



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Management Update Summary Minutes

O R E G O N

September 30, 2025. 9:30 AM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Danielle Bethell, Kevin Cameron, and Colm Willis.

Board's Office: Ben Eugenio, Trevor Lane, Toni Whitler, Heather Inyama, and Matt Lawyer.

Legal Counsel: Scott Norris.

Sheriff's Office: Mike Hartford.

Public Works: Brandon Reich, Austin Barnes, Dennis Mansfield, Lani Radtke, Kevin Thompson, Max Hepburn, Scott Wilson, Michael Pierce, and Brian Nicholas.

Health and Human Services: Emma Schmoll, Wendy Zieker, and Phil Blea.

Community Servies: Kelli Weese, Chip Bury, and Steve Dickey.

Human Resources: Sherry Linter.

Citizen: Kathy Rogers.

Commissioner Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

INFORMATIONAL:

1. Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with State of Oregon for Fund to Support Student Opportunity for Achieving Results (SOAR) Program

-Commander Mike Hartford

Summary of Presentation:

- Renewal for Measure 57 funds, totaling \$1.51 million for the 2025-2027 biennium.
- The SOAR program has been funded by Measure 57 since 2009:
 - Evidence-based, intensive cognitive treatment program for medium- to high-risk offenders.
 - Focuses on substance use and recidivism reduction.
- The program has had significant success:
 - Graduates show up to 30% reduction in arrest rates over the last five years compared to non-graduates.
- Difference in funding compared to last biennium:
 - Increase is modest and primarily inflationary.
- Continue support for offender rehabilitation and public safety.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.
- Board reviews the final contract language before execution.

2. Aurora Airport Master Plan Process Update

-Brandon Reich

Summary of Presentation:

- The Oregon Department of Aviation is updating the Aurora State Airport Master Plan:
 - Requested county's criteria for adoption into the comprehensive plan.
 - Also, a determination of consistency with master plan.
- Planning staff provided the necessary criteria:
 - Only the board can determine consistency with the comprehensive plan.
 - Not staff or legal counsel.
- Process allows either full adoption of the master plan or individual conditional use applications for specific projects:
 - Runway expansion or installation of new equipment.
- Ensure that county-approved airport expansions are included in the master plan:
 - Exclusion could impact eligibility for federal grant funding.
- Legal nuances between state and county adoption of the master plan:
 - Reference appeals court case that highlighted the significance of county action in determining what development can occur at the airport.
- Need full information about implications of adopting the plan or not:
 - Avoid statements or determinations outside the formal land use process.
- Need for communication with airport owners and stakeholders:
 - Transparency and public engagement is important.

Board Direction:

- Continue giving feedback to the Department of Aviation and stakeholders.
- Seek legal and planning input before making decisions about consistency or adoption.
- Engage airport owners and stakeholders once a final draft of the master plan is available.
- Ensure board action is taken within the formal land use process.

3. Land Use Planning Projects

-Brandon Reich

Summary of Presentation:

- Upcoming code amendment projects:
 - Housing options (triplexes, fourplexes, lot sizes).
 - Battery energy storage.
 - Geo-hazard maps.
- Need work sessions to address these topics:
 - Especially housing, given legislative changes.
 - Time since last major review is four years.
- Complexity of issues, impact of state legislation and need to align county code with new requirements.
- Preparatory work and legal review before work sessions:
 - Board needs to be fully informed.
- Public engagement and transparency is needed.
- Consider impacts of code changes on different communities and stakeholders.

Board Direction:

- Schedule work sessions to review proposed code amendments and planning projects:
 - Focus on housing and legislative changes.
- Staff prepare background materials and coordinate with legal counsel.

4. IGA with Yamhill County for Ownership and Operation of the Wheatland Ferry

-Michael Pierce, Scott Wilson

Summary of Presentation:

- Amendment to the IGA with Yamhill County regarding the Wheatland Ferry:
 - Jointly owned and operated by the two counties.
- Current agreement caps Yamhill County's contribution at a fixed amount:
 - Actual expenses have exceeded this cap.
 - Marion County covers a disproportionate share of costs.
- Amendment would remove cap and include capital outlay in shared expenses.
- More equitable cost-sharing arrangement based on a 24% share for Yamhill County (based on population).
- Need Yamhill County to give input on major expenditures:
 - Propose semi-annual meetings for budget planning and review.
 - One before budget time and one after fiscal year ends.
- Rationale for 24% cost share and consider language for future adjustments:
 - If participation or usage changes.
- Communication and partnership with Yamhill County:
 - Ensure both counties are accountable and have a voice in decision-making.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.
- Include provisions for semi-annual meetings for budget planning and review.
- Add language to agreement to allow for future adjustments to the cost share.
- Ensure Yamhill County has input on major expenditures and decisions.

