



O R E G O N

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Management Update Summary Minutes

October 14, 2025. 9:30 AM

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

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Danielle Bethell, and Colm Willis.

Board's Office: Matt Lawyer, Heather Inyama, Toni Whitler, Chris Eppley, Alvin Klausen, Jon Heynen, and Trevor Lane.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.

Public Works: Brian Nicholas, Kevin Thompson, Dennis Mansfield, Brian May, and Ryan Crowther.

Health and Human Services: Carol Heard.

Information Technology: Steve Brooks.

Juvenile: Melissa Rounds.

Community Servies: Kelli Weese, Chip Bury, and Tami Cirerol.

Human Resources: Sherry Linter, Lori Klemsen, and Kathy Bolen.

Assessor: Natasha McVey, Tom Rohlfing, and Nate Combs.

CFM Advocates: Kirby Garrett, and Tara Kroft.

Commissioner Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

INFORMATIONAL:

1. CFM Advocated Federal Update

-Kirby Garrett

Summary of Presentation:

- Federal advocacy efforts for Marion County in Washington, DC:
 - Focus on securing federal funding and influencing legislation.
- Major focus on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) biological opinion regarding floodplain development:
 - Could severely restrict development in 30 out of 36 Oregon counties, including Marion.
 - History of the issue:
 - 2016 biological opinion and a 2017 three-year extension secured through federal legislation.
 - Noted recent developments:
 - FEMA released a draft environmental impact statement and implementation plan in August.
 - Public comment period ending October 6.
 - Marion County submitted a detailed letter outlining concerns.
 - Slow federal process, state-level involvement, and unique impact on Oregon as the "guinea pig" state.

- Ongoing efforts with Congressman Cliff Bentz and stakeholders to pursue both administrative and legislative solutions.
- Detroit Lake drawdown proposal by the Corps of Engineers:
 - Could impact municipal water supply and local economies.
 - Advocacy is ongoing to ensure thorough analysis of impacts before action.
- Pending federal funding applications:
 - \$37 million for bridge investments.
 - \$10.8 million for safety corridor improvements.
 - \$1.1 million for the Santiam Canyon sewer project.
- Brainstorming for 2026 federal agenda:
 - Staff meetings underway to identify priorities.

Board Direction:

- Continue multi-pronged advocacy on FEMA and Detroit Lake issues.
- Monitor and report on the status of federal funding applications.
- Prepare and circulate a draft federal agenda for board input and feedback.

2. North Fork Road Mile Post 3 Slide Repair

-Ryan Crowther

Summary of Presentation:

- Amendment to the contract with North Santiam Paving due to underestimation of excavation and rock buttress needs for the slide repair project.
- Removal of the retaining wall was possible:
 - Able to stabilize area without it.
 - Resulted in a project cost increase of \$161,000.
- The project remains below the cost of the second-lowest bidder.
- Payment will only be made for actual quantities used, not the maximum estimated.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.
- Expedite the review process to ensure no interruption in construction progress.

3. Santiam Rail Trail Request for Procurement (RFP) A&E Planning and Design Services

-Ryan Crowther, Chip Bury

Summary of Presentation:

- Grant from the Oregon Community Paths Program:
 - Preliminary engineering and conceptual design of the Santiam Rail Trail.
- Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) funds are available immediately,.
- Community Paths Program funds will be available in 2027.
- The project covers a 4.2-mile section between the rest area and Mill City:
 - Includes multiple bridges and environmental surveys.
- Property owner concerns, especially where the trail may cross or impact private property.
- Grant requires a 10.27% match, with options for using lottery or Opal Creek Promise funds, but federal funds cannot be matched with other federal dollars.

Board Direction:

- Schedule a dedicated meeting to review property and right-of-way issues and develop a comprehensive project plan.
- Hold off on community outreach until board has a clear understanding and strategy.
- Clarify funding sources for the grant match and ensure all requirements are met before proceeding with the RFP.

4. Consider Appointments for Materials Management Advisory Council (MMAC)

- **Ken Hector**
- **Michele Tesdal**

-Cory Swartwout

Summary of Presentation:

- Seeking to fill three remaining positions.
- Ken Hector and Michele Tesdal proposed for rural and urban citizen roles.
- The community position remains open.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on the consent.

