

Columbia Emergency Planning Association Meeting
NOVEMBER 3, 2009

Present:

Senator Betsy Johnson	
Jay Tappan	CRF&R
Diane Dillard	CRF&R
Sally Jones	911CD
Brian Gray	Knife River
Anne Parrott	CHD Public Health
Alicia Little	Dyno Nobel
Michael Cave	Dyno Nobel
Marge Murphy	Red Cross
Eric Corliss	Red Cross
Lonny Welter	Columbia County Road Department
Joseph Errante	ARES/RACES
Greg Godfrey	Dyno Nobel
Terry Wolfe	OSFM
Jeff Kemp	Pacific Stainless
Nancy Harwood	RSVP
Beth Dudley	Col. Co. Emergency Management
Al Pierce	ARES/RACES
David Morrisson	ARES/RACES
Tony Hyde	Columbia Co. Commissioner
Gerry Meyer	Port of St. Helens
Earl Fisher	Columbia Co. Commissioner
Henry Heimuller	Columbia County Rider
M F Robbie Roberts	Northwest Natural Gas
Mark Griffin	Military Sealift Command
Mike Simek	Oregon Department of Forestry
Theodora Tsongas	Portland State University
Debbie Mattinen	Georgia Pacific
Kristi Ward	Georgia Pacific
Deb Wend	St. Helens Police
Russ Moon	Rainier – City Council
Caroline Frappier	Red Cross
Beth Santangelo	Armstrong
Randy Norman	Armstrong
Rita Bernhard	Columbia County Commissioner
Laney Coulter	Education Service District
Donna Nyberg	Rep. Brad Witt's office
Kevin Owens	Columbia River PUD
Jo Brooke	Boise
Steve Watson	Columbia 911
Terri Levie	Columbia 911

Welcome and introductions. Thanks to GP Wauna for the treats and door prizes.

We altered our agenda today so guest speaker, Johnson, could begin.

State Senator – in 2nd term in the Senate. Today is the Vernonia school district levy. The passing of the measure will provide \$13 million to rebuild the schools that were devastated by flood. The community wants to rebuild the schools “as green as possible”... very big deal in Vernonia.

General overview of the 2008 session. Acknowledged the Red Cross Representative at the meeting (Eric Corliss). She has met with the new Director and anticipates a renewed opportunity for conversation with the communities the Red Cross serves.

Jan.12 2009 – in deep economic trouble – The Legislature knew 07-09 difficulty with budget. Trying to close 07-09 and then anticipate as much as a \$4 billion problem for 09-11. The Legislature can't deficit spend in Oregon. Made about \$2 billion cuts, used rainy day fund, and raised some revenue. Increased in personal and corporate taxes and increase in corporate minimum. The Legislature based the increase on gross sales. The balancing act is what the legislature has to deal with --- three principal places DHS, K-12 and PS – “we educate, medicate and incarcerate”. That is where the cuts have to take place.

Oregon still has a citizen legislature and Brad is at his job today and so Senator Johnson conveyed his greetings and his interest in what CEPA does.

The Legislature provided \$6 billion in K-12 and capped some college tuition. Made the largest investment in transportation – includes 6 cents gas tax (we negotiated this outcome). It will bring road improvements. The bill includes reauthorization of Connect 3 – investment in the state's non-highway transportation system. The Legislature banned the use of hand-held cell phones with certain exceptions Kept state troopers; cracked down on meth particularly with respect to metal theft and contributed to affordable housing. The Legislature negotiated with the big DRG hospitals– emergency room treatment is the single most costly portal of getting into the health care system. Created Oregon Health Care Authority. The Legislature reorganized DHS – Human Service programs on one side and health care on the other side. Dr. Bruce Goldberg is an excellent resource for us. Did not see huge cuts to disabled and elderly because of stimulus money being used but the Legislature has incorporated those cuts into future and so we have some very difficult times ahead (2011-13). The Legislature protected DD Clients, helped foster care situations. Did a lot in the environmental area.

The Legislature increased fines for polluters – enacted a low carbon fuel standard, rejected a “cap n trade” bill – some very complicated energy issues. We will go back into session in 2010. Our budget has gotten so complicated and The Legislature “can't mind the store” if we aren't in Salem – Oregonians will probably see a referral to the voters to have annual sessions – we need a more efficient way to run a \$50 billion enterprise.

Nyberg – Dan Garrison will lead a forum Dec. 15 at the Loo Witt Room – both sides will probably spend \$4 million on this “yes and no” tax campaign. Stakes are huge on both sides.

Questions and answers sessions continued.

Deb Wend – St. Helens Police – Donut Day – for the last 9 years collected canned food in return for Krispy Kreme donuts. Very successful over the years and she is requesting donations. This was the brain child of St. Helens Police Chief, Steve Salle’ and it is very cool.

Jim Huff just retired after 22 years – gift collection

41 in attendance – 11 of the 19 board members in attendance today!

Minutes from last meeting – approved. Committee reports

Program Committee – Diane reported that the committee will be meeting next week to schedule speakers for next year – thanks to all who have offered suggestions.

Executive Committee – Nominations of officer

Betsy handed us a book from Tillamook County that she thought would be good for CEPA to reproduce and personalize it for our County.

