

# Columbia County LEPC Minutes – January 13, 2026

Hybrid Meeting – Zoom & In Person at Columbia Roads Department Office

## **Attendees:**

Natasha Parvey, Community Coordinator, NXT Clean Fuels  
Mike Russell, Columbia County Public Works  
Mark Pacheco, Public Information Officer, Columbia County  
Greg Hinkelman, City of Clatskanie, Administrator  
Fran Erickson, CRN (Columbia River Nitrogen)  
Jaime Aanensen, Director, Columbia County Public Health  
Corey Pardon, Columbia County Emergency Management  
Kim Karber, Columbia City, Administrator  
Margaret Magruder, Columbia County Commissioner  
Joe Kaczynski, Mist/Birkenfeld Fire Dept.  
Darin Witmer, Oregon State Fire Marshall  
Mary Ann Christensen, LEPC Coordinator  
Mark Johnston, Dept of State Fire Marshall  
Larry Hill, ARC  
Lacey Tolles, Port of Columbia County  
Sarah Burch, Environmental Coordinator, CRN

## **Guest(s):**

Claire Catt, Executive Director, United Way of Columbia County

## **Call Meeting to Order at 1:06 PM**

## **Public Comment:**

Claire Catt, Executive Director, United Way of Columbia, Clatsop & Tillamook Counties. She shared that she would like to collect as many Emergency Preparedness Plans from local agencies as she is sitting on a council for Resilient Oregon. Working alongside what a resilient Oregon looks like and helping to get well positioned. There are some gaps in where these plans reside. Email addresses of anyone she can talk to about who has plans and who she can present to about the program to collect the plans and create a deep library. She would like to join in any public gathering from community members with paper survey and toolkit for listening sessions about talking about what a resilient Oregon looks like that would be a good to send her way.

Mike responded they are a group that has plans focused on hazardous materials for the county. Plans focused on Hazardous materials response but connected to many types of plans. Claire has received many plans from Jessica from Columbia County.

Mary Ann Christensen had some suggestions for Claire, Amy at Governor's Office and to connect.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Make spelling changes for Kaczinski, Pacheco, Corey needs changed, Jaime Aanensen remove comma. Add Mary Ann Christensen to attendees on meeting minutes.

Motion to approve meeting minutes with corrected spelling changes from Margaret Magruder. Seconded by Greg Hinkelman.

**Membership:** 47 members, no new members in 2025.

### **Chair Report Q4:**

- Mike Russell reported
  - LEPC Annual Report: Several Exercises many from LEPC participated. More exercises in 2025 than in past years. Requirements for Industrial Facilities to do more exercises so seeing more of them done. Looking forward to 2026.
  - Bylaws review: improved January 2025 so no need revised at this time. Opened the floor to see if any concerns since adopted in 2025. January 2027 review of bylaws.
  - Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grants (HMEP) – Due Jan 16<sup>th</sup>. LEPC/CCEM are applying for \$60,000 to help update plans. The last earnest effort consultant didn't produce didn't get anything submitted. 2 plans, Emergency response plan for CC and Rail response. Update and combine to one Emergency Response Plan. This is what we are applying for. CCEM will go to board of commissioners for approval to submit. No questions. 2027 Implement with selecting consultant product in end of 2027. LEPC members will be engaged as consultants will want to talk to those that are in the mix.
    - Mary Ann Christensen outlined submit Friday, submitted to Feds after, award announcement mid-August late September 2026.

### **Roundtable:**

**Lacey Tolles:** December 2025, energy backup generators were successful when power lost over East End Scappoose Airport. Generator can run up to 3 days without additional fuels. They learned that East Gate was not on backup power and batteries needed to be installed.

She also reported she gave Corey Pardon & Jessica a tour of the airport and why it's the hub. Partnerships possibilities explored.

## DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Scappoose Airport is slated for a 90 Day closure begins on June 8th - \$3.8 million FFA Grant to repave the runway and update the runway lights. Should be open between August 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sept 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Cory Pardon:** CCEM (Columbia County Emergency Management) reported they have 10 response trailers which reside outside; seeking indoor space possibly at the airport working out financial commitment. Indoor storage allows them to be properly cared for. They are for all Fire Departments. Discussed additional grants and complexities involved with scoring. Discussed how one project was submitted for all fire departments, station alerting upgrades. Scappoose Fire also applied.

CERT (Columbia Emergency Response Team) was formerly under CC Sherrif's office now under CCEM. They prepare themselves and family for disasters. They will provide background checks and fingerprinting. CERT is 40-hour course on how to prepare themselves, families during a disaster, more can help with CERT Teams who have completed trainings to achieve goals in operational procedures during a Disaster. It could help with crowd management, parking, support position, search and rescue, help with warming shelters, establish communications. All volunteers. Very dedicated. Impressed with CERT team taking care of themselves as an organization working hard to help them. 20-25 people involved in his last meeting. Would like to see all cities have one in Columbia County turns spontaneous volunteers into trained volunteers. Assisting Chief in Scappoose is also starting a CERT team. Clatskanie also has a CERT. Help with Grants.

Working on contracts.

**Mary Ann Christensen-** LEPC State Emergency Response Council (SERC), Fire chiefs, Executive Committee assisting Public Meetings Invited to attend Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 9-12. 2026-2027. Excited about the fact this group is applying in 2027-2028 application is out in October- Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. Schedule an exercise based on this plan. 3-year grants. Different communities doing different training try to engage.

**Mark Johnston,** Oregon State Fire Marshall – Shared Oregon Statue on responsibility for management of SERC programs. To support and help LEPC implement SERC. Management is several agencies, DEQ, Fire Chiefs Associations, Sherriff, Oregon Emergency Management, and more to help with perspective and discipline. Starting meeting in 2024, meet 3 times a year. February Meeting demonstration by Salem Fire Department (our Agency Regional Haz Mat) how they do flume modeling and different data basis they use to access that information based on a chemical and hazards of this chemical to advise where to evacuate or shelter in place. This is a good walk thru done this last year to review equipment. Our ask now is to see their process. 102<sup>nd</sup> Civil Support Team out of Salem with their technologies and training. This is that committee and their responsibilities and training.

## DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) – National association whose members are responsible to manage SERC and manage grants for HMEP. Conference longer one April 27-May 3<sup>rd</sup>. HMEP dollars can be used for that. It's easy to apply to the office and no cost. Midyear another one in Arkansas. Reports from FENMA, ATF, Rail, Industry, past incidents, action items, how CERT and LEPC do things differently, don't do it again, lessons learned.

Thank you for your work on the LEPC Committee. Thanks for extra time on top of busy schedules. There to help.

**Margaret Magruder:** Thank you for information on levels of emergency response we take for granted that someone will take care of us. Where are we at with Regional Emergency Response Committee. 2027 completely unknown due to funding, which all comes from FEMA. Corey responded how helpful they are for knowledge and information. They are rebranding themselves as he is the new Vice Chair with a new chair. It's good momentum moving forward. Complimented CRN on their new sign, it's beautiful. Time for a new visit.

### **Meeting Adjourned 1:51 PM**

Submitted by Natasha Parvey, LEPC Information Officer 2025