5. Marion County Radio Project-Non-First Responder User Fee Rate

-Brian Nicholas

Summary of Presentation:

- Setting user fee rates for non-first responder agencies:
 - School districts, public works, etc.
 - To access the county's radio system.
- Recommend rate for non-first responders at \$46:
 - Match the fire services rate.
 - Ensure fairness and avoid complaints.
- Rate for private ambulance services:
 - Board prefers parity with public providers due to similar service roles.
- Plan to repurpose surplus Kenwood radios for non-first responder agencies:
 - Require new users to purchase compatible radios for the system.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.
- Repurpose surplus radios to encourage broader system adoption.

6. Contract Amendment #2 with Redwood Toxicology Laboratories, Inc to Add Funds and Extend Term

-Carol Heard

Summary of Presentation:

- Amendment extends the contract to February 2027:
 - Increases the total not-to-exceed amount to \$900,000.
- Redwood provides drug screening services for:
 - Addiction treatment.
 - Crisis services.
 - Other county programs.
- Discussed:

- Cost per test.
 - Reimbursement rates from Medicaid and private insurance.
 - Financial impact on the county.
- Possibility of adopting less invasive and more cost-effective testing technologies:
 - Eye scanning.
 - Used in some departments.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.
- Request detailed financial analysis and exploration of alternative testing methods.

7. Oregon Department of Education (ODE) Juvenile Crime Prevention Grant, Reinstatement

-Alicia Cozad

Summary of Presentation:

- Reinstatement a grant from ODE for juvenile crime prevention:
 - Funding 1.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) in the Family Support Program.
- Amendment #4 for \$477,000:
 - Exemption needed due to late receipt of the amendment from the state.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.
- Provide Summary of program

8. Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) Incoming Funds for Juvenile Crime Prevention Basic and Diversion Services

-Alicia Cozad

- Approval for grant agreement with the OYA for the 2025-27 biennium:
 - Totaling \$1,994,551.
- Funds support Guaranteed Attendance Program (GAP) and other juvenile prevention services.
- Agreement is retroactive to July 1, 2025, due to late receipt from the state.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.
- Provide a summary of program activities and outcomes to the board.

9. Salem Baseball/Softball Turf Project Relocation

-Chip Bury

Summary of Presentation:

- The project, originally planned for Willamette, is now proposed for Chemeketa:
 - Due to a change in priorities.
- Travel Salem has agreed to transfer their funding to the new site.
- Need for a formal application and review process before any funds are released.

Board Direction

- Submission of a new project plan and application for the Chemeketa site.
- Review proposal and ensure all requirements are met.

10. Opal Creek Promise Implementation Plan

-Chip Bury

Summary of Presentation:

- Marion County has \$12 million in Opal Creek Promise funds to allocate.
- Focused on eligible recipients:
 - Private businesses registered with sam.gov.
 - Need to clarify board priorities.
- Noted existing commitments and need a comprehensive review before making further allocations.

Board Direction:

- Schedule a work session to review existing commitments and set funding priorities.
- Prepare list of all current and proposed allocations for the work session.

11. Advancing Tax Levies to Small Taxing District Pursuant to ORS 311.392

-Natasha McVey

Summary of Presentation:

- Annual process to advance property tax revenue to small districts at a 3% discount:
 - Marion County collects the remainder.
- Most districts are Keizer lighting districts:
 - Few others are included.
- Ensures small districts receive timely funding:
 - County absorbs minor risks related to collections.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.
- Continue the annual advancement process as in previous years.

12. Great Shakeout on October 16, 2025

-Michael O'Connell

- County-wide earthquake preparedness drill scheduled for 10:16am.
- All county employees encouraged to participate:
 - No evacuation required.
- Audio alert will be played in county buildings.
- All-county email will be sent to promote participation.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

13. Special Procurement to Extend Teller Point of Sale System

-Jeff White

Summary of Presentation:

- Extension of the on-premise Teller system through November 2026:
 - Align with the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system implementation.
- Current version of Teller is not compatible with the new cloud-based ERP system:
 - Necessitates future upgrade.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.
- Review future agreements and plan for eventual upgrade to cloud version.

