

## Columbia Emergency Planning Association

### Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, August 6, 2013

#### Present:

Jay Tappan	CRFR
Diane Dillard	CRFR/Sacagawea Health Center/Chamber of Commerce
Joe Errante	ARES/RACES
Alicia Kahl	Dyno Nobel
Dee Wooley	Columbia 911
Lonny Welter	Columbia County Road Department
Loren Klepper	ARES/RACES
Terry Wolfe	Oregon State Fire Marshal
Vicki Botieff	ServPro
Heidi Ralls	Columbia River PUD
Kevin Owens	Columbia River PUD
Vincent Aarts	Columbia County Emergency Management Coord.
Renate Garrison	Columbia County Emergency Manager
Mark Kreutzer	Columbia River Fire & Rescue
Marge Murphy	Private Citizen
Craig Allison	Port of St. Helens
Kristi Ward	Georgia Pacific – Wauna
Martin Anderson	Hood to Coast Relay
Todd McCabe	Hood to Coast Relay
Jeanine Dilley	CCOM911
Justin Hovey	SERVPRO
Vicki Botieff	SERVPRO
Chris Newman	GP – Wauna
Anne Parrott	Public Health Foundation/MRC
Robert Keyser	Clatskanie Fire/Port of St. Helens
Randy Larson	Clatskanie PUD
John Cyrus	Pacific & Western Railroad
Jacque Lomsdal	Dyno Nobel
Steve Sharek	Clatskanie Fire
Doug Lenz	Columbia Pacific Refinery
Brandon Gimper	Columbia Pacific Refinery
Valarie Koss	Columbia River Peoples Utility District
Lorraine Churchill	Columbia County Emergency Management
Brad Witt	State Representative
Senator Betsy Johnson	(by phone)
Henry Heimuller	Columbia County Commissioner
Deborah Hazen	Clatskanie Chief

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Jay Tappan. Special thanks to the PUD for allowing us to use this building and to Georgia Pacific for the treats and door prizes. Thanks to City of Clatskanie's Greg Hinkelman for use of a laptop.

Introductions – Thirty-seven CEPA members gathered for today's monthly meeting!

Quick announcements – Hood to Coast August 23-24 – Martin Anderson – special thanks to Columbia 911 and Day Wireless help make our communications system possible. Our biggest concern is safety. Lorraine Churchill announced that Dyno Nobel will be allowing us to put on a ICS 300 and will be last one for her who has accepted a new position with a company in New Zealand. Jeanine Dilley announced that Columbia Fest is this Saturday at the fairgrounds. Diane said the Chamber is conducting a raffle for a stainless steel sink donated by Pacific Stainless.

**Guest speaker** - Deborah Steele Hazen – She began by saying I'm going to tell you a story today – I will take you back about 5 p. m. Wednesday Feb. 7 1996 – I walked up on Conyer Street to survey the impending flood – in fact our next edition and entire front page was devoted to the big flood of '96. Had about 5-6 inches of rain and later over 9" plus 3" of melted snow. Brought Columbia River to flood stage. The Clatskanie River flooded town - we had 3 to 4 ft. white water waves coming through out buildings. The river was almost touching the bridge and after confiding with my husband, decided maybe we better begin sandbagging our office. At 10 p.m. that night I got a call – that we are evacuating the Swedetown Mobile Home Park/ It was where my 95 year old great aunt was living – the question was where do we bring her. At 4 a.m. the phone rang – Andrew Merila – OSP – rookie policeman at the time with the City of Clatskanie . He informed me – the Chief's office is badly flooded and if you want to save the hardware store, you better come down. I was so frustrated ... it was so wet that the park had like 7 feet of floodwater – the whole downtown was flooded. Took pictures of Evensen Logging crew and the PUD crew. I later learned that some of the downtown property owners didn't get a call so they could move things to save their valuables. At that time, I hadn't realized that information was not getting out to the general public. There was so much I didn't know – and I would have argued that the people downriver from Portland had the right to know so that they could have moved their family treasures and business equipment. We operated The Chief out of my house. It is my belief that had the information been put together and disseminated to the public we could have had less property damage – there were lots of heroic efforts by emergency responders – in the days following there were daily meetings at the fire hall – and I felt I played an important part in disseminating information – we went back for three issues – so fast forward first week December 2007 – there had been a huge effort in preparing for emergencies and so we were far better prepared. But I still had problems in getting information. I was driven out of the City Hall that our family had a presence for generations.