5. Purchase of Three Vehicles for Marion County Fleet from Northside Ford

-Michael Pierce, Scott Wilson

Summary of Presentation:

- Purchase three vehicles:
 - Two for the consolidated fleet.
 - One for road operations.
 - Part of the annual replacement program.
- Replacement program is based on maintenance costs, mileage, age, and reliability of existing vehicles.
- Consolidated fleet program is funded by monthly lease rates paid by departments.
- Board confirmed that purchase was budgeted and necessary for continued operations.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

6. Purchase of Freightliner for Public Works from Premier Truck Group

-Scott Wilson

Summary of Presentation:

- Purchase of 10-yard dump truck to replace a 23-year-old vehicle with over 360,000 miles.
- New truck will support year-round maintenance:
 - Gravel roads.
 - Debris removal.
 - Pavement repairs.
 - Snow/ice control.
- Purchase was budgeted and will be funded through the appropriate program.
- Important to maintain reliable fleet for public works operations.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

7. Purchase of a Chipper From RDO Equipment Co.

-Scott Wilson

Summary of Presentation:

- Purchase a new vegetation chipper to replace an existing, well-used unit.
- Chipper is essential for public safety, vegetation control, and maintaining roadside clear zones and overhead hazards.
- The purchase price was \$111,057.95, awarded through a cooperative price agreement:
 - Budgeted under the appropriate fund.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

8. Purchase of Thirteen Vehicles for Marion County Fleet from Roberson Motors

-Michael Pierce

- Purchase thirteen vehicles:
 - Primarily for Sheriff's Office and Health Department.
 - Part of the consolidated fleet program.
- Purchase includes replacement of previously rented vehicles:
 - Based on maintenance and operational needs.
- Vehicle storage and upfitting logistics.
- Purchase is budgeted.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

9. Purchase of Twenty-One Vehicles for Marion County Fleet from Dick Hannah Chevrolet

-Michael Pierce

Summary of Presentation:

- Purchase twenty-one Chevy Trax vehicles as replacements for discontinued sedans:
 - Malibus, Fiestas, and Fusions.
- Serve multiple departments:
 - Health and Human Services, Dog Control, Sheriff, Road Operations, and Environmental Services.
- Seating capacity, department preferences, and suitability of vehicles for their intended use.

- The purchase was budgeted and necessary for continued operations.

Board Direction

- Approved to move forward on consent.

10. Consider the Appointment of Amanda Arthurs to the Marion County Park Commission

-Kevin Thompson

Summary of Presentation:

- Ms. Arthurs attended several commission meetings and is active in the community.
- Need for full application details, including references and address, for board review.
- Staff clarified that personal information is not posted online.
- Important to have transparency and public records requirements.

Board Direction:

- Provide full application, including references and address, to the board for review.
- Board to decide by the following week.
- Ensure that applicants are informed about public records requirements.

11. Consider Removal of Weight Restriction on Rees Hill Road

-Max Hepburn

Summary of Presentation:

- Recommend removing the 15-ton weight restriction on Rees Hill Road:
 - Recent improvements have addressed previous structural concerns.
- Popularity of the road, reasons for the original restriction, and impact of the improvements were discussed.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

12. Consider Sharma Owens for the Mental Health Advisory Committee Appointment

-Phil Blea

- Ms. Owens is a long-term county resident and social worker.
- Has experience in the community and a strong interest in supporting county efforts.

Board Direction:

- Staff to provide the full application and references to the board.
- Board to decide by the following week:
 - On the consent calendar pending review.

13. Application and Potential Funding from The Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists for Data Science Team Training

-Wendy Zieker & Emma Schmoll

Summary of Presentation:

- Approval to apply for a team-based data science training program:
 - Includes a stipend and project work.
- Designed to improve data science and modernization capabilities at health departments.

- Need to understand the requirements and potential obligations before committing to the program.

Board Direction

- Staff to send the application materials and program requirements to the policy analyst for review.
- Board will provide feedback and approval after review.

14. 2026-2027 CDBG/HOME Application Process

-Steve Dickey

Summary of Presentation:

- Propose adding a pre-application process to the CDBG/HOME funding cycle to screen for eligibility and readiness.
- Need a detailed budget request form and alignment with the City of Salem's program:
 - Maintain clear terms for partnership.
- Past challenges with collaboration, need transparency, and important to support community outcomes.

