

MINUTES & NOTICE OF BOARD ACTION

APPROVED March 6, 1996

LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

This document, upon approval in a public meeting by the Board of County Commissioners, serves as official minutes of such meetings as required under the Open Meetings Law, ORS 192.650.

Pursuant to notice made by mailing agendas to news media, a selected list of jurisdictions and individuals in Lane County, a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held.

Questions should be directed to The Board Office Specialist 3, ext. 4203.

February 8, 1996
9:00 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
EMERGENCY HEARING

Commissioners'
Conference Room

This meeting was held to declare a state of emergency for Lane County due to flooding.

Chair Bobby Green presided with Cindy Weeldreyer, Steve Cornacchia, Ellie Dumdi and Jerry Rust present. Also present were Bill Van Vactor, County Administrator, Teresa Wilson, County Counsel, Captain John Clague, Sheriff's Office, and John Miller, Search & Rescue Coordinator. Zoanne Gilstrap, Recording Secretary.

1. ORDER 96-2-8-1/In the Matter of Requesting the Governor to Declare a State of Emergency for Lane County.

Captain Clague gave an explanation to the question of why a state of emergency was being declared today and not yesterday. He explained that the purpose of the disaster declaration is to announce that resources either are or will be depleted locally to handle a disaster. Clague stated that as of yesterday, resources were not expended but with the current predictions for the upcoming days, he believed that assistance from the State will become necessary. Clague asserted that by declaring the emergency now, the ground work will have been laid, thus allowing the paperwork and Declaration to be prepared and ready for when it does become necessary to call the National Guard and Army Corps of Engineers for assistance.

Clague then asked John Miller, Search & Rescue Coordinator, for a briefing on the status of the flood areas.

Miller explained that the Mohawk did flood quite extensively and may continue to flood. He reported that evacuation of the entire valley was recommended. He stated that Mapleton

is flooded and currently has no water supply. Miller expected that it would be three to five days before repairs to the water system could be completed. Miller indicated they are striving to have water trucked into Mapleton.

Miller reported that on Wednesday, 35 people were rescued by boat, most of which were in the Mohawk area. In addition, a number of people in the Hwy 99/Junction City area required assistance. Miller stated that last night an additional 4-5 people were rescued. He reported that jet boats, helicopters, and emergency vehicles are being used in these rescue operations.

Miller observed that today's primary concern was from the Long Tom in the Cheshire/Hwy 99N and Junction City areas. He related that Fern Ridge and Junction City are saturated with ground water and are already suffering from the impact of the Willamette River in addition to the Long Tom. Miller reported that the Siuslaw was holding its own right now.

Miller expected the South Lane/Dorena Cottage Grove reservoirs to start releasing water by Friday at 11:00 p.m. He stated there is potential for a lot of water in the South Lane area Friday through Sunday.

Cornacchia asked about the extent of need for additional assistance and in what form.

Clague responded that, initially, he thought the Army Corps of Engineers would provide assistance in the form of sand bags. He noted that this was still possible but only if they are needed to protect public property such as roads or government buildings. Clague stated that the Corps is holding its bags in reserve for those purposes. He commented that the average citizen in need of sandbags will need to obtain their own bags. Clague reported that the National Guard was ready to assist in whatever way necessary. He said they are willing to provide manpower, equipment and vehicles, including water buffalos for getting water into Mapleton.

Cornacchia asked about loan money or resource money that might be available to citizens to take care of damage. He questioned how they would go about accessing that possibility in a disaster.

Clague replied that he would find a specific answer to his question and will then make that public. He suggested that if someone needed to make a claim for reimbursement for damage because of this flood, they should call and their staff will try to explain how to go about accomplishing that.

Clague asked how additional updates should be provided.

Green responded that he would like any information sent to him as the EOC receives it to allow for circulation among the department so that staff will be able to respond to the public.

Teresa Wilson stated that this emergency meeting was called with less than 24 hours notice to the media due to the fact that, as Clague had previously stated, it had not been determined earlier if there were adequate resources to handle this situation. Wilson asserted that, at this time, there was the need to have the emergency declared to allow for the ability to access additional resources as needed. Wilson noted that for those reasons, the media was not given 24 hour notice.

MOTION: Approval of the Order. Dumdi **MOVED**, Weeldreyer **SECONDED**. VOTE: 5-0.

Green stated that a state of emergency has now been declared and that he would contact the Governor.

There being no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m.


Zoanne Gilstrap
Recording Secretary