

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

September 23, 2008

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Anthony Hyde, Commissioner Joe Corsiglia and Commissioner Rita Bernhard together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

Commissioner Hyde called the meeting to order.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM PLAN:

Vicki Harguth, Emergency Management Director, came before the Board along with Grace Clark and Ron Youngberg, Division Chief of CRF&R regarding the Incident Management Team Plan. Ron has been working hard with EOC to put this plan together. They are here today to finalize the plan and obtain Board approval. Ron stated that the recent flood illustrated the need for a management team to work these types of incidents. Commissioner Hyde asked about the costs. Ron stated this was modeled after the State plan and the major part of the cost is staff. The County would be responsible for the costs of whatever county staff would be involved on the team, along with the training costs, which can be extremely expensive.

Commissioner Corsiglia feels an issue could be having the trained staff available in a time of need. He would suggest that there be a second level staff available that is trained to step in if needed. Ron agrees and that explains the need for a regional approach with surrounding counties.

Vicki stated that this plan has already been approved by the Homeland Security Emergency Management Commission and she is now seeking Board approval to move forward with submitting applications for team Commanders and Deputy Commanders. She noted that there are grant funds available for training. Commissioner Bernhard asked if the training could take place locally so that the county could save money on travel, lodging and meal expenses. Ron said he thought that would be possible. When asked who could serve, Ron stated that the team member must be connected with a governmental entity; county, city, fire, etc. Ron stated that this team will be reporting to the Board and will be a very important tool for the County when an incident occurs.

At this point, the Board is supportive of the plans concept, however, there are some bottom line issues that need to be addressed regarding County staff, funding, etc. Vicki stated that she will be taking this to the Department Head meeting in October because their staff may be interested in applying for this team. Commissioner Hyde stated that he would attend the Department Head meeting in support of this plan.

PIO CLASS IN PENDLETON:

Janet Wright stated that there is a Public Information Officer class in Pendleton in October and is asking Board approval to attend. The Board feels that the more training in this, the better and was approved by consensus.

OPINION ON 5-190 & 5-191:

Sarah sent the Board an e-mail outlining the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision related to the Legal Arizona Workers Act. The Court also made it clear that it is addressing only the facial challenge to the Act, and that any "as applied" claims (like discrimination claims) would not be governed by the same opinion. That leaves open the question as to constitutionality of the Arizona Act, and ours, as they are applied over time. Unfortunately, our potential for liability is still wide open. Sarah asked that the Board review her e-mail and let her know how she should proceed.

There was no Executive Session held.

With nothing further coming before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 23rd day of September, 2008.

NOTE: A tape of this meeting is available for purchase by the public or interested parties.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: _____
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

By: _____
Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary