

Town Talk - January 21, 2023

La Conner Retirement Inn

Facilitated Conversation with Communication Plan Draft

9-11 AM

*Public input documented with comments for Table groups (see below) -
Note heavy emphasis on a discussion of the recent flood and the
Health/Safety topic.*

Table 1

Facebook

Town Meetings with smaller groups

Town Meetings for seniors

Church Bells

More CERT Teams

Goals:

Law Enforcement Assistance

Crowd Control

Parking Control

Reverse 911 to Cell Phones

Develop and Emergency Checklist for Residents

Communication:

State and Federal sources - release of Emergency funds

Bus system - Assist with Emergencies

Add local churches to the list of shelters

Notify Farmers where to store equipment

Notify CERT

Ham operators

Help seniors with hearing loss/transportation and shelter

Best Things about the Town

People, Restaurants, Good Culture Change, Active Arts Community, small community

Table 2

Health and Safety:

Nee siren/whistle

People unaware of what the Tsunami siren is about

Air raid siren for all types of warnings

Private parties/organizations need to have a disaster plan including an evacuation plan

Call list/Tree

Tools/strategies

Newspaper is important

CERT should be explored

Town workers and Fire Department did well

Good community response to the flood

Volunteer coordination needed

Goals:

Keep hanging baskets

Town is clean

Newspaper boxes are unsightly

Flood dumpsters appreciated

Hard to find information on the website - better menu?

No response to letters to the council

Reader board

Good things about LC:

Friendly

Amenities

Safe

Naturally beautiful

Diverse

Events- Parade, Canoe Race, Music

Table 3

Care Network

Who do we contact?

Neighborhood Watch

Certain number of homes

Training

Sign in window to identify Ok or Not OK

Communication Within the Retirement Inn

Link to the Fire Department - Priority

How to:

State, Local Resources

Who is Responsible for what

Talk to our Neighbors, Citizens

Service Organizations

Procedures when town is closed for a holiday

Communication with each other - Fire Department training (Town and Retirement Inn)

Pedestrian and Car Safety

Biking and Walking trails

Thoughtful Planning

Safe walking routes vs. Busy streets

Inclusive of all communities - Retirement, Channel Cove, Reservation, Merchants etc.

Goals:

Communication, Communication, Communication

Digital Reader Board

Remind App

Use what we have more effectively

Future Town Talk: Sustainable climate resistance development

Table 4

Health and Safety

How best to alert residents about flooding?

Text alerts from the town

Sign up or opt out

Visual Alerts - Green, Yellow or Red

Personal and Community Needs

Neighborhood Outreach

Communities in neighborhoods as a go-to for information

Awareness of neighbors who may need extra help

Emergency shelters

Communication Plan:

Connection with Tribe/collaboration

Council representation for the Retirement Inn

Most goals areas are being addressed but could be more accessible to citizens

How to engage citizens, aside from the website

Target Audiences:

Swinomish Tribe

Business owners - Chamber of Commerce

Table 5

Health and Safety

What do you want to know from town and how?

Emergency siren

Explicit details about town emergency structure - Flow Chart

Real time alert with visible personnel

Location of toxic areas when a crisis occurs (fire department)

Citizens - mobility in case of awareness - evacuation

Distinguish between general communication and emergency communication

Tidal gauge - need our own forecast leading to advance notice

Who is leading this effort and what is the system for getting information out including response time

Phone app for communicating - get the info out

Evacuation plan that includes plans for those with mobility issues

System for closing roads and enforcement of these

Post Flooding:

Open garages, homes - security for homes etc. Who can post patrols?

There is earthquake/tsunami preparedness. What about flooding?

Flow chart of the response plan

Anticipate and plan

Refocus priorities -- Protect the town

Get the word out through an app

Radio station, sirens. Door to door, text messages, patrol cars making announcements

Transportation for citizens before, during and after for doctor and medical appointments

Notices with water bills

Newspaper - Insert flood emergency response

Magnet for the fridge

Flood awareness week - info sessions

 Websites

 Handouts

 Neighborhood meetings

Is there an emergency number for the town?

How do we provide input?

Zoom options

Attend council meetings

Public comment -meaningful impact - restructure public comment by topic/at beginning and end of meeting to clarify information

Include tribal connection link

Use bulletin boards and mailboxes at Retirement Inn

Survey as an avenue to communicate with the government

Town then responds to the survey

Social time before the town meetings or after with coffee and cookies

Clarify to citizens how to get an time on the agenda and the process for it to be an action item for a vote in a timely matter

Informal meeting sessions with town officials at the library, retirement inn

Table 6

How does the town work?

How does the government work?

How is the funded with taxes and how are the taxes used

Communication through a special newsletters

Person to person contacts

More town speakers at the retirement inn

Regular face to face meetings with town officials

More town information available at the Retirement INN - Contact names and Numbers

More events at the retirement inn

More accommodations for seniors at town events

Connecting children with seniors - School coordination possibility? Library?

How do we attract families to the town

Like the size of the town and the accessibility

