

CH2M HILL Alumni Association
OR/SW WA Alumni Gatherings – Friday/Saturday, Oct. 4-5, 2024
Final

OR/SW WA CH2M HILL retirees, former employees (some now Jacobs employees) and their partners totaling 67 attendees came together at Edgefield McMenamins in Troutdale, OR for a most enjoyable event, swapping stories and catching up - the first time for many since before the 2020 pandemic. Before gathering in the Ballroom, people were encouraged to arrive early to experience other fun that this Edgefield offers.

One pre-event, lightly organized by Bob Chapman, was a golf outing on Edgefield's quirky little 9-hole, par 27 course. Two foursomes + of hearty "damp weather"- "used to be"- "someday" golfers soon morphed into a single "groupsome" on the wide-open course. Bill Wallace showed off his lob wedge talents, often dropping his tee shot close to the flag. Mike Doleac, ever a proud mechanical engineer, showed off his adjustable "all-in-one" club. All players provided entertaining moments, appropriately accompanied by jeers and cheers. All in all, it was great fun. The outing appropriately started and ended at an adjacent pub.

Other groups met with friends not seen for many years in one of the many "watering holes". Some joined a concert taking place in a pub – advantages of meeting in a location with a wide range of activity offerings on-site.

Attendees travelled from Bend, Hood River, and McMinnville Oregon. The most distant attendee of this event was Alicia Lanier from North Carolina, while Mark Lasswell and Karin Rosenberger Jennings came from Montana, the Rabys journeyed west from Minnesota, and the Storbos, Rick Luebbers, Steve Mader, and Mike Doleac came south from the Puget Sound area. All agreed that the food was delicious, plentiful, and met a wide range of tastes. With both sit-down and standing tables, people could sit in comfort as well as circulate to visit.

Bob Chapman brought a large box full of CH memorabilia for perusing during the event, and available to claim. These items were part of a treasure chest of items donated to CHAA by Mary Koblitz, whose husband Gordon had squirreled away before his demise. Many of these were gifted to Gordon many years earlier by Anne Merryfield. It was a special treat to have Mary attend this gathering as well, and share memories of their days with the PDX office.

A flat panel TV displayed greetings from those who couldn't attend in person. A magnificent banner, created and provided by Steve Wanders who chairs the CHAA regional networks committee, hung over the entire entry hallway to alert arrivals and the public to the event!

After people were settled with their libations and food, President Rick Luebbers greeted those gathered with an informal overview of CHAA objectives, organization, activities, and Future Focus Task Force efforts including the Legacy Gift Fund. Handouts about the Legacy Gift Fund were made available, as were a few paper copies of the past 2 newsletters so that non-CHAA members could learn more about CHAA and their colleagues. Mark Lasswell, John Willis, Bob Chapman, Dick Crim, and Michelle Girts

added their own words of welcome – to much laughter – and the festivities continued at least at one table later into the night (including a few people who stayed overnight at Edgefield).

Saturday October 5th dawned dry, perfect for those attending the Oregon State University – Colorado State University football game that afternoon in Corvallis. Mark Lasswell and some Corvallis associates reserved a private room at the Benchwarmers Bar & Grill for a pre-game no-host lunch. This gathering was also well attended; rumor has it that there were more than 25 attending from the South Portland to Corvallis area. The date coincided with awards presented by the OSU College of Engineering to some former CH2M HILL employees including Brad Hermansen, which drew additional former employees from distant states, who serve on the College’s Advisory Board.

Mark Lasswell, John Willis, Michelle Girts and Rick Luebbers provided the initial spark suggesting this pair of events, including discussions while attending a celebration of life for long-time PDX employee Jory Abrams (Gerry Abrams attended the gathering, staying overnight at the Edgefield Lodge). John, Michelle and Dick provided passionate leadership during the planning activities, amazingly accomplished in just two months! Other active volunteers were Mark Lasswell and Bob Chapman, with special and timely help from Mike Mynhier, Scott Trusler and Steve Wanders.