Board Direction:

- Approve the addition of a pre-application process for CDBG/HOME funds.
- Develop detailed budget request form.
- Coordinate with City of Salem as appropriate.

15. Detroit Marinas Construction Contractor Change Order

-Chip Bury

Summary of Presentation:

- Proposed change order for the Detroit Marinas construction contract:
 - Related to project delays and potential cost increases.
- Concern about approving change order before full scope of delays and liability is understood:
 - Need to determine responsibility for the delays.
- Protect county interests and ensure additional costs are justified and allocated appropriately.

Board Direction:

- Further investigation into:
 - Cause of delays.
 - Role of consultants and contractors.
 - Clear work plan and timeline.

16. Contract with CFM Strategic Communication, Inc. for Federal Legislative Strategy, Direct Lobbying Services and Federal Grant Assistance

-Gary White

Summary of Presentation:

- CFM contract for federal lobbying and grant assistance is on the consent agenda.
- CFM's experience and productive relationship with the county.
- Contract was previously discussed and supported:
 - Meets county needs.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

17. Legislative Update

-Commissioner Danielle Bethell

Summary of Presentation:

- Transportation package passed:
 - Governor will sign.
 - Can be repealed after signature.
 - Large effort for repeal so voters can decide instead.

Board Direction:

- Board good with the update.

18. Board Session Agenda Review

-Commissioner Danielle Bethell

Summary of Presentation:

- Overview of board session agenda.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS and UPDATE**Commissioner Danielle Bethell**

- N/A

Commissioner Kevin Cameron

- N/A

Commissioner Colm Willis

- N/A

Other**Stormwater Grant Update**

Dennis Mansfield

Summary of Presentation:

- Received federal grant for stormwater master planning:
 - Originally requested \$400,000 but awarded \$280,000.
 - Budget cuts.
- There is a \$120,000 unfunded balance.
- Grant from Department of Land Conservation and Development could cover gap and expand master plan area to the entire permit area:
 - Brooks, East Salem, and South Salem.
- Grants can be combined with no county match required.
- Concern about potential requirements attached to the grants:
 - Especially long-term maintenance and environmental standards.
- Grant requires 20-year maintenance commitment:
 - Typical for such projects.
 - Does not encumber parks or other properties.
- County would eventually be required to do this work:

- Regardless of grant funding.
- Grant helps prioritize culvert replacements and other infrastructure needs.

Board Direction:

- Staff to review both grants for any problematic requirements.
- Send grant details and any concerns to policy analyst for review.
- Proceed with application process:
 - Keep board informed of any significant obligations.

Chamber Grant Agreements

Kelli Weese

Summary of Presentation:

- Mid-year reports for chamber grant agreements are ready.
 - Will be sent to the board and policy analysts for review.
- Request board's approval to schedule work session with chamber representatives:
 - Open next grant cycle.

Board Direction:

- Email mid-year chamber grant reports to the board and policy analysts.
- Schedule a work session with chamber representatives.
- Proceed with preparations to open the next grant cycle:
 - Pending board review.

Brooks Water Project Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Proposal

Brian Nicholas

Summary of Presentation:

- Slayden submitted GMP proposal for the Brooks water project.
- Reached out to schedule a Board of Commissioners/Chief Administrator Officer (BOC/CAO) meeting:
 - Next available date is around October 10.
- Email synopsis of the proposal in advance to allow for review before any meeting.
- Discussion about whether update should be via email or a formal meeting:
 - Especially if legal or executive session issues arise.
- Last update was informational and did not involve negotiations.

Board Direction:

- Send email synopsis of the project proposal as soon as possible.
- If concerns arise schedule a meeting or executive session as needed.

East Salem Service District (ESSD) Meeting

Brian Nicholas

Summary of Presentation:

- Recent ESSD meeting agenda and attendance:
 - Public Works was removed from the agenda.
 - Sheriff's Office and Fire attended instead.
- Next meeting scheduled for October, with three topics requested:
 - Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC).
 - Gun violence report.
 - Explanation of tax districts.

- Need visuals for the CFEC topic.
- Concerns from East Salem Neighborhood Association about housing density and jurisdictional confusion between the city and county.

Board Direction:

- Coordinate with presenters for the upcoming ESSD meeting:
 - Ensure the requested topics are covered.
- Prepare visuals for the CFEC presentation.
- Outreach and communication with neighborhood associations to clarify county roles and address concerns.

Adjourned – time: 11:06 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White