

Columbia Emergency Planning Association

September 7, 2010 - Meeting Minutes

Present:

Diane Dillard	Columbia River Fire & Rescue/Chamber
Derek White	Columbia County Emergency Management
Earl Fisher	Columbia County Commissioner
Tony Hyde	Columbia County Commissioner
Anne Parrott	Public Health
Kristin Stiegler	Public Health – State of Oregon
Joseph Errante	CERT/ARES/RACES
Blair Walter	Sacagawea Health Center
Al Pierce	ARES
Lonny Welter	Columbia County Road Department
Les Miller	Corps of Engineers
Craig Allison	Port of St. Helens
Theodora Tsongas	Portland State University
Kelly Scott	American Red Cross
Marge Murphy	American Red Cross
Paula Miranda	Port of St. Helens
Don Bloom	Private Citizen
Kristi Ward	Georgia-Pacific, Wauna
Genell Grow	St. Helens Community Federal Credit Union
Brandi McAllister	St. Helens Community Federal Credit Union
Lee Knowlton	Columbia 911 Communications District
Steve Watson	Columbia 911 Communications District
Terri Levie	Columbia 911 Communications District
Greg Godfrey	Dyno Nobel
Jay Tappan	Columbia River Fire & Rescue
Greg Hinkelman	City of Clatskanie
Caroline Frappier	CERT
Debbie Mattinen	GP - Wauna
Chris Newman	Georgia Pacific
Michael Cave	Dyno Nobel
Alicia Little	Dyno Nobel
Cindi Turula	Columbia 911 Communications District
David Qualman	Conrad Forest Products
Will Dubois	Columbia County Emergency Management
Robbie Roberts	Northwest Natural Gas

Greg Godfrey, CEPA chair, opened the meeting with thanks to the Port of St. Helens for the treats and door prizes. He also mentioned of some important upcoming events:

- Earthquake Outreach Workshop – September 22, 2010 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Florence, OR
- Emergency Preparedness Classes in Columbia County

- Clatskanie – October 7 (Thursday) – 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Flippin Castle
- Columbia City – October 18 (Monday) – 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Columbia City Comm. Hall
- VERNONIA – October 19 (Tuesday) – 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Vernonia Fire Training Room – Guest speaker will be Dr. James Roddey – CEPA members encouraged to attend.
- Rainier - October 28 (Thursday) – Rainier School District Boardroom
- St. Helens – November 18 (Thursday) – 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. – St. Helens Senior Center

CEPA has been a great organization for communications – in the future we want to make sure that communications that comes from CEPA is emergency management related.

- September is National Preparedness Month, according to Governor Kulongoski Proclamation
- COOKING IN THE DARK - how to prepare food without power for up to two weeks. How long food can last in a freezer or fridge following a power outage, proper long-term water storage and what non-food items are necessary for survival. Free – Saturday, September 18 – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Longview Women’s Club. Light refreshments – bring a sack lunch. Call Jennifer at 360 577-3130 or email [DEM@co.cowlitz.was.us](mailto:DEM@co.cowlitz.was.us).
- “Stuff the School Bus” – sponsored by United Way – there are flyers on the table.

Two first-time CEPA attendees - Craig Allison (Port of St. Helens) and Blair Walter (Sacagawea Health Center).

Greg introduced today’s guest speaker, Derek White, Columbia County Emergency Manager.

Derek began by saying he hoped to show the group today how Emergency management and the internet have paired up to work with people throughout the county. These tools also help us to market our agency and coordinate information. If you have a laptop with you, today will offer you a chance to interact with us. There are already a couple of systems that are for local agencies with permissions to share info during emergency and special events. This program is paid for by UASI – the system is web-based. The State of Oregon has a system used by the EOC to request state resources – it is called “Off Center”.

The **County Website** – good for providing static information about our department, such as what we do and how to contact us. Tried to explain what emergency management does – [www.co.columbia.or.us](http://www.co.columbia.or.us) – look for department tabs “Emergency Management”. It is really important for us to market ourselves properly – both to the private and public sector. It is so important for people to prepare for emergencies. We do a lot of work for preparedness, response, recovery (damage assessment).