14. 2025 Project Joy Fundraising Campaign

-Kathy Bolen

Summary of Presentation:

- Annual fundraiser in partnership with the Oregon Resource Family Alliance.
- It will run from November 17th to December 12th.
- Supports foster children and their families:
 - Includes biological and adopted children.
- Employees can also participate the toy drive through the Brothers Collection Car Museum:
 - This will happen on December 7th.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.
- Emphasize internal promotion of events and employee engagement.
- Board to participate in promotional activities as appropriate.

15. Insurance Broker and Consulting Services for Employee Benefits

-Lori Klemsen

Summary of Presentation:

- Renew Brown and Brown contract:
 - One year at \$114,228.
 - Option to extend for an additional year.
- Provide insurance consulting services to the county for several years.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

16. Subscription for Absorb Learning Management System

-Lori Klemsen

Summary of Presentation:

- Extend subscription for one year at \$57,160.47:
 - Bridges transition to the new ERP system.
- The extension pushes the contract total over \$100,000.
- The board supports the extension to ensure continuity of training and compliance.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

17. Request for Approval of Purchase Order for Network Lifecycle Equipment Replacement Plan

-Steve Brooks

Summary of Presentation:

- \$205,000 to replace end-of-life core network equipment:
 - Ensure continued reliability and security.
- Use of zero-touch deployment features to streamline installation:
 - Reduces need for specialized staff.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.
- Ensure future documentation includes clear financial impact statements.

18. Request for Approval of Purchase Order for Network Support/Maintenance

-Steve Brooks

Summary of Presentation:

- Annual maintenance contract for all network equipment:
 - Totals \$165,000.
- Includes 24/7 support and rapid replacement of failed equipment.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

17. Legislative Update

-Alvin Klausen

Summary of Presentation:

- Veterans Day proclamation on November 5:
 - Goal to make event more meaningful than in previous years.
 - Align with 250th anniversaries of United States and major military branches.
 - Formally invite all employees veterans:
 - Will reach out to department heads and sheriff's office to participate.
- Medicaid 1115 Waiver and potential expiration in 2027:
 - Concern about reduced Medicaid dollars if waiver is not renewed.
 - Leads to potential changes in how services are funded.
 - Board meeting local partners to assess county needs and service priorities.
 - County to advocate for itself at the state level.
- The Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission:
 - New strategic plan and funding issues were discussed.
 - Concern regarding commission's change in terminology:
 - From "harm reduction" to "risk reduction".
 - Lack of dedicated funding for the plan.
 - County's representatives advised to prepare and advocate during legislative session.
- Federal and State Legislative Advocacy Efforts:
 - Federal bills related to Secure Residential Treatment Facilities (SRTF) and behavioral health funding.
- Some federal legislation have low chances of passing:
 - Bipartisan efforts continue to seek funding and regulatory improvements for behavioral health infrastructure.

Board Direction:

- Veterans Day proclamation on November 5:
 - Draft an all-county invitation email from the board to be reviewed.
 - Proceed with laid out plan.
- Medicaid 1115 Waiver:
 - Continue engagement with stakeholders.
 - Prepare county-specific plan ahead of legislative decisions.
- Federal and State Legislative Advocacy:
 - Analyze impact of congressional bills and block grants on the county.

- Connect with Congressional representatives to ensure state interests are represented.
 - Prepare materials and county action plan ahead of legislative sessions.
- Updates and analyses of state and federal legislative developments:
 - Summaries of proposed legislation and effects on county operations and funding.

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

- Association of Oregon Counties:
 - Heather made notes for Friday's meetings.
 - Monday meetings:
 - Transportation committee.
 - Health committee.
 - Legislative committee.

Commissioner Kevin Cameron

- N/A

Commissioner Colm Willis

- Willamette Health Council Committee meeting.
- Student Opportunities for Achieving Results (SOAR) Graduation.
- Habitat Breakfast.

Other

County Parks Gate Service and After Hours Contract

Brian Nicholas

Summary of Presentation:

- Opening and closing gates at several county parks.
- Necessary due to difficulty staffing tasks at appropriate times:
 - More cost-effective than using county staff.
- Existing contract expires at the end of October:
 - Procurement process was started in July.
- Initial lowest bidder was disqualified due to not being a legitimate company:
 - Issues with insurance and workers' compensation.
 - Selected the next qualified provider.
- Contract extension needs to be approved before the current one expires:
