

Columbia Emergency Planning Association

Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2014

Henry Heimuller	Columbia County Commissioner
Janine Salisbury	St. Helens School District
Mike Greisen	Scappoose Fire Chief
Earl Fisher	Columbia County Commissioner
Anne Parrott	Public Health
Jeanine Dilley	Columbia 911
Greg Hinkelman	Clatskanie City Manager
Lonny Welter	Columbia County Road Department
Renate Garrison	Columbia County Emergency Manager
Jay Tappan	Columbia River Fire & Rescue Chief
Diane Dillard	CEPA PIO, CRFR and Sacagawea
Roger Barbour	American Red Cross
Alicia Kahl	Dyno Nobel
Tony Hyde	Columbia County Commissioner
Brian Little	NW Innovations Works
Joe Smith	NW Innovations Works VP
Murray Godley III	NW Innovations Works Pres
Tyree Wilde	Warning Coordination Meteorologist/National Weather Service
Terry Moss	St. Helens Police Chief
Annie Christensen	Local citizen
Kristi Ward	Georgia Pacific
Quinton Harold	Family Medicine – OHSU in Scappoose
Malcolm Hiatt	Oregon Department of Forestry - Manager
Don Patterson	St. Helens Chronicle
Mark Kreutzer	CRFR Board Chair
Loren Klepper	ARES/RACES
Connie Budge	911 Board and Rainier Senior Center VP
Dave Morrisson	ARES/RACES
Bill Okrasinski	ARES/RACES/CARA
Joe Errante	ARES/RACES and CERT
Steve Watson	Columbia 911
Craig Allison	Port of St. Helens
Bryan Profyt	Portland Fire
Julie Knapp	CCMH
Richard Baltzersen, Jr.	Special Agent FBI – WMD Coordinator
Shaunee Moreland	Columbia County Emergency Management
Monique Oliver	Columbia Pacific Food Bank
Marge Murphy	Private Citizen
John Cyrus	Pacific Western RR
Vincent Aarts	Columbia County Emergency Management
Kevin Owens	Columbia River PUD - Manager
Rick Baltzersen	FBI
Jacque Lonsdal	Dyno Nobel

Jay Tappan called the meeting to order at 10:07. Thanks to Pacific Stainless for treats and door prizes.

Special guests – Quinton Harold – newest board member from OHSU Family Clinic in Scappoose representing “medical facilities.”. Introductions of attendees. Great crowd today – 43 attendees.

Guest Speaker – TYREE WILDE - Warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service. He works toward enhancing the forecast and warning systems by closely tying agency’s mission to its customers such as emergency managers, the media, land and water managers and the marine community. He has quite a bit of experience around the country including Omaha, Flagstaff and Phoenix AZ and Cape Canaveral, Florida. He holds a BS and Masters in meteorology from the University of Utah. He loves living in the Pacific Northwest and enjoys hiking, mountain biking, white-water kayaking and being outdoors.

Weather Patterns of the Pacific Northwest – Tyree Wilde – thanks to Steve for inviting me. Basic Weather Patterns - we lean on the media a lot – Mark Nelsen – KPTV-Fox allowed me to use today’s graphics that I am presenting.

West Coast ridge –trough of low pressure on east coast has been allowing storms to go over us – typically a very dry pattern – some warm weather at higher elevations and a lot of east winds. Storms shear as they approach the coast – It is now called Atmospheric River (aka Pineapple Express) – heavy rainfall – high snow levels, mild and humid, strong southwest winds.

Zonal Westerly Flow – typical winter months – active, wet pattern – storm every 1-2 days – heavy Cascade snow – we haven’t seen much this winter.

Gulf of Alaska low – cold and wet, heavy Cascade snow and low snow levels – sort of what happened in December 2013. Seen that a couple of times this year

Arctic Air Invasion – this is coming at us this week – lot of cold air in the Columbia basin – usually clear and dry – strong east winds, very cold in Cascades – then the transition often leads to snow or freezing rain potential.

Forecast for remainder of winter – El Nino – warm and La Nina – cool and wet. This year we are in neither one of those so we are in a “neutral year”... El Nino 37% and La Nina 35% and so the neutral conditions about 28%. So just an odd winter.

Weather Outlook – next several days and upcoming – cold temperatures and dangerous cold wind chills – perhaps minus 20. Strong east winds – 70 mph in the gorge. Stay tuned for snow and freezing rain potential this weekend.

Feb 6-10 - www.cpcpara.ncep.noaa.gov - odds more below normal temperatures and actually some better precipitation.

Feb. 11-17 – moderate temperatures and more precipitation hopefully allowing us to build some more snowpack and groundwater.

