

PCEMA Council Meeting
April 10, 2014
Pacific County Annex- Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room
South Bend, WA

Attendance:

Stephanie Fritts	Pacific County Emergency Management
Scott McDougall	Pacific County Emergency Management
Todd Fosse	Pacific County Undersheriff
Bob Andrew	Mayor, City of Long Beach
Mike Cassinelli	Mayor, City of Ilwaco
Steve Rogers	Pacific County Commissioner, Dist. 1
Frank Wolfe	Pacific County Commissioner, Dist. 2
Lisa Ayers	Pacific County Commissioner, Dist. 3
Bob Jungar	Mayor, City of Raymond
John Burke	American Red Cross
Al Conklin	Washington State Department of Health
Mary Conklin	Guest
John Burke	American Red Cross
Judi Andrew	Cottage Bakery

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Chair Jungar.

Stephanie Fritts called the roll.

Introductions were made.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Bob Andrew. Frank Wolfe seconded the motion which passed without dissent.

The budget report was reviewed. Frank Wolfe moved to approve the budget report. Steve Rogers seconded the motion. The motion was approved without dissent.

Stephanie Fritts discussed the application for an AmeriCorps member that had been submitted. She provided a background on this position. She also explained that the application was submitted prior to Council approval due to time constraints. Scott McDougall spoke to the budgetary impact of the position. Some discussion followed as to responsibilities of the position and recruiting a qualified applicant. Stephanie also spoke to the history of the position. Steve Rogers made a motion that the Council approve the application. Lisa Ayers seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Stephanie Fritts led a discussion regarding the two Cascadia Subduction Zone 2016 Exercise meetings put on by PCEMA earlier this week. She explained the exercise to the group and let them know PCEMA will participate in some form as yet to be determined, and will be seeking engagement and participation from other agencies from Pacific County.

Stephanie Fritts told the Council that the county Comprehensive Emergency Mitigation Plan is due for review by Wednesday, December 31, 2014. PCEMA is on track to complete revisions to the plan on or before that date. Stephanie also discussed the fact that Columbia County's plan was recently rejected by the state, which causes some concern; however, the PCEMA plan appears to avoid the issues that affected Columbia County. Lisa Ayers stated that if we have a problem "we will simply get it fixed".

Stephanie Fritts spoke about the FY 14 NTHMP grant program and that we will not be awarded any more sirens until 2017 at the earliest due to the fact that the grant funding will go toward software and upgrades for the existing system until then.

Stephanie Fritts gave an Animal Planning Group update that included information on the next meeting, an overview of what has been accomplished so far and that the plan is on schedule for completion by the end of September. She also provided background and an email string illustrating a complaint that had been made by a South Pacific County Humane Society Board Member. Stephanie and Scott McDougall also discussed highlights from the Foreign Animal Disease tabletop exercise in Thurston County.

Al Conklin, Physicist and Lead Trainer from the Washington State Department of Health gave a presentation regarding the Fukushima earthquake and the resulting radiation issues three years later.

Mr. Conklin shared that a great deal of misinformation is on the internet. The facts are that 18,000 people died but no one died from radiation. People were evacuated in a timely manner. The first reactor explosion did not take place until three days after the earthquake and tsunami. The building exploded but the reactor containment did not. Data shows background radiation levels in Seattle have remained unchanged.

NOAA put out a map to track tsunami wave height. Someone else later super-imposed radiation levels over the tsunami map. These types of inaccurate maps and models, and other misinformation have been repeated ad nauseum until they have become accepted as fact by an alarming percentage of the population. Other highlight from Mr. Conklin's presentation:

- 1) Our actual exposure from Fukushima is actually lost in the normal background radiation.
- 2) The debris from the earthquake was washed out to sea long before the plants had any issues in addition the amount of debris actually coming from Fukushima is a very small percentage of the total.
- 3) The new misinformation coming out now is coming from old issues; no new danger exists. Allegations are being made, but they are simply existing issues that are inaccurately being tagged as radiation related. These are simply not true.
- 4) Original research into all of these issues have no references to radiation but they have had "details" added.
- 5) He addressed the David Suzuki report. Suzuki later admitted he was wrong and apologized for going so far out of his field of expertise.
- 6) There is some cesium that has been discovered off the coast of BC but the levels are very low.

In summary, there is no appreciable radiation effect from Fukushima, and no real possibility of it. Naturally occurring background radiation levels are much higher.

Mayor Cassinelli asked a question about seawater off the Japanese coast and its effect on migratory fish such as tuna. Mr. Conklin replied that these are issues in Japan but nowhere but there. He also emphasized this is a catastrophe in Japan, but not one for us.

Stephanie Fritts asked about the rumor that the power plants were sinking, this is false as well.

PCEMA will be given a copy of the presentation.

John Burke gave a Red Cross report. There is a new district program manager named Kristen, he did not know her last name. There have been several house fire events in Portland and Vancouver lately, and the Astoria Chapter responded recently to a house fire on the Peninsula. Disaster supply trailers will be deployed by the end of the month in Long Beach and Menlo. Todd Thayer will be visiting in April and try to identify places to recruit volunteers here. About 50 Red Cross people have been deployed to Oso.

As there was no further business in front of the Council, Chair Jungar entertained a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 1003 am.