

Columbia Emergency Planning Association

Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2012

Present:

James Roddey	Guest Speaker – aka “Dr. Doom”
Larry Lucas	Retired Oregon State Police
Robbie Roberts	Northwest Natural Gas
Yvette Shepherd	Oregon State Police
Steve Reed	Circuit Court Judge
Steve Salle	Chief, St. Helens City Police
Mike Sullivan	Portland General Electric
Joe Errante	ARES/RACES
Henry Heimuller	Columbia County Commissioner
Al Pierce	ARES/RACES
Tony Hyde	Columbia County Commissioner
Kristi Ward	Georgia Pacific - Communications Manager
Chris Newman	Georgia Pacific
Anne Parrott	Columbia Co. Public Health
Pat Trapp	Port of St. Helens – Executive Director
Diane Dillard	Chamber of Commerce, CRFR, Sacagawea
Jim Dillard	Dillard’s Moorage
Michael Cave	Dyno Nobel
Lonny Welter	Columbia County Road Department
Greg Hinkelman	Clatskanie City Manager
Earl Fisher	Columbia County Commissioner
Rick Bennett	Columbia Pacific Bio-Refinery
Cristin Corcoran	Cities Readiness Initiative
Michael Greisen	Scappoose Fire District, Chief
Genell Grow	St. Helens Federal Credit Union
Chrissy Johnston	St. Helens Federal Credit Union
Brandi McAllister	St. Helens Federal Credit Union
Kevin Asell	Portland General Electric
Paul Hird	Portland General Electric
Erik Lasher	Portland General Electric
Caroline Frappier	CERT
Laurie Mollenhour	Order of Easter Star
Glenn Mollenhour	Amateur Radio
Chris Greenhill	DHS – Department of Homeland Security
Kathy Denckla	Columbia 911
Jeff Dickerson	Columbia County Sheriff
Tiffanie Misclevitz	ServiceMaster by JTS
Jo Brooke	Boise Paper
Dawn Ritenour	Boise Paper
Jay Tappan	Chief – Columbia River Fire & Rescue
Steve Watson	Columbia 911
Randy McEwen	Portland Community College
Bill Blank	Scappoose Farmers Market & Scappoose Planning Comm.

Craig Allison
Greg Godfrey

Port of St. Helens
Dyno Nobel

In Greg's absence, Jay welcomed CEPA members today and special thanks to all three county commissioners for being present as well as another "luminary" – Judge Steve Reed. He also sent his thanks again to 911 for hosting these CEPA meetings and to GP Wauna –for treats and door prizes! Kristi said as you leave today – take two boxes of facial tissue "Not "Kleenex"!

General Notices

- Donkey Basketball – Firefighters lost to the police – already received \$2000 in advance. We had silent auction and concessions. Great evening but suddenly the firefighters are having a difficult time remembering score.
- CEPA Expo planning meeting – will be in late May. Big thanks to Pat Trapp for bring the Coast Guard in to participate in this year's EXPO. We are currently researching insurance for the event.
- Join the LEPC – so you can vote.
- Bank – we need new signers – currently Roger Barbour and Jim Huff – so it was moved and seconded to designate Mike Greisen and Jeff Kemp as signers. Motion passed.

Guest Speaker Dr. James Roddey – award winning author – www.prophetofdoom.me. He began by saying it's no secret that "we live in an area that is seismically threatened."

A lot has happened in the three years since I've been here. I am giving talks all over the State. Left reference books on back table – a list of different kinds of talks I do. His main goal is to help people understand about disaster preparedness – a slightly paranoid Disaster Preparedness Guru – he who has the toilet paper in a disaster is in charge!

| Be prepared for all types -of disaster – Showed pictures from January 2012 Lapland, Finland saying we are in middle of a solar storm right now. Last month we had biggest solar flare in the last 11 years. He showed pictures taken by astronauts who say when the red tinge is on northern lights they fly right through. But this solar storm does not hold a candle to the one that happened in 1859 – but very similar. Sun has an active cycle much like hurricane system. 1859 biggest solar storm recorded – very similar to what we are in right now. People in Cuba and Hawaii saw the northern lights – which is very unusual. Telegraph operators in the old days reported that sparks were leaping from their equipment and setting buildings afire. If it happens today it basically brings the world to a standstill. The good news we get to determine action to be taken – bad news there is no plan.

| Mother Nature -is bi-polar...can be a bit schizophrenic ... he showed video footage 1996 landslide during the big flood events. Land-slides are very representative of the type of natural disasters we can experience. It is not unusual we get snow that shuts PDX down ... Western Oregon is over due for the big one – a big windstorm which happens roughly every 10 years – last one Friday 13, 1981 ... 70 to 90 mile per hours in Willamette Valley. 2007 big gale – left us without communications for a week – we get some pretty serious events..not usually region wide. Of course there is Mt. St. Helens – could have been a ½ billion tons of ash come in our direction instead of dumping it in the tri-cities.

