



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DEPARTMENT HEAD AND ELECTED OFFICIALS MEETING

Minutes
Thursday, May 14, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Commissioners' Boardroom
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Suite 5231
Salem, Oregon 97301

ATTENDANCE:

Elected Officials: Danielle Bethell, Colm Willis, Kevin Cameron, and Nick Hunter

Legal: Steve Elzinga,

IT: Gary Christofferson

Health and Human Services: Troy Gregg

Business Services: Tamra Goettsch

Finance: Jeff White

Public Works: Brian Nicholas

Community Services: Kelli Weese.

Juvenile: Alicia Cozad.

Assessor's Office: Nate Combs.

District Attorney's Office: Brendan Murphy.

Board Office: Trevor Lane, Jan Fritz and Matt Lawyer.

AI Experts: Ivan Bercovich and Kelsey Murray.

Commissioner Colm Willis called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

1. Welcome & Introduction

2. Special Presentation Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Emerging Opportunities

-Commissioner Colm Willis & Ivan Bercovich

- External AI experts provided high-level overview:
 - Current AI capabilities, trends, and likely developments over the next 5–15 years.
- AI advances primarily driven by massive growth in computing power and model size:
 - Not single "breakthrough" invention.
- AI reaching or surpassing average human performance on tasks like speech recognition, translation, and image generation, with rapid improvement curves.
- Artificial General Intelligence (AGI):
 - Human-level machine intelligence may be plausible around 2030s.
 - Depending on continued investment and compute growth.
- AI systems are becoming increasingly capable at knowledge work:
 - Programming, law, math, analysis, etc.
 - Creating economic opportunity and risk of disruption in white collar professions.
- Concerns about "reward hacking" and hallucinations:
 - AI provides confident but incorrect or misleading answers.
 - Challenge of understanding how AI actually arrives at its outputs.

County Commissioners

Colm Willis, Chair
Kevin Cameron
Danielle Bethell



Chief Administrative Officer

Jan Fritz

- Residents and private entities likely to adopt AI faster than local government:
 - Potentially overwhelming existing processes.
 - Complaints, public records requests, permits, litigation, and appeals.
- Example shared:
 - AI to automatically generate series of formal demand letters.
 - Illustrates how some can cheaply and quickly apply legal and bureaucratic pressure.
- County will need to adopt AI tools for triage, document processing, analysis, and response generation, while maintaining human review and control:
 - To keep pace and remain effective.
- Many functions, especially in public safety, public works, and direct service delivery:
 - Still require human presence and judgment.
 - AI is more likely to augment than replace those roles in near term.
- Opportunities identified included:
 - Use to analyze large public datasets:
 - Tax, population, economic data.
 - To improve forecasting, planning, and policy analysis.
 - Efficiency in back-office and administrative work:
 - Finance, procurement, contract review, screening, and document drafting.
 - Explore support for work-load heavy areas:
 - Reviewing body worn camera footage.
 - Summarizing reports.
 - Flagging items for human follow-up.
 - Leverage in new enterprise systems to automate routine tasks:
 - Reassign staff to higher value work.
- Risks and constraints identified included:
 - Compliance requirements:
 - Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS).
 - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
 - Personally Identifiable Information (PII).
 - Payment Card Industry (PCI).
 - Federal and state regulations
 - Limitations in secure environments:
 - Microsoft 365 Government Community Cloud (GCC).
 - Accuracy, reliability, and evidentiary concerns for generated reports and analyses:
 - Especially in law enforcement and prosecution.
 - Potential inequities and social impacts if AI-driven productivity gains and wealth concentrate among small group of institutions or regions.
 - Educational and developmental concerns about overreliance on AI:
 - Especially for younger generations and the erosion of critical thinking skills.
- Consensus:
 - AI will continue to advance rapidly and cannot be ignored.
 - County needs clear policies and guardrails for staff use of AI:
 - Including public-facing communications.
 - Human oversight, critical thinking, and professional judgment must remain central:
 - Particularly high-risk domains such as public safety, justice, and elections.
 - Follow-up meetings with individual departments:
 - Map specific workflows, risks, and potential AI-enabled improvements.

County Commissioners

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3. Other

-All

- Tamra Goettsch recognized with a 35-year service award:
 - Dedicated to Marion County.
 - Progress through multiple departments.
 - Leadership within organization and local community.
- Commissioner Danielle Bethell recognized for serving as commissioner for five years:
 - Leadership through periods of significant change.
- Appreciation for ongoing contributions to wildfire recovery and activities in Canyon area.
- Human relationships, community cohesion, and public service values as county navigates technological and social change is important.
- Technology and AI will evolve rapidly:
 - Core mission is serving residents, protecting public safety, and maintaining trust.

Adjourned – time: 10:58 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White