



MARION COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BOC/CAO Issues Coordination

March 3, 2026  
11:00am to 12:00pm  
Courthouse Square  
Commissioner's Boardroom  
Salem, Oregon

**Meeting Minutes**

**AGENDA**

**1. Welcome**

Chair Willis

Chair Willis called the meeting to order at 11:30am

Chair Willis, Commissioner Bethell, Commissioner Cameron, CAO Fritz, Sr. Policy Analyst Klausen, and County Ops Manager Lawyer were present

**2. Post Washington DC NACo Conference debrief**

Chair Willis  
Commissioner Bethell

- a. NACo trip debrief** – Commissioner Bethell and Chair Willis shared a recap from the annual NACo Conference they both attended in Washington DC. They reviewed meetings with the Department of Transportation, where they established a positive relationship with Melissa from Intergovernmental Affairs and discussed BIP funding opportunities and grant review requirements. They discussed Forest Service meetings regarding spotted owl habitat designations and critical habitat determinations, as well as potential stewardship agreements with Curry County. The Army Corps meeting raised concerns about turbidity studies and drawdown requirements, with December set as the new deadline. Updates were shared on various other federal agency meetings including VA, Fish and Wildlife, and discussions about Kratom regulation and Horizon House funding.

**3. Clackamas County Recovery Funding**

Commissioner Bethell

- a.** Commissioner Bethell led a discussion about a Recovery Campus project in Clackamas County, where Ben West and Martha Schrader had conducted an assessment of addiction and mental health resources, leading to a recovery roadmap that identified insufficient funding for beds. Marion County expressed interest in the project after Gary reached out to Jan, seeking funding, though it was revealed that Clackamas County already had some funding but needed additional resources. The

discussion highlighted that while Clackamas County had secured some funding from the governor for \$10 million, they were still seeking more money, particularly for juvenile beds, which aligned with Marion County's priorities. The conversation ended with an agreement to review documents and contracts, with Steve Elzinga needing to send Legal Counsel at Clackamas County the redline version of the last juvenile contract.

#### **4. Food Vendor Ordinance and City of Salem**

All Commissioners

- a. Discussion focused on issues surrounding a presentation made by AJ Klausen to the Salem city council, which incorrectly linked the County's food vendor regulations to sex trafficking concerns, leading to a negative public reaction and media scrutiny. The group discussed the challenges of implementing health authority enforcement across jurisdictional boundaries, particularly regarding food vendors, and acknowledged that political tensions around the upcoming May election make it inadvisable to pursue further action until after the election. They also touched on communication policy issues regarding public records requests, where Marion County Health and Human Services staff bypassed the standard procedures set by legal counsel and communications officers.

#### **5. Other**

All

- a. Next Steps from the discussion included:
  - AJ: Follow up with Ryan and Lonnie (and Tara) to figure out BIP funding application for Lake Labiche roads
  - Tara: Ensure information about grant application feedback (no bike lanes, etc.) is communicated to Ryan for reapplication
  - AJ (or designated Public Works staff): Set up a Zoom meeting with Melissa (DOT staff) to discuss SCATS funding, CFEC, and LCDC, and include relevant staff (not Planning)
  - AJ: Get minutes from the Army Corps meeting for follow-up
  - AJ: Obtain the presentation from Commissioner Hollinger (Curry County) about the Forest Service stewardship agreement
  - Matt: Forward Ellen's email (with agreement details) to AJ
  - Steve/Board's Office: Review the Montana contract and related email thread for the Forest Service stewardship agreement
  - AJ: Set up a meeting with Jacqueline Buchanan for a tour and discussion about the Forest Service stewardship contract
  - AJ, Tara, John, and Rob Ferris (and offer to Frank): Set up a post-meeting with John Turpak (Fish & Wildlife) to learn the spotted owl survey protocol
  - AJ: Work with Dr. Pearson to develop policy/legislation for Kratom regulation; provide to Molly for drafting
  - AJ: Meet with Kirby and Tara to review DC trip follow-ups and coordinate ongoing work
  - AJ: Schedule a federal agenda work session with CFM in September/October 2026 to prepare for next NACO trip
  - AJ: Schedule a pre-NACO coordination meeting with Commissioners attending to review meetings, flights, and topics
  - Steve: Send the red line version of the last juvenile Clackamas County contract to Billy at Clackamas County
  - Jan: Reach out to Ryan to ensure Debbie Wells provides regular updates on the Harvard Bloomberg project to the board

- AJ/Danielle/Jan: Schedule a follow-up meeting with the City of Salem regarding the nuisance ordinance/food truck issue after the May election
- Jan: Address the communications policy violation with Katrina and relevant staff regarding public records/media response

## **6. Adjourn**

- a. Chair Willis adjourned the meeting at 12:10pm.