaker is Willie Bence from American Red Cross. Sign in sheet – please make sure your e-mail. Special guest – Earl Fisher Columbia County Commissioner. First time attendee Paulette Lichatowich lives in Columbia City, Mike Bender representing PGE and Brianne Mares from CCMH.

Willie Bence current serves as the American Red Cross Disaster Program Manager - I was originally going to have volunteers to talk about Oso, WA mudslide. – but unfortunately they have been deployed to the South for tornado relief. It was March 22 1030 am – landslide – engulfed 49 homes – cut off SR530, a major highway going through the town. The slide was 1500 feet long, 4400 feet wide about a square mile covered in mud. Took only 2.5 minutes – described as a tsunami of mud. As of today 41 confirmed dead and 2 missing – GEO Technical Extreme Events investigating cause – we deployed about

500 volunteers – 25 came from the State of Oregon, 7,000 comfort relief items, 142 overnight stays, 29,000 meals and snacks to survivors, community responders and community. Also 8,000 health and mental health contacts –our plan is to fund a community mental health agency to provide support over the next year. Crisis dog team was on site.

One on one counseling with survivors and develop a long-term recovery plan and some direct financial assistance – help with funeral expenses – furniture replace, security deposits. \$28 million is estimated cost - \$1.1 million spent during the response.

Eric Welch (Red Cross) – their agency begins to look at the whole of community – grant funding to other organizations to maximize use of donations – improved case management system and stronger emphasis on recovery. We are developing a DAT team – with special target of building unity with fire departments. Working on developing stronger relationships with emergency responders in Columbia County – out here the response time is about 2-1/2 hours and also making sure we are getting people prepared – focusing on what happens in a house fire. You need to have an evacuation plan and practice it. We are there for the emergency responders as well. We have a lot more emphasis on recovery – we are not just coming and then leaving. Immediate goal in a single family fire – response lasts 24-72 hours. If you would like to become a Red Cross volunteer, go to our website and sign up. Once background check is approved, they will contact me – we need a group of 5 or more so the training can be out here. Diane mentioned that Columbia County had a strong Immediate Responder team several years ago – we are now one Red Cross – before it was several chapters. Less emphasis on geographical areas – it's who can get there to the emergency fastest.

What's changed – Adoption of augmented ICS system and Divisional Response Management Teams – we have finally embraced ICS. By June 1<sup>st</sup>, we will have Incident Response Teams (three of them).

Even distribution of funds across all areas, based on geography, population and hazards. Every county in the country Disaster Program Manager and listening to feedback – volunteer and client surveys. This means everyone gets even funding based on above criteria.

Facilities interested in becoming available for use as a disaster shelter and training is available for groups interested in helping – contact Willie Bence. There are about 20 shelters in Columbia County. Feeding Surveys – are catering quotations offered by vendors to assist in feeding during disasters – so if there are restaurants willing to provide food we can purchase. We're not asking one restaurant to provide the entire meal --- it might just be the bread, etc.

Be Red Cross ready – Preparedness presentations for any group, age, demographic and of course talk to your friends/family. Help us prepare Columbia County. There are presentations especially for elementary school – it's a partnership with Disney – and called “pillowcase kits.” It offers coping techniques – so it's a really good presentation.

**Willie Bence – 503 528 5621 – 971 409 0462 (cell – [Willie.bence@redcross.org](mailto:Willie.bence@redcross.org). Washington, Columbia, Yamhill and Tillamook Counties.** Thanks to former Red Crossers who have been very supportive.

Old Business: Donkey Basketball occurred on April 19 – Firefighters win. Currently the profit is \$3,864.30 – with a bit more income to be received. Concession \$848. Ball income was \$600. We want

to begin preparations for 2015. It appears the date is April 18, 2015. Janine will reserve date at high school.

#### New Business:

CEPA Expo – July 19, 2014 – Shaunee and Jay have been working on a lot of “behind the scenes” preparation. Need a committee meeting for sure.