We live within an active volcanic mountain range – they average about 2 eruptions every 100 years or so – there have been 57 major eruptions over last 14,000 years with Mt. Rainier and Mt. Hood considered most dangerous.

| Where else in the US can you walk a volcanic evacuation trail and a tsunami evacuation trail all in the same day. No place but here in Oregon. Last year the USA had 14 disasters totaling \$55 billion dollars. The next closest year was \$8 billion – new trend is that storms are getting bigger – people moving to more vulnerable areas. Incredible outbreaks of tornados and severe weather. We have been pretty well isolated from the billion dollar disasters here in the PNW.

Social media for emergency information is the new normal – when 5.8 earthquake on the east coast hit in August, the first Twitter reports sent from people at the epicenter began immediately so they reached New York about 40 seconds ahead of the quake's first shock waves.. the flood of messages peaked at 5,500 tweets a second. In the case of tsunami warnings, we may be able to use social media to get the message out better than sirens. The question is ...is it worth it to spend millions of dollars repairing an outdated form of disaster notification. The other thing that is changing is the way Americans are using social media...about 1/3 of Americans go on line to find out about approaching storms.. More than 1/3 of Americans expect help to arrive within an hour after they have posted a message. FEMA is using twitter to identify and tell people where to find shelters and take pets.

| This is pretty stunning stuff.....80% of everyone expects -that emergency management people monitoring social media 24 hours a day. This is the new reality – you guys in CEPA are viewed as one of the most forward thinking organizations in Oregon and you have the capability of leading others in the in the US to help push this agenda forward – we were doing a lot with volunteers – there are a bunch of young people who would help us monitor it. This is going to continue to grow and grow – the American public expects emergency services people to be going with them.

Japanese already have systems like this in place. They have an earthquake program that monitors real time. You need to learn how to text or tweet. As soon as seismometers pick up primary wave it sends out message on phones, TV etc. If as scientists think the subduction may start erupting in the south – near Mendocino ... if it starts down there the folks down here have the potential getting a 60 to 90 second warning – Seattle might have two minutes. Japanese web never went down during the event.

The Black Swan – change the way you think about disasters. The author is Nassim Nicholas Taleb. The Impact of the Highly Improbable. It illustrates the fragility of our observations. A highly improbable event that is unpredictable. The event carries a massive impact. Before the event we ignore its possibility. After the fact we rationalize that it appears less random and more predictable. The rise of Google, Twitter Facebook – those are “Black Swans” as well. This books tells about the arrogance of scientific groups and Wall Street – they make predictions – in Japan on March 11 Japan had an earthquake larger than their government predicted could ever happen, tsunami larger than ever expected and a nuclear power plant melt down... Japan best prepared place on earth for earthquake.

| They were planning for 7.5 to 8 - what they got instead was a 300 mile long rupture 100 miles wide at a magnitude 9. They never ever saw it coming. Although five years ago there was a paper presented that said it could happen. It shifted sea floor 150 feet – shifted north pole by 8 inches. Island of Honshu moved 10 feet.

| There were 500 aftershocks in the first two weeks– and every aftershock predicts another one. They are still having aftershocks – first six month 50,000 after-shocks. Sendai is the largest city on the northern end of the island – about size of Portland – one of the tragedies of the earthquake was that the tsunami barriers not tall enough. The water got as high as 70 feet – barriers were built for 40 foot waves. In 1896 they had an earthquake off the coast in pretty much same place – and in 1933 - both caused

tsunamis' it that killed thousands – but the human brain is wired to forget past generations – there were 400,000 people living in the area where the tsunami hit.– 380,000 people knew what to do. They average 360 earthquakes a day. In this earthquake most of deaths were from drowning.

When you go to the coast and know where high ground is, don't get in your car. You are not going anywhere – there will be massive traffic jams.

Ring of Fire – 100 years of earthquakes on the Pacific Rim – Japan one of the most earthquake prone areas on earth. In Sumatra there has been a 9.1 and in 2010 in Chile a magnitude 8.8 EQ and also the largest recored earthquake in 1960, a magnitude 9.5, while the Alaskan earthquake in 1964 was a 9.2.

