

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Commission (HSEMC)

18 November 2025

14:00 – 15:00 In Person CC Public Works/Zoom Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Columbia County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Commission Membership Table		
Representation	Primary Member	Alternate Member
Law Enforcement	Chris Fluellen, Scappoose PD	Ryan Murphy, CCSD
Fire/EMS	Jeff Pricher, Scappoose Fire	Bruce Holsey, Clatskanie Fire
C911CD		Dannell Hooper, C911
North County	Jeff VanNatta, Rainier	Greg Hinkelman, Clatskanie
South County	Mike De Roia, St. Helens	Benjamin Burgener, Scappoose
Mid County	Iwalani Leininger, Vernonia PD	Dan Brown, Vernonia
Public Health	Jaime Aanensen, Columbia County Public Health	Jessica Kosydar, Columbia County Public Health
Industry	Tracy Oliver, InRoads	Fran Erikson, Columbia River Nitrogen
Port of Columbia County	Miriam House, Port of CC	Lacey Tolles, Port of CC
Utilities	Kyle Boggs, Columbia River PUD	Sarah Johnson, Clatskanie PUD
Schools		Jim Helmen, Vernonia SD
At Large Position 1	Mike Russell, CC Public Works	
At Large Position 2	Lonny Welter, Retired Public Works	Terry Martin, ARC/SAR
Ex-Officio	Corey Padron	
County	Kellie Jo Smith, Margret Magruder, Casey Garrett	
Guests	Dave Sukau, Mark Pacheco, Josette Mitchell, Larry Hill, Eric Smythe, Casey Wheeler, Scott Lee, Jake Trenton, Woody Davis, Alex Bubar, Andrew Perry, Craig Peters, Debbie Ritthaler	

KEY: Member Present

Member Not Present

Chair – Mike Russell

Vice Chair – Mike De Roia

Secretary – Sarah Johnson

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Commission (HSEMC)

Topic	Desired Outcome
Called to Order	Call to Order by Mike Russell at 14:00 hrs. Quorum met. Quorum needed – 7 Voting Members. Present – 12
Amendments to Agenda	None -approved as presented
Welcome, Introductions, Minutes, and Guest Speakers	Welcome, flag salute, and Introductions - Conducted Minutes of the September 9, 2025 meeting were presented. Upon motion by Lonny Welter and seconded by Greg Hinkelman, the minutes for the September 9, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved. Guest Speaker: Jake Trenton, Representing the Search and Rescue Volunteers of Columbia County. Jake provided an informative overview of their organization, its activities, and current resource needs. Several volunteers from the Columbia County Oregon Search and Rescue (SAR) team joined Jake for the presentation. Search and Rescue in Columbia County operates under the oversight of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. While the Sheriff's Office provides overall coordination and supervision, the SAR team itself is composed primarily of dedicated volunteers who undergo ongoing training and certification to remain prepared for response missions. During the presentation, SAR members emphasized the significant role volunteers play in the daily readiness and operational capabilities of the award-winning team. Because the unit is volunteer-based, team members often use their own personal vehicles when responding to calls or traveling to training and deployment locations. The group also highlighted a critical funding need for a dedicated SAR vehicle. A suitable vehicle would improve operational effectiveness by providing reliable transportation, storage of equipment, and safe travel for volunteer responders during missions. They look forward to collaborating with Columbia County Emergency Management and HSEMC on future exercises and training. Chair Mike Russell asked how HSEMC could be of assistance to SAR, and a short discussion was held regarding the lack of funds from the Sheriff's department to provide vehicles for SAR. It was decided that an official request for HSEMC funds to assist with a SAR vehicle would be presented at the next meeting in January to allow for further discussion and consideration.
Emergency Management Updates Old Business	• Corey Padron presented the Emergency Management Department report. The current balance in the HSEMC funds is \$250,502. We have the funds to maintain the EM Coordinator position that is held by Jessica Kosydar at part time. Going forward the \$70,000 income from HSEMC dues will continue to fund a part-time coordinator position. • Chair Mike Russell asked Corey to provide the finance report a week before our next meeting, January 13th, to provide time for a thorough review. • Corey Padron reported on the current activities for the Emergency Management Department. He has attended several regional interagency trainings and meetings. One focused on emergency response for an oil spill. They continue work on the Wildfire Protection Plan, Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and several others. The IGA Committee has not met, but will schedule a meeting for December or January. Corey reported that the Zoom account has been difficult and keeping the proper security on it is challenging. A discussion was held that Teams would be a better platform with many of the members using it as their main communications tool for sharing files and conducting meetings.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Commission (HSEMC)

	- Corey Padron presented the quote for the EOC Digital Processing and Sharing System. The EOC needs a technical upgrade to be able to efficiently respond to emergencies and coordinate with county-wide agencies. The quote is a little over \$40,000 and there are a few items like screens and things that will be needed to go with it. Chief Jeff Pricher shared his recent trip to Taiwan to work with government and fire service representatives. The system that Corey is describing is what the National EOC uses. There are huge benefits to having this type of system to be able to see situations in real time. Dan Brown moved and Chief Jeff Pricher seconded the motion to use \$45,000 of HSEMC funds to purchase the EOC Digital Processing and Sharing System and required equipment to complete the much needed EOC upgrades. Motion passed unanimously. - A discussion was held regarding the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) and uncertainty about the continuation of UASI grant funds. - We still need to fill several HSEMC appointments. Mike Russell and Corey Padron will follow up to ask possible candidates. Letters will be sent to inform the members that commissions are expiring at the end of 2025.
New Business	A discussion to continue using the 2nd Tuesday of every other month at 2:00 pm (1400) for our HSEMC meetings was held. The dates with the first meeting being January 13, 2026 were presented with the meeting materials. It was the consensus that these dates work well and will continue for 2026.
Member Updates Closing Comments	- The County Commissioners are out of town at another conference, so no report was given. - Member updates began with Chris Fluellen reporting on their efforts to form an active CERT. He would appreciate any help to get people interested. - Sarah Johnson reported on the successful Clatskanie Health & Safety Fair that was held in October with many of the HSEMC members participating in bringing emergency response information to North County. - Lonny Welter asked what the weather forecast was looking like this winter, and Mike Russell responded it looks colder and wetter with snow likely. - Chris Fluellen reported that the Scappoose airport will be closed this summer for necessary runway work.
Meeting Adjourned	Adjourned by Mike Russell at 15:00 hrs.

Next Meeting: January 13, 2026 14:00.