**Executive Committee** – next board meeting is June 3. Expo will be top topic for that meeting

**EHS** – Chief Youngberg heads that committee – we had some significant events – we attended the Governor’s symposium on railroad car safety. We had the railcar in Virginia the next day which again brings more emphasis to railroad safety. Next week ODOT and the railroad have helped pay for training that will be held in Seaside – state conference done once every two years – transportation rail and freeway. Crude oil and rail has taken the spotlight. Bryan Profit said there would be good information.

**Information Management** – Anne P – only one member on the committee so we need additional members.

#### **Finance and Planning**

**Program Committee** – programs full for 2014

**Membership Committee** – Henry not here --- but will get a report next month

#### **Agency Reports**

**Emergency Management** – Shaunee Moreland - working on CEPA Expo – need more booths and will work to get it organized – went to the fairgrounds and got a visual. Vincent Aarts – the Department of Emergency Management has sent our Disaster Program out for review. There are five or six grant programs available in the area of emergency management – talk to us about getting an application to the state.

**Paulette Lichatowich** – asked for a public/private review of all the train crossings – and was concerned about the Goble crossing – only a “yield” sign. It was suggested she attend tomorrow morning’s meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is meeting at 7:30 a.m. at the Village Inn.

**Annie Christensen** – fortunate to get to go to the Governor’s symposium on crude oil safety – impressed with the various emergency response protocol’s already in place – at each booth one of the people in our group asked if the responders were confident they could respond. However, the next day the event in Lynchburg occurred – I’m believing that all of you are doing a good job – I remain very concerned that maybe prevention needs to have a stronger focus. Briefing was on a Tuesday – and Wednesday the incident occurred in Lynchburg, then Thursday coal train derailed in Baltimore and then a grain train derailed in the Midwest going five mph. The more I pay attention to this issue the more concerned I become.

**Dee Wooley – 911** – embarking on a non-vendor radio review for our county.

**Robbie Roberts – OEMA** – just want to put a plug in for the conference workshop – October 6-9 in Sunriver – going to have some senior people who will be keynote speakers – various workshops – we want to have the Amtrak Emergency Manager for this region on railroad safety. We’ve got some real high-powered folks. Being an old retired guy for now two months --- I see both sides of the picture for both public and private sector – and I realize the value of the partnerships of public/private how important it is to have a good partnership. The public sector will respond in an emergency but it’s the private sector that is going to produce the recovery – Robbie propose we jointly host a public/private

summit sometime in the near future – a one day summit. We the utilities formed a public/private – organization and a good example is Utah. Reach out to your private partners in this county ---

Dyno Nobel - Jacque Lomsdal – getting into full swing for the summer season – planning on hiring more people (6 job openings) – all different positions from electricians to engineers.

CCMH - Monday and Tuesday – holding Applied Suicide Prevention Training – if anyone is interested, contact me via e-mail [Briannem@ccmh1.com](mailto:Briannem@ccmh1.com).

Health Kid Preparedness Response (Kris Hansen of Oregon Public Health Authority) – seminar week before Sunriver – it's called ECHO – reaching out to emergency responders – you'll be seeing more information – only 150 people. We have 17 breakout sessions – several emergency managers will talk about sheltering in place. Registration opens June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Public Health – Anne Parrott -went to Atlanta – Public Health Emergency Preparedness Summit – four sessions that I'll be able to share. It was an excellent conference. Going to PDX next week – Cross Borders – Public health conference – how we could work with our Canadian neighbors.

Portland Fire - Bryan Profit - April 29<sup>th</sup> was our Field Day – we'll have table top at station 2 in October (tentative) – had a meeting with governor's office yesterday on railroad safety. Will be working with Columbia County responders on more training.

PUD – Kevin Owens – certainly shifting into the summer construction season – crews working on fairgrounds substation – and on the lines. There is a preponderance of scam calls being directed to our customers – the latest one when businesses were contacted who were told they owed money and if they didn't pay by 4 p.m., the power would be shut off. They were also warned not to call the PUD. Kevin said this is total scam – two commercial businesses have been contacted – fortunately came in and talked to us. Robbie said NW Natural experienced the same scams and PGE was even getting more – but these scams are being directed primarily against utilities.

Port of St. Helens – Craig Allison on behalf of Pat Trapp and himself - We went to Governor's symposium on rail safety – informative and good outreach – the follow-up should be very useful. Putting together an exercise for end of June or July – getting into scenarios that might develop. Our Scappoose Bay Marina is growing in popularity – full parking lot and so need to address that issue – avoid parking on the road. Continue with our Master Plan at the Airport in Scappoose and we are looking at the FAA conditions of their participation – June 15. We're getting into the summer – Multnomah big renovation project is underway. Lots of paving.

Road Department - Lonny Welter – Exercise on May 16, we experienced a 8.5 earthquake – 550 bridges – and roads were inspected by 1 p.m. in the afternoon – we found 9 different communities were isolated – this training was really valuable – able to determine conditions of the bridge – at the same time we had people entering information into EOC websites – this all occurred simultaneously – in our after action report we identified we need to get emergency report kits out to our crews. We also realized we have to get some signage out so we can close bridges – there were some tweaks in the web EOC system too. Overall pretty good exercise – emphasis was to get crews under the bridges so they can do a real world inspection. The State was impressed with the information received from Columbia County in this exercise.

PGE – Michael Bender – He noted that like Columbia Co Road Department – they tell their crews that in the event of an emergency, take care of your family first and then come to work being committed to a lengthy response. Just started outage at Beaver and Port Westward – we have 370 additional contractors on site today and another 300 by the fall. Plus the railcars coming in and blocking traffic in the morning is an issue we're facing but so far we're on schedule.

Mark Kreutzer – CRFR – on the May ballot – after receiving a large grant to fund four firefighters so that we could sustain those positions was how the levy process started – the bond we looked at several projects – we don't want to go above 30 cents per \$1000 – total of \$15 million over 15 years – major portion will go for equipment replacement – plus ambulance replacements – (chassis) – fire apparatus doesn't get a lot of miles but it gets hours. The life of a fire apparatus is about 25 years – the first line engine can be 15 years old after 10 years it is determined no good. We don't want to replace all at once but spread out so we can fund. Other things the bond will cover seismic upgrade to Rainier station and larger community room, the fairgrounds we want to expand from housing two career firefighters to four. Also room to house a volunteer company. Up in Deer Island we have a mini-fire engine – we need a larger one – if we get that larger engine the station can be rated through ISO and get the residents better insurance rates. Last November when the jail levy failed and commissioners said they weren't putting it on the ballot again – little did we know that a citizen's initiative would do just that. We did not mean to compete – we fully support both of these public safety measures. We have done a low key campaign. A mailer has been sent out. We need to upgrade our portable radio systems. We need to get new turnouts, so they don't wear uniforms that are "outgassing poisonous chemicals" and we need new SCBA's. Our board meeting is June 13 at 7 p.m at which time we invite public input.

Scappoose Fire – Chief Greisen - last Monday OSHA showed up. Our random number for Health survey came up.

ARES/RACES – worked 6 a.m. Saturday until midnight – our goal was to make 1000 contacts – we did 995 – but last year we only made 736. Next thing coming up is exercise at Portland Airport – May 15th – our CERT team will be moulaging. Food Drive this weekend – leave by the mailboxes.

Diane moved and Janine seconded to support both public safety ballot measures – jail and fire district. Unanimous approval by membership.

CERT teams will be formally graduated this next Thursday.

Door prize drawings – Next meeting is Tuesday, June 3 Guest speaker is Michael Heumann specializing in Disaster Epidemiology. Columbia River Fire and Rescue will be providing treats and door prizes.