When you look at the Pacific Rim, there is the giant hole where there have been no EQ in the last 100 years – and that is right off our coast. Between 1950-1964 we went through a cluster of big earthquakes. The odds of getting a cluster of big EQs like that in such a short timespan are about 4%.

The last time we had a magnitude 9 off our coast was in 1700 – and now we have had 3 of the 8 largest earthquakes since then happen in the last 8 years – we are in a new cluster. In an updated report from 2005, two USGS scientists say we are in a new cluster of big quakes with over a 60% chance of another one happening somewhere on the Pacific Rim in the next 6 years.

So in keeping in mind any type of disaster you need to be prepared for – more people are affected by home fires than any other. Over 70,000 events nationwide where families are displaced. If I am preparing for home fires I can prepare for other and bigger events...

Don't expect first responders to show up. Fires are an inevitable fact after earthquake. Traffic will come to a standstill and in the Japan EQ, in Tokyo, a city of 36 million people, most people had to walk after the EQ, so what is your plan? Most grocery stores have a 3 day supply of food – another powerful reason to think about preparing and having supplies set aside. Cell systems jammed. Still get text messages through. About 5 million Japanese had no access to fresh water – we forget there will be gasoline shortages. How many gas stations in Columbia County have generators?

Update – 400,000 people ended up in shelters in Japan – and 8 months later there were still 50,000 in shelters. Sendai airport (think PDX) is now underwater at high tide. The earthquake generated 25 million tons of rubble.

Oregon's fuel is all stored in an area on Hwy 30 north of PDX – which sits on liquefiable soil right next to the Willamette River. It is also located right next to the Portland Hills Fault and worst of all it is built on fill material. Eastern Oregon won't be able to get food or fuel and may be affected by a loss of electrical power as well.

13 million people in the PNW are affected by this event all at the same time. Transportation systems will suffer damage Think about medications – get extra supplies and put in your emergency kits.

The meltdown of 3 reactors at Fukushima was another Black Swan and it has changed the way the Japanese population feels about nuclear power. They have 54 nuclear power plants – only two are on line right now and the Japanese may decide go without that power generating capacity. There are also countries that are decommissioning nuclear power plants all over the world.

Right now in Japan 250,000 children being monitored for radiation poisoning.

Japanese culture dictates that if you make a stupid mistake, you must apologize in person – senior management from TEPCO have apologized to each family that was displaced in the nuclear meltdown.

Real time visualization of Cascadia subduction zone – 700 mile long fault that sits 75 miles off the coast – this is the Juan de Fuca oceanic plate pushing against the North America continental plate. When the rupture occurs it will move at about 1 mile per second. Primary seismic waves travel at 11,000 mph. – the destructive shear waves travel at 6,000 mph.

13 million people will be affected and there will be damage over an 80,000 square mile area. The earthquake will last 5 minutes and plunge 10 million people into darkness.

The two tectonic plates are locked together six to ten miles under the ocean – after hundreds of years they rip apart with one sliding over the top of the other – the Oregon coast line will drop 3 to 10 feet. The tsunami won't arrive for 15 to 20 minutes after the earthquake ... and what about the Columbia River? The tsunami may begin backing up the Columbia... you might see some water rising.

As an organization CEPA is uniquely situated to help people in your community – bottom line you prepare for worst case then you are prepared for anything.

It is the unpredictable, Black Swan event that is going to get us after the big EQ and nobody can imagine what that might be – like
dams breaking or massive chemical spills...

Northwest Natural really heavily involved in social media - they now monitor the Twitter community. A private public partnership that involves the large companies like NWN might be what's needed to turn the use of social media into a viable avenue for government to push emergency info out to the public.

James Roddey, Po.D. – www.prophetofdoom.me

Remain the champions of preparedness – we have to make people sick to their stomach about hearing that they must be prepared... Diane suggested CEPA lobby people at school districts to educate our kids.

I challenge you guys to champion a cause of what can be done by bringing in private business and public organizations – we have a great model – you know how it works and I think you should be getting calls.

Reports:

Northwest Natural - Meet at Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Station – June 5th – visit to Mist gasfields. We must have a name of all people who are going on the tour. Call or text Diane diane@dillardpr.com 503 396 7797 – if you are riding the bus from St. Helens be at the 911 center no later than 8:15 a.m. as we plan to depart pronto at 8:30 a.m. for Mist. Those driving meet at the Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Department by 9:30 a.m. so we can depart no later than 9:45 for the gas fields. Lunch will be provided by the Fire Department after the tour.