I knew about the imminent slide disaster near Woodson... when I got the word from ODOT that they were closing Highway 30..later that day I was surprised to learn that our PUD and our Police department had not been kept in the loop. That is the day I started my Chief Bulletin e-mail list. And I started sending updates on all that was occurring --- within a few weeks the list continued to grow. In the realm of public safety - The old adage is: "To be forewarned is to be forearmed." I was trying to illustrate that I told the people ahead of time all I knew about the flooding situation, but none of us knew how bad it was going to get overnight. "

It is important to keep the media supplied with accurate information – the public has the right to know what is coming at them. If you wish to be added to the E-mail bulletin list – contact [chief@clatskanie.com](mailto:chief@clatskanie.com). Cost is \$10/year. She has not thought much about adding Twitter and/or

Facebook. Kristi Ward expressed a special thanks to Debbie for helping us at GP Wauna keep the plant running in the last flood, which helped us with our business decisions. Debbie said people are used to get their information from us (the media) they call us sometimes before they call authorities. Diane noted that we at Boise were grateful for the information the Clatskanie Chief shared. Rep. Witt said it's very useful getting your bulletins – to know what is going on in our district. And there were indeed a lot of heroic efforts - I observed first responders evacuating an elderly resident out of the top floor windows and a young student who got swept down the river – and on the other side of the river when a car was being washed down the river and National Guard lassoed – it was the responders who saved the day.

And others in Clatskanie including Debbie remembering the save right under that bridge we almost lost three responders from St. Helens and miraculously grabbed them as they were swept under. Many miracles.

Jeanine Dilley is looking forward to getting Renate's emergency management shop set up – and working with people like you (Debbie)– kudos to you for being on top. Greg Hinkelman – my first experience working with media was 2009 – park flooded and it was touch and go whether it would flood again. My first interaction with media was that she reported true and accurate and he soon found out that all media are not so honest/accurate.

**Representative Brad Witt** – thanks for responders – update on legislative session – feel free to contact me. Overall I think that 2013 will go down in history as the “education session” – the year that Oregon and the legislature turned the corner on our investment in education. I think it is a reflection of the hard economic times that our communities have faced – be that as it may we found money to increase our funding – 6.7 billion – the largest amount we have ever invested in this state. It should make this state able to be globally competitive – HIRE education specifically targeted to career and technical education – STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math HIGHER – tuition equity a early childhood education. A couple of other areas of focus were – curbing the prison population so we moved funds to prevention programs. Largely made possible by Ballot Measure 11 – it is critically important that we get the bad actors in prison – another area where we spent a fair amount of time on strengthening our state's safety net – adequate funding for in home care for our seniors. Dealing with abandoned and derelict vessels was another important accomplishment. Last but not least – I had two personal bills I sponsored and passed – public safety – increase the penalties for sex trafficking and enhanced prison security.

**Senator Betsy Johnson** – her first words were thanks for accommodating me with this conference call. She had a “tough” day yesterday and was happy she didn't have to travel. Betsy will find out this week when I can put more weight on my leg. This has been a humiliating and edifying experience – seriously this has given me an insight into a world that fortunately most of us don't face. There will be some “handicap accessible” issues on my future legislative agenda.

She began with some “high level” comments ---

I think if anything this legislature showed a willingness to tackle issues that would involve deeper adjustments to PERS – at the end of the day it was mixed success. We never really took on the PERS question - \$200-\$270 million – considerable controversy. It will ultimately end up in the Supreme Court – we are trying to find a place to stop this “yo-yo” funding of schools. Sounds like we will have a special session in September.

In the meantime we did make the largest contribution to education - there are still going to be some districts who will face shortfalls. We wrestled with public safety issues – when the public safety commission was pulled together it was woefully lacking representation from police, district attorney. We looked for savings where we could – for instance some prisoners had better medical insurance than most of us. We continued to move forward with health care cost issues and so we made big investments – DHS and Coordinated Care Organizations.

I wish we had done more on jobs – we did our work on the Columbia Crossing – we put money in brownfields – we put money into film/videos, Astoria has announced they just got a big movie.

Before we left the session we made a huge commitment to construction.

We put in a package that will deal with a county's possible insolvency (there are some Oregon counties that are reaching that point. We're still going to deal with a sluggish economy – we have dealt with the public safety issue and trains in Rainier. Lots talks about transportation – undoubtedly be talking about in the 2014-15 session – most of the work I did was in the area of budgets – we fulfilled our obligation to turn out a balanced budget. Agencies came under scrutiny – sorry we didn't get all we really wanted for 911. Jeanine Dilley thanked both Rep. Witt and Sen. Johnson for their support in the 911 venue – we are literally losing millions of dollars on this “point of sale” issue and desperately need to form a bill that will make some forward motion. Noted Betsy, “Everyone wants a cop or an ambulance when they need it ...but they don't want to pay for it.”

Mark Kreutzer (CRFR board president) said thank you on behalf of Oregon Fire Service for your support in this last session – your willingness to listen was important. A question is the August 19<sup>th</sup> drop dead date?? Is that true – “mascot bill”??? Betsy noted that the Christmas tree bill is shrouded in mystery and I am VP of Ways and Means and I don't even know about it...governor may take some line item vetoes to that bill.

Do you think there's enough support for a special session? Betsy said she thinks they will have one and get support – she knows there is bi-partisan support from the Senate. Brad says there may be some reluctance on the House side.

I want to put special emphasis on the sex trafficking bills – Oregon is getting a very unsavory reputation and I am proud to be chief sponsor of some of this sex traffic scumballs getting rounded up.

