Columbia County LEPC Minutes – July14th, 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
Kristi Ward, Georgia Pacific
Fran Erickson, CRN (Columbia River Nitrogen)
NJ Johnson, City of Clatskanie
Kim Karber Columbia City, Administrator
Margaret Magruder, Columbia County Commissioner
Mary Ann Christian, OSFM
Larry Hill, American Red Cross
Terry Martin, CC Search & Rescue,
Jaime Aanesen, CC Public Health

Guest: Rosemary Clement

Call Meeting to Order at 1:04 PM

Public Comment:

None

Meeting Minutes

Motion approve April 2026 meeting minutes by Margaret Magruder seconded by Fran Erickson. Motion passed.

Membership: 47 members, no new members in 2026.- no change.

Discussion/Chair Report:

Mike Russell provided a chair's report on attending a fire briefing from the Oregon Emergency Management Office, where they discussed drought declarations across the state and emergency preparedness measures for the upcoming fire season.

The conversation ended with a reminder to review extremely hazardous substances surveys, as required by the group's bylaws.

Review EHS Surveys:

EPA Audit and Leadership Updates

The group discussed EPA's recent visit to Columbia River Nitrogen, where they thoroughly reviewed the risk management plan and fire marshal reporting requirements. Fran explained that the EPA audit process is expected to take six to nine months, with ongoing requests for documentation from the facility.

Vice-Chair Vacancy

The group discussed the Vice Chair position vacancy, and Kristi Ward was nominated for the role to be voted on at the October membership meeting.

Roundtable: (Information Share/Upcoming Exercises)

Margaret: The CC Fair opens Wednesday, July 15th. Many local vendors for emergencies such as Sherriff's office, Search & Rescue. Stop by and see them.

Kristi Ward: Check in with Westport Fire Department

Mike Russell: CC no longer has an Emergency Management Department. Public Health will take on duties of EM. Meeting at 2:00 after is Homeland Security Emergency Management Commission. All welcome to attend.

Fran Erickson: Communicating with Jaimie Public Health. Asked if the numbers for EM will stay the same and they will. They are done with the turn outage 4-6 weeks it was a lot of work

Rosemary Clement: With accident of former City Administrator, John Walsh. Good work of the EMS to resolve the situation at the docks.

Mary Ann: Mary reminded attendees about fire season precautions and announced that the HMEP grant would open in October, while also noting that the SERC/LEPC conference planning for 2027 was underway with topic suggestions being accepted.

Jamie Aanensen: Jaime updated the group that emergency management functions have transitioned under public health, with Jessica Kosadar, herself, and Alicia Davis handling the workload, including maintaining phone coverage and redundancies. She also mentioned a swim safety initiative distributing life jackets to youth, with 435 already given out and more events planned

Larry Hill: Larry reported that the Cascades Region Red Cross is fully prepared with logistics, including trained staff and a supply trailer in Springfield, awaiting potential fire season evacuations.

NJ Johnson: Happy to be in Clatskanie as new City Administrator. He has been briefed on flooding situation in Clatskanie as he is from Scappoose.

Meeting Adjourned 1:27 PM

Submitted by Natasha Parvey, LEPC Information Officer 2026