Steve – we are working on CEPA Expo – things are starting to firm up. Trying to decide if we have adequate insurance.

Finance – Treasurer Mike Greisen handed out financial report showing beginning balance of \$8806.52 and ending \$8506.52.

- Chamber – Chair, Diane Dillard reported the Chamber continues its mission of expanding the membership base in South County and is actively involved in preparing for their summer event – Wings and Wheels to be held August 12th at the Scappoose Airport. Trent Dolyniuk is the chamber chair for this event. Next Koffee Klatsch is Friday, May 4 at the Village Inn, 8 a.m. hosted by the Columbian Toastmasters.
- Sacagawea – Diane reminded folks that our annual Auction is slated for May 19 at the fairgrounds.
- Craig – Port of St. Helens – steadily working on social media project. With the opening of Orpet – you may expect to see steady increase of truck traffic as they reach their capacity. Getting ready for Wings n Wheels August 12th –
- Scappoose – Bill Blank, originator and manager of Farmers Market reminds us that it opens May 19 – we will advertise for CEPA.
- Dyno Nobel - Mike talked about their major maintenance outage starting June 8 to July 8 – expecting 600 to 800 contractors – big impact on restaurants – working with Port on transportation – just completed to ICP plan –
- Columbia County Road Dept. Lonny – business as usual – this winter was actually pretty mild.
- City of Clatskanie Greg said Senator Jeff Merkeley will be visiting Clatskanie today
- Co Commissioner – Earl – budget process starts Thursday.
- Rick Bennett – Columbia Pacific Bio-Refinery – no report
- GP – Kristi said they are focused on annual maintenance shutdown
- Tony Hyde – PCC continues to have large presence in expanding operations in this county. They are totally committed to having a physical presence in Columbia County. We have convinced them that we need a small business development center – Final bridge for CZ trail is in so it looks like we will be opening it soon. ORPet opened – cutting edge technology. Anticipating 100% increase in product and employee base. Stay tuned to PBS in 60 to 90 days shot documentary in Columbia County on forest/human health – 1st carbon sequestration in the country. PBS came out.
- 911 – Steve Watson reported that when you get home 911 spring/summer newsletter should be in your mail along with a couple new features. Just finished antenna upgrade and we are constantly improving system Moving cell towers from Woodland to Kalama... right now it will not work to get cell messages to 911 ... but it will happen soon. State of Washington is building their network right now.
- Public Health - Anne – emergency management and county preparedness had a recent meeting – small but nice turnout - working group was able to grant proposal requesting medical tents...we are going to get 4 of them.
- CRI Cristi continues to promote the push partner registry – life saving meds to organizations in a short amount of time ... well received .. just signed on more people that will take another 400 out of the public health line...
- Boise Inc - Dawn and Jo – no report
- Tiffany – Servicemaster – fire and water restoration – helps businesses get prepared.
- Jeff Dickerson – sheriff's office is going to endure cuts but we are trying to be more flexible and training jail guys work on roads and vice versa (the road employees being trained to come work in jail) ... take resources and apply to emergency situations. Sheriff's office is getting close to 1900 hits on our facebook page. The biggest responses is through Facebook.

- Kathy Denckla – 911 – no report
- AI – ARES simulated emergency training – 12 of our members join in still working on sites for some better repeater coverage in north county. Still putting out new equipment
- Joe Errante - 20 people graduating CERT class – May 10th exercise class looking for 15-20 victims. Next month going through train derailment
- Mike Sullivan PGE Beaver plant just completed maintenance and now Port Westward starting on theirs.
- Steve Salle - working on a grant with police partnering with 911 take big computers from our cars and converting over to tablets. Pilot project for the state of Oregon.
- State – Steve Reed – as of Friday now State Courts closed on Friday except by special invitation.
- NW Natural – paying back \$10 million; rebate to bills.
- Larry Lucas – he’s enjoying retired life
- Mike Greisen – last four days had the OSP bomb unit outwe can take pictures with our cell phones.
- Credit union - Kristi Johnson trainer is now aboard and we continue to fight fraud and identity theft
- PGE .. Three employees came to CEPA today to hear Dr. Roddey and observe.
- Caroline Frappier – continues to enjoy working with CERT team.
- Mollenhours – just here to observe
- Chris Greenhill – DHS – will be on vacation for next couple of weeks
- Bill Blank reminded us that you should incorporate QR symbol.. really speeds things up. Very effective.

Meeting was adjourned after door prizes. Next CEPA meeting is June 5. Tour of Mist Gasfields.