OSFM – CEPA an excellent body – we are entering our third year of developing LEPC’s. We are promoting LPEC’s – unfortunately things slow down in May. Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grants closed out – and we had some funds left so they developed promotional materials. When we got you up and running as an LEPC – we got your sub-committees named but didn’t work much more with them so this is our next step. The biggest gap in Oregon is not emergency planning – our gap is public information outreach. We think it is important that people in the community know you are a member of the LEPC. Also pens, pencils and three ring binders for committees. Next step is reviewing emergency plans – we already have done Dyno Nobel – next comes Columbia City and then the rest of the county.

Committee reports –

Fire District – Clatskanie no report. CRF&R 352 calls and 73% EMS. Toy n Joy cranking up. Airplane crash in Yankton – good coordination with 911 and law enforcement.

ODF – awarded \$300,000 grant – Western states wildland urban interface – get homeowners and residents to remove foliage – we will help with mitigation of wildland fires. There is a green light and money available for these types of projects. Contact Mike Simek – ODF if you wish more information 503 397 2636. Kevin Nelson is our grant administrator plus other staff members.

MRC – is waiting in the wings – but have started up some of the H1N1 clinics. If there are medical personnel who want to volunteer they need to sign up through the MRC. It is an on-line process – 503 397 4651.

Pub Health – did some vaccination clinics – first thanks to Sally Jones for getting flyers and the word out. We only have a few pocket of health care workers who need to be vaccinated. First public clinic was last Friday – and it was broadcast widely. First person in parking lot at 5:20 a.m. TV was there and lots of people. Clinic opened at 9 and by 10 we had vaccinated 275 in the first hour. At 11 a.m. we announced the clinic would close at noon. Went through 700 doses in 3-4 hours. Next big clinics will be in the schools

County Commissioners – **Rita** – been trying to deal with budget issues. Kind of neglected our facility and so we beginning to have issues – one is the fairgrounds pavilion. Malarkey is donating roofing for that building – it has turned out to be more complicated than expected. Also doing some work inside the courthouse. Rita has been avid supporter of the new hospital – something needs to be done in this community about our medical services. We can't keep relying on PDX and Longview. **Earl** – our facilities are in great need – we will have some tests of these facilities as they begin blowing up rock in the river. Looking at gun range and working with Dyno Nobel and Knife River – appreciate the support of local businesses. There is a splash park being planned right in front of the courthouse and downtown St. Helens. Appreciate all the support from the people. **Tony** had another commitment so he was unable to report except a reminder that there is an elected officials dinner tonight at Rainier HS at 6 p.m. – Derek White will be talking about Emergency Preparedness in Columbia County.

Mark – now a member Coast Guard Flotilla – meet once month Multnomah Channel Yacht Club – Citizen Action Network with the coast guard – Pat Easton (503 803 3847) eastmech@aol.com – industry, residents – anyone that has waterfront property – infrastructure security. Will work with the 911 center.

RSVP – Citizen Corps. Meeting – 10 a.m. She passed out calendars

911 – may have heard some of our radio spots – and print ads – trying to focus on Shelter in Place, 72 hour kits and winter weather safety. Discover Channel featured our agency and CRFR. Sally gave formal notice that she is retiring December 1, 2010.

Gerry – Channel deepening is going on. Two blasts a day – early morning and early evening through the 15th of the month. New company (recycling company) ORPET – 50 new jobs now and perhaps 50 more in the future.

ARC – lot of going on with support of military. Howard Johnson dam difficulties and could mean a major evacuation in the State of Washington.

Armstrong – tomorrow 1 year w no lost times and on the 11th – 180 days safe. Did have a safety summit at our plant – invited safety groups from Wauna and Dyno Nobel – learned a lot from each other.

Boise – had an unfortunate incident that required medical transport – hand injury resulted in lost time. Couple of holes in orders in December. We are still running 24/7.

NW Natural – all is well – should be seeing a rate decrease.

Dyno Nobel – Plan is running well – runnerup for plant of the year globally. We have been getting a lot of kudos. Union Pacific invited us to Hermiston for a tank car ammonia drill.

GP Wauna – Kristi has returned from maternity leave and doing a lot of catchup. Raised \$126,000 for United Way – 51% of our goal. Did hire about 30 people –

Pacific Stainless – we have been able to hire back just about everyone that was laid off – we have 241 days since our last lost time. Did have an OSHA inspection – got a \$200 fine for our construction. Manufacturing is up.

Knife River – Brian Gray – we have stopped laying people off – had to lay off 30 people – we have been beneficiary of some stimulus money – keeping people busy through the winter. Watters Quarry in St. Helens was the recipient of the safety award

Transportation – Henry appreciated everyone who came to ground breaking last Friday at the home of the new transit center. St. Helens Apprentice program sponsored by the Student Foundation – and Columbia County Rider is a sponsor. It has been inspiring – encourage you to attend and see what the students are accomplishing. Last week at the Oregon Transit Assn conference – hats off to Janet Wright – given Award of Excellence by ODOT for Hwy 30 project. It will become a model for the cities.

Lonny – JP West Bridge was downgraded from 40 tons to 3 tons maximum. By the end of this week we should have upgraded to 10 ton. Construction continues up at the new hospital site on Millard Rd. Seems like some short trains going up and down and some going pretty fast. Some congestion at Ross and Bachelor Flat Rd. We have placed a stop sign at Bachelor Flat if you wish to proceed onto Ross Road. This is an effort to get people to slow down.

Beth Dudley from Emergency Management - 503 366 3905 – call if you can attend the dinner tonight so we can prepare for enough food.

Next meeting is Tuesday, December 1, 10 a.m. at the 911 Center. There will be the annual election of officers, committee organization, and a farewell to Jim Huff. Columbia River PUD will be bringing treats and door prizes.