

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

December 11, 2007

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

Commissioner Bernhard called the meeting to order.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON FLOOD RELATED ISSUES:**

The Board met with County staff, emergency response agencies and others to discuss flood related issues.

*The Board recessed the meeting at 12:00 noon and reconvened on Friday, December 14, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioner Bernhard, Commissioner Hyde and Commissioner Corsiglia, together with Spencer Parsons, Assistant County Counsel, Janet Wright, Board Staff and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.*

Commissioner Bernhard called the meeting back to order.

**STATUS UPDATE ON FLOOD - NEXT STEPS - DEMOBILIZATION:**

Commissioner Hyde explained that the reason for recessing the meeting on Tuesday was to come back to discuss on-going efforts on the flood issues. Vicki Harguth gave a brief presentation on the process summary. FEMA is coming to Vernonia and St. Helens and will be open to anyone effected by the storm. Commissioner Hyde talked about the FEMA process for homeowners and businesses and who the contacts will be.

Mike Dycke, TVF&R Incident Commander, gave a "State of the County" address. EOC has compiled a preliminary damage assessment for the County. It may be 18 months to 2 years before a final assessment is complete. The Department of Forestry will be holding a community meeting in Clatskanie tonight at 7:00 pm at the High School Auditorium. Mike went over the damage reports, if any, from each city in the County. Commissioner Hyde wants the voucher being required in Vernonia for the dump site removed. Mike stated that security in Vernonia is an issue because of the large amount of donations coming in and that is being addressed. The Department of Agriculture is dealing with the issue of acquiring hay for farm animals where the hay was destroyed. Diane Pohl asked about any report from Woodson. This is not mentioned in this report. Commissioner Hyde agreed that it needs to be included. Mike explained that this is an ever changing document and Woodson has now been added. Commissioner Corsiglia worked yesterday on trying to secure storage space for flood damaged property. He checked with County Counsel staff about the possibility of using the gas station, recently acquired by the County.

Mike then went over the Damage Summary Report. He stated that this is also a preliminary document and updates will be made as figures are confirmed. Page 4 is where we are with FEMA and what the county is qualified for. Vicki added that, even if people are insured, they should still contact FEMA at 1-800-621-FEMA or go on-line. Commissioner Hyde stated that there is no temporary housing available and, in fact, FEMA is out of the trailer business totally.

Mike continued with the Damage Report (page 6) again, are estimates. Although the media has focused on Vernonia, this is a county wide event. The Unmet Needs Committee will have representation from all areas and the bank accounts that have been set up are for the whole county, not just Vernonia. Mike stated that disaster recovery centers have been set up in different areas and possibility SBA centers for businesses.

Mike Simek and Bill Hunt, Department of Forestry, brought in a team for the 3 counties for recovery and assistance. Everyone is in Woodson right now. Bill is the Incident Commander and he gave an update on their damage report They will be preparing a report for all three counties, along with possible solutions (Clatsop, Tillamook and Columbia). Four Geotechnical Engineers are located in Columbia County. They are also trying to identify concern areas for preparedness. Now, they are focused primarily on Hwy 30 and Fishhawk area.

Dave Crawford, Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD, reported on the Mist area, what their needs are and donations that have been received. He asked if there is any type of mutual aid agreement for the whole county. The response was that is being worked on now. He can't say enough about the outreach of people in donations and help.

Jon Hankin, City of Scappoose, reported on the damage in Scappoose. They do not know yet what the total damage is, but minimal in comparison to other areas in the County. The city is willing to do what they can to help out those other areas.

Diane Pohl, Clatskanie Mayor, biggest issue was water. They will be looking at increasing their water storage. People have been working around the clock to keep them up and running. Her only comment would be to strongly suggest that communication and protocol be looked at in the future. These are things that can be fixed and would be a tremendously help. The Board stated that is an issue that will be looked at.

Mark Ellsworth, Governor's Office, has been taken off all other duties for the next 6-8 weeks so he can work strictly with the 3 county area. The Governor is very engaged on what is going on in Columbia County. Mark will be around and available if needed.

Phil Derby stated that they have already distributed 5 truck loads of donations and there is still more and more coming in. He commended his staff for all the hard work they have put into this. Gerry Simmons, Undersheriff, stated that the deputies are maxed out on overtime and volunteering to continue to work towards the efforts - all with a great attitude.

Cindy Beeks, CCMH, reported on what they are doing to provide mental health support to the flood victims. 1-866-866-1426 is their 24 hour crisis number and it is also on the Vernonia Blog.

Jim Tierney, CAT, reiterated that the place to donate money is at the US Bank and Wauna FCU for the Columbia County Flood Relief. The Unmet Needs Committee has implemented a voucher system and people need to call Sue Bailey at #503-249-6081. The Committee is keeping a data base on all victims for the entire county. The Red Cross Shelter is closing Monday. This is going to be a very long, on-going process.

**ORDER #155-2007: AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES FOR LOCAL ACCESS ROADS:**

Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve Order No. 155-2007, "In the Matter of Authorizing the Expenditures of County Funds on Local Access Roads within Columbia County Due to Emergency Conditions". The motion carried unanimously.

**ORDER #156-2007: WAIVER OF GRADE/FILL PERMITS FOR DEBRIS REMOVAL:**

Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to ratify approval of Order No. 156-2007, "In the Matter of Authorizing the Waiver of Grade and Fill Permit Fees for Debris Removal Associated with Landslide Activity Following the 2007 Pacific Storm Event". The motion carried unanimously.

**MOU WITH DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY:**

Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve the MOU with the Oregon Department of Forestry to assist in efforts related to forest lands impacted by the storm. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPOINT DAVE TRUE TO "UNMET NEEDS COMMITTEE":**

Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to appoint Dave True to the Unmet Needs Committee, to represent the Clatskanie area. The motion carried unanimously.

**EOC CONTINUATION/FLOOD RECOVERY STAFFING PROPOSAL:**

Jean Ripa reviewed the proposal with the Board. It is time for the County EOC, along with other EOC's in the county to start the transition process that moves the county into the long-term recovery mode needed over the course of the next year or more. So operations in the EOC's are ramping down. Our external partners have been notified of this and will be checking out of their hotels today. Moving into next week, Jean went over the plans for EOC and staffing.

Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve the temporary hire of Vicki Voss full-time for an unspecified duration. The motion carried unanimously.

There is going to be a definite need to bring in some additional staff to deal with the needs over the next year and those will be addressed at a later date.

Commissioner Bernhard mentioned the upcoming town hall meetings in Mist, Vernonia and Clatskanie. Commissioner Corsiglia also mentioned that, after the Mist meetings, the grange will be serving dinners to anyone who attends.

**USE OF GAS STATION IN CLATSKANIE AS STORAGE FOR FLOOD VICTIMS:**

Commissioner Corsiglia moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to authorize Commissioner Corsiglia to work with Cynthia Zemaitis to get keys made, make any necessary repairs to the gas station in Clatskanie to use for storage for flood victims. The motion carried unanimously.

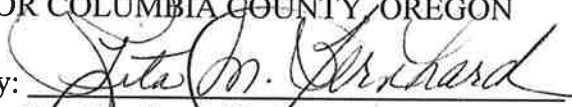
There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2007.

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

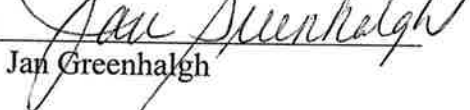
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By:   
Rita Bernhard, Chair

By:   
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By:   
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

Board Secretary:

By:   
Jan Greenhalgh