Feb. – starting off a more colder month but looks like we’ll get more precipitation

Weather Tools for Decision Making –

- Awareness of potential storm impacts – 5-7 days out
- Outlooks – 2-5 days ahead of event
- Watches – 1-3 days ahead
- Warnings – 6-24 hours ahead

Being weather ready staying informed – iNWS – cell phone application – pretty nice application (do not share with general public) – we do webinars for high impact events. We do e-mail briefings – and YouTube multi-media briefings. We are trying to draw attention to the unusual. www.weather.gov – once you go to the web page – you can use a point and click and get forecast for the local area. If you scroll down there are hourly weather graphs which could help prepare for emergencies e.g. opening up warming centers. There are also observations page – for specific areas. Mesonet Observations – pretty high data network weather information hour by hour. We also have a web page showing how much will it rain – quantitative precipitation – helpful for potential flood events and freezing level data. We also have a river page – so shows hydrologic prediction services.

StormReady – this is a community preparedness program – successful warning system

- Detection
- Warning decision
- Communications
- Education
- Response

Community preparedness program with primary goal to improve public safety during weather related emergencies – proud to say Columbia County is a “storm ready” county – thanks to Renate for getting this in place. Focuses on improving communication and preparedness – recognition is for 3 years - then you must recertify. Counties can receive points for flood insurance.

Sea surface temperatures can really vary a lot – caused by tradewinds. El Nino and La Nina – actually El Nino is warm water and La Nina – cooler water

If we have a dry spring – we will end up with a very active fire season this year. We’re hoping for a wet spring. The red flag conditions that happened a few weeks really did surprise us. “I always think that Mother Nature has a way of balancing things out.” There are six ships in Newport working on the NOAA project.

Old Business: At today’s board meeting – we appointed Quinton Harold from OHSU to represent “medical facilities.”

We looked at grant opportunities- Mike Greisen will be taking the lead. We have the annual donkey basketball at the high school on April 19 – police vs. fire. We talked about doing a preparedness table at the event – will be sharing with Kiwanis.

CEPA Expo – July 19 – one day at the fairgrounds. Shaunee is spearheading the event.

We reviewed our committees and will finalize that at next meeting – if you have program ideas contact Steve Watson and/or Diane Dillard. By-laws were finalized. Rail response planning will be an ongoing discussion.

Financial report for 2013 was distributed. We are sitting okay with funds right now but CEPA Expo will cost us. Account Fund Balance at the end of 2013 was \$10,666.70.

Program committee ---Diane thanked Steve Watson for getting today’s speaker. We still need speakers for July 1, August 5, October 7, November 4, and December 2.

Membership Committee - Henry is spearheading the membership committee – he’s recruiting new members from industry.

Agency Reports

Chamber – annual banquet

School district – J. Salisbury - board meeting 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

ODF – Malcolm reports unusual wildfires on the coast last week – result of rekindled slash burns. Fires in Mollala they had to plow snow to even get to it and the lakes were frozen. ODF has three engines in service – was trying to communicate with fire chiefs – and probably 600 firefighters. In Columbia County no instances.

County – Earl Fisher - work on active shooter program in the courthouse– the biggest issue is condition of possible jail closure. Being without a jail is not good for this county – in light of public safety or economic development.

Clatskanie – Greg H. says thanks to Lonny and RDPO – for the big lightstand we received and we finally replaced our K-9 vehicle.

Port – Craig – master planning process at the airport is continuing. Will have another meeting in April. Continuing very aggressive remodeling at Multnomah Industrial Park. We already have tenants for the facility. Biggest new items – announcement of a very big project at our Port Westward facility – and we have now opened a dog park in Columbia City – facility is getting a lot of use.

ARC – Roy B. we responded 353 disasters assisting 478 families. Preparedness education to over 10,000 and health and safety to 29,00-and assistance to 500 military families. We need volunteers for the warming centers. Their CEO Eric Corliss is moving to Atlanta, GA. So Teresa Caver will be interim CEO of the American Red Cross.

Col County – Tony – Town Hall meetings about jail - original purpose was in light of failed levy and our budget – we were accused of scaring public – in truth we are holding these town hall meetings to educate the public about what could be a reality. What we are seeing is a grassroots campaign to get this levy on the ballot.

Now a round of funding going on for the RDPO – this is how we are going to fund continued operations with our partners for preparedness in the region. Will be going with Earl to Washington DC – work on national flood insurance – and next week Senator Wyden has a hearing on “secure rural schools.” If we could get back to the funding we had in 2000 we wouldn’t be worried about closing the jail. We were in Salem yesterday at Association of Oregon Counties – all of our commissioners hold management positions. Tappan said we applaud your leadership. Henry – our top priority today is the jail issue. We met others in law enforcement – meeting in Gold Beach – there are other counties faced with the same issue.

SH Police – Terry M. we did an active table top exercise based on an incident in the High School – identified some gaps – another meeting in the next couple of weeks to fill the gaps. Our CERT program will kick off another round of training in April – if you have interest fill out application.

911 – J. Dilley – security is the top priority for us – we need to be in compliance and are addressing some security *issues. We participated in the active shooter tabletop. Working with board in planning.* The other thing is I have to jump on the jail bandwagon – *it is a very serious issues. If we don’t have a jail the crime rate will escalate.*

Public health – Anne – flu numbers are tapering off and now we are down to a low status. Public staff still has a team working with others to sign up for health insurance through Cover Oregon.

OHSU – Quinton - we’re looking to expand and lots of new patients with the new insurance program. We are attempting to cut Emergency Department usage.

Henry – “shout out for railroad” – thanks for the quick and professional response to allegations of unsafe railroad bridge – the bridge is in compliance and is safe.

Portland Fire - Brian – working on training issues.

Road department – Lonny - we are preparing for the bad weather this week.. RDPO – we received some 2012 funds and approved for a mobile water treatment plant – this is the third one we have received – we also got “glo bug” emergency lighting systems and some gas detection instruments. And Clatskanie walked away with a new chain saw that cuts even through cement .These come in really handy during an emergency extraction. Two here in SH and one in Clatskanie.

Scappoose Fire - 151 emergencies – aircraft lost its expensive aircraft fuel. Scappoose received a new fire boat – 30 foot craft 1984. Fire Agencies in Clatskanie, St. Helens and Scappoose have been meeting to discuss light crude oil coming through out county – working out projects with the railroad on training and also Portland fire chiefs want to discuss the issue with them. We also attended roundtable with Merkeley and Wyden – to talk about the shipping of crude oil.

ARES/RACES Dave Morrisson focusing on transfer of communications from old EOC at the Courthouse to the new one down here.

Terry Wolfe – OSFM – got the Administrative Rule Process – that is moving forward and needs to be completed before completing LEPC development in the rest of the state. Hazardous Materials grants only open until March 5. Should put placeholders in for projects that CEPA will want to do – possibly hazmat emergency response for rail operations . . HazMat Teams conference coming up this spring and will be held in Seaside. It is a good opportunity to get familiar with state hazmat teams and their role, responsibility and capabilities during a response.

Chronicle – Don Patterson – we had someone call the office and was very angry at us – that there was something that was in the online edition and that was not in the print edition. There are stories that are on line that are not in the newspaper and even different versions – that is by design. They reach two different markets. If you are trying to get your information to your people remember that. We sell a subscription and that allows you to get the online product and also have print product. Another good thing is deadlines are different – but online not legal for public notice.

PUD - Kevin Owens – kudos to the Chronicle for the current on-line version. No news is always good news in the electric business. That cold December – bills are hitting customer mailboxes and it was 20% colder in December than usual. There has been a lot in the news about fishing expeditions and phone calls from people calling claiming to be from PG&E – if they don’t make a payment by such and such a time there power will be disconnected. It is a scam.

CERT – Joe has forms for folks wishing to sign up for CERT course – April and May. We have a large program coming this year.

CCMH – Julie we have four mental health first aid trainers. Oregon has a big push to get 5000 people trained in the next year. There are youth and adult manuals. It is an 8-hour class –really important .

Georgia Pacific - Kristi Ward – thanks to the weather service for us in the industrial world their forecasts mean a lot to us and right now our mill is getting ready for the cold weather. We are receiving a new fire truck and meeting with Clatskanie Fire for training

ARC - Willie Bence – new disaster manager for Red Cross ..I’m here to support our disaster response capacity.

Emergency Management - Shaunee Moreland – EXPO registration forms trickling in- she will be sending out notices again to potential participants – the event is slated for July 19 at the fairgrounds.

Private Citizen - Annie Christensen – retired special Ed teacher – concerned about the older model DOT tank cars.

Emergency Management - Renate Garrison – wrapping up the EOC grant – so close to finishing up the new EOC center. We do not have an open house date.

CRFR Mark Kreutzer – with the weather forecast make sure your employees are aware – make sure your smoke detectors and CO2 monitors checked. Keep pipes from freezing

Food Bank– Monique – we have several areas of but lost some of our sponsorship especially Safeway. Dutch Lovers event Feb. 14 – for three cans of food – free coffee. Looking for new partnerships – we need more sponsors.

FBI – Richard - Citizens Academy accepting applications – FBI.gov and the honors intern program.

Dyno Nobel – Gregg Bailey has left our facility – actively recruiting for new health and safety position.

NW Innovations Works - Murray and Joe look forward to meeting with CEPA members in the future and will likely have a presentation in the near future.

Brian Little – lots of good observations!

Connie Budge – 911 board member – she is also representing VP Rainier Senior Center – they lost their facility on December 9th – due to frozen pipes. The Food Bank came to our rescue. It made the difference on getting Meals on Wheels out – please support them.

County Emergency Management - Vince Aarts – encourage your neighbors and friends to keep an eye out for cold weather conditions.

Next meeting March 4th. Our guest speaker is Coast Guard Captain of the Port – Bruce Jones. Columbia River Sector. Treats and door prizes will be provided by St. Helens School District.