**Columbia County Emergency Management File-Sharing Site** - Unveiling time – we have decided to start a file sharing site – [www.mediafire.com/columbiacountyem](http://www.mediafire.com/columbiacountyem). Unfortunately, the website is not working today, but when it is up and running, it will be easy for us to upload and the public to download.

Social networks – trying to use it as a tool to access segments of the population who use that form of media. **Twitter, Facebook and Blogger** – seem to be working.

- **Blogspot** – allows the easy posting of information and links for the public – we use this to update information about training, disaster declarations - <http://columbiacountyem.blogspot.com>. It has been very helpful for us. Pretty quick and easy way to communicate.

- **Twitter** – <http://www.twitter.com/columbiaem> allows short messages to be sent out to users, which are then seen by computer or cell phone – 140 characters or less. Good way to get brief information out to other people. It is a good way to let people know “just short blurbs” about us. You can have some of this just sent to your phone – we stay away from putting trivial stuff. If you have unlimited texting it is a nice way to get information free of charge. We have 196 people currently. We are the only place doing any social networking currently although Portland is starting up. Clark County has put together a game on preparedness. We can also update Twitter from our Facebook page.
- **Facebook** – search for us under Columbia County Emergency Management - allows us to do a lot more than Twitter or the blog – we can put pictures of training exercises, links, events, etc. It allows us to post “status updates” or messages which we can then send directly to Twitter. We have 383 people. Suggest to friends is a good way to get information out and more people to join. We have had people come to meetings just because they see the information on this website. Search for us – Columbia County.
- And now **CEPA has its own FACEBOOK** page – Terri Levie and Derek are administrators and thanks to Terri for helping with the set up. Now you can follow CEPA and encourage others to become our “friend.”

We mentioned a lot about the use of internet and social networks. We are not going to quit using the other medias like newspapers, magazines, TV --- it’s just another way to communicate to our public. It is very customized to Columbia County. We are looking at how we can use these tools during a disaster. We will need volunteers to help us to keep the information current – we are also looking at **You Tube** opportunities. Tony reminded us that when you are really in a disaster – WEBEOC is a really valuable tool. This is a tool used by agencies but is not for use by the public. Greg H. told folks that for them in Clatskanie – the log of events really helped us to supply information to FEMA so we could get reimbursements.

Misc. – Greg remarked on today’s room decorations – this is the 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday of 911 – these paper rings hanging from the ceiling – represents each employees years of service. Happy Birthday to 911 – we want you to know we appreciate all you do for emergency management in this County.

Although Sally Jones (911) was not here – Greg read a note she had forwarded to CEPA members encouraging us to write to the legislature asking them to not cut OSP funding. The proposed budget cuts to OSP will be devastating and will have negative impact for law enforcement in Columbia County.

Write to:

- Senate President Peter Courtney, 900 Court St Suite S-201, Salem 97303- fax 503 986 1004, or e-mail [sen.petercourtney@state.or.us](mailto:sen.petercourtney@state.or.us).
- Speaker of the House, Dave Hunt, PO Box 68445, Milwaukie, OR 97268, fax 503 650-5900 or e-mail [rep.davehunt@state.or.us](mailto:rep.davehunt@state.or.us).
- Co-chair Peter Buckley, 71 Dewey Street, Ashland, OR 97520,

Greg noted that people like him in chemical industry management are now hearing that “it’s Facebook and Twitter” and management needs to understand that if there is an incident at a plant employees who are helping out will also be communicating out via Facebook or Twitter. Management no longer has control of news distribution as they had in the past. And more changes – for instance, we just gave

out watches for years of service – and although the old-timers still appreciated it, not so sure the younger generation thought the same --- some don't even have watches – they have cell phones and blackberries and droids.

### **LEPC committee updates**

**EHS** – Ron Youngberg and Derek are working closely – Derek said we had a conference call last Friday – we started to get information together – we have a number of EHS facilities around the county. We applied for a grant from the State's emergency management fund to do a commodity flow of EHS substances that travel through our county. Terry Wolfe from OSFM – indicated that money might be available in October. Then we have a list of facilities that have certain quantities of materials. There are some businesses that may not know they need to report. So the committee will need to do some outreach and education. We are also expanding to some facilities across the river that may impact Oregon.

**Information Mgmt** – Steve Salle' – outreach to businesses – they just finished CEPA Expo and now will be working with EHS committee.

Program Committee – Diane noted we are full up for speakers the remainder of the year – next month (October 5) very interesting and special presentation from our "weather guy, Andy Bryant, with NOAA. On November 2, Northwest Natural brings us a guest speaker on pipeline safety.

**Finance** –Mike Greisen

**Membership Committee** – Ann Franzen working on to identify where we have gaps in our membership. Joe said they are following up on finding representatives of some businesses not located in the area, such as phone company.

Reports - Tony – County is in middle of FEMA remap for flood information – there is a misconception from some of our citizens that this is an option for us --- if we did not accept the map we would not be eligible for FEMA assistance and citizens would not be able buy flood insurance. That is not be confused with the flood rate for the dikes – that is a different process that is six months behind this. The message is that if in fact we do accept the map and your rate changes – there is only one flood insurance company in this country – buy your insurance before November 26. You have to have that insurance purchased to grandfather yourself in – Les from Corps suggested that you get it purchased right now. Flood season in the northwest begins around Thanksgiving. Tony reminded us that **Hazard insurance is not flood insurance.** You can get access to the maps through Land Development.

Earl Fisher said they would be discussing the proposed sheriff's levy and they are also looking at a facilities study – we are going to try to do something to the courthouse to make sure it is seismically approved. We are going to have to spend some money to improve our facilities --- earthquake proof.

911 – Steve reported they have completed the Clatskanie Mountain project so that radio tower is on line and working since Aug. 18. Introduced us to Cindi Turula ([cturula@columbia911.com](mailto:cturula@columbia911.com)) from 911 who is working with Sue Reedy on our mapping. She recently mapped out the routes of Hood to Coast so emergency responders could get a great view of where resources might be required.

Fire – Jay Tappan said it had been a pretty quiet month – looking forward to some cooler weather. Did survive the PDX to Coast walk – saw Joe in one of the communications rigs. Putting health district hat on

– they are at a critical juncture with the hospital – do not have certificate of need from the State. Ballot measure coming up in November that proposes to defund the project.

Law Enforcement – no reps today.

Emergency Management – just a reminder of the preparedness talks – one in each of the towns – especially the one in Vernonia.

Sacagawea Health Center – Blair Walter, newly elected board president said they have renewed contract with Legacy for nurse practitioner. Her name is Laura Jetmalani. We will be sponsoring some vaccination clinics and we just received a \$25,000 grant from Ford Family Foundation to continue mental health services for both elementary and secondary students in the St. Helens School District.

Industry – no reports

Corps of Engineers – Les Miller was back with us today – he is hoping to get his new supervisor to come to one of our CEPA meetings. He said we should be looking forward to next month's meeting when Andy Bryant from the National Weather Service will go through a lot of details on weather – we are going to get back into that wetter than normal – it's going to be a mild one – Think back to 1964, 1996 – there was these kind of conditions. Remember 2007 2008 – we have some incredible irregular flood events – thing that I am trying to work with folks --- what do you want to do to prevent damage to your community. Keep our businesses in place – they need a flood plan.

Andy Bryant from NOAA is our guest speaker on October 5 – place to be determined.

Kristen Stiegler – is going to be coming into possession of chemical mapping tools – my program tracks incidences around the State – excited about that. CEPA will be the first agency she is working with – will be talking to emergency responders about type of chemicals that come in contact with us and will keep us posted. She is also committed to following up on the work Dr. Theodora Tsongas did when she was in the same position as Kristen is now.

Port of St. Helens – Paula Miranda introduced Craig Allison [Allison@portshg.or](mailto:Allison@portshg.or) - he is the main contact for emergencies and is also the airport manager and property and operations manager . He would be the best contact – Remind everyone that we have the position open for director – soft deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup>. We hope that all of you go into our website – [www.portsh.org](http://www.portsh.org) – you will find a survey that allows community members to participate in executive director selection asking what you expect in a port director.

We closed with the door prize drawings --- next meeting is October 5 (place to be determined) – guest speaker Andy Bryant from NOAA with an update on the weather. American Red Cross will provide treats and door prizes.