Brad appreciates the feedback from all of us – the way the Senator and I continue to maintain a pulse on what is happening back home – call, write in – means a whole lot to us. Please don't ever hesitate – we want to hear from you.

**Old Business:** -- our next board meeting is at 9 a.m. September 3 – and our Board of Directors will be top priority. Jay also reminded member of the Oregon Emergency Management Conference – October 7-10 – Eugene. Getting people more familiar with LEPC mandates. Lot of good information – Jim Huff may be one of the presenters. He encouraged CEPA/LEPC members to attend.

Columbia County - Henry discussed the incident where the courthouse was affected by a fire suppression system issue – we apologize for and thank people for their patience. Computers about 75% back up – phone system is working – still another 4-5 days to get all work stations up and running. It is amazing how the phone calls are now so tied to electronics including delaying of home sales, marriages,

etc. The positive that came out of this will be an update to our emergency plan. Our plan is not that old but we have a whole new HVAC system – whole new fire suppression system – we need a truly positive outcome. Still some inconveniences happening as it relates to customer service. Special thanks to **Servpro**. At the outset of this emergency, I called their national emergency service – there was an outstanding emergency response – it has been absolutely tremendous.

The Board of Commissioners have decided to put a jail levy on the November ballot – currently our jail is being funded by our federal inmates – we have no other source of funding. Since July 1<sup>st</sup> we are only able to fund 25 local jail beds – we have 255 beds – 80 are rented out to the feds. We can only provide 25 beds because of the personnel available. That measure has been filed – asking .57 cents per \$1000 – specifically for the jail not for law enforcement personnel. We built a nice jail in 2001 – but we never implemented a funding stream. We need to fix this or we won't have jail staffing. We are hoping for CEPA support. This is a board of commissioners driven measure. We see the importance of housing prisoners. Copy of resolution will be sent out with these minutes.

The group extended “best of luck” to Lorraine Churchill and her new venture in New Zealand.

Renate thanks everyone who has contributed to our project of building a new EOC – thanks to County Commissioners and Fire District and others for their support .

**Road Department** – Lonny Welter said we've had some decent weather – Marshland and part of Midland Roads repaired – using ground asphalt that they put down and cover with an emulsion – it's been tried out in Gilliam County – getting a lot of State visitors. Suppose to have a 30-year life span – about half the cost of hot mix. As of yesterday crews are putting in culverts on Eddings Road – need to reconnect the slide on Nick Thomas Road. Also doing striping. Very busy time of the year. We had a Safety Corridor meeting two weeks ago – looks like ODOT looking at 2 possible solutions – Bennett and Millard Road sections - this is under the State Transportation Improvement Program – looking at projects for Columbia County, Clatsop and Tillamook - we have three projects in Columbia County. Ranked 4, 5 and 6. Connect Oregon 5 – will kick in again this fall – using lottery dollars to help resolve transportation issues – this year only going to have \$40 million – projects that look at multi-modal projects. Regional Disaster Preparedness – we had \$500,000 available – walked away with \$300,000 worth of public works projects – RDPO – the original funding will no longer be available. Our mobile water treatment is now headed for Baker, Oregon --- because they are under a “boil water warning”...if we're not using it we can share it with other areas.

**OFSM** – we have demobilized all crews at Douglas County – actually last month had a meeting of State Emergency Response Commission – talked about breaking the rest of the state up into planning districts. Most of the LEPC's are county based --- continue to monitor fire season.

**911** continuing to hire. We now have a hiring list – we need trainers. Jeanine said the operating levy passed and thank you for your support. EOC will be starting construction in our parking – doing a lot of maintenance on towers, our shop, etc. Will be attending national APCO conference – taking a National Missing Children Association class – it will allow us a different level to help missing children – in addition to Amber Alert.

**Clatskanie Fire** – Steve Sharek - it is drying out here – we are starting to reach critical time. We have been able to enter into an agreement with Georgia Pacific Wauna Mill for fire and ambulance services and hazardous materials response.

**Hood to Coast** (HTC) – Tom McCabe is safety director for HTC –he is a firefighter/paramedic – he is looking at best ways to keep participants safe – flashing LEDs at night on our runners – and bright vests during day. Fire danger big concern this year. Encourage all van drivers to operate within the limits of the law.

**City of Clatskanie** - Greg Hinkelman extended a warm welcome to everyone from Clatskanie – Kiddingly he said, “do not leave without purchasing something from one of our businesses!”

**Clatskanie PUD** – Randy Larson said they are expanding their communications process to create dedicated staff to emergency communications. Look for updates on their website - [www.Clatskanie.com](http://www.Clatskanie.com).

**ARES/RACES/CERT** - Joe Errante noted that Ham operator licenses class will be held at Clatskanie at Fire Department in the near future – they are free.

Door prizes and treats were provided by GP Wauna.

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 3 at 10 a.m. at the 911 Center – Bill Brauer from Oregon State Fire Marshal’s office will be our guest speaker ... while the City of St. Helens will be bringing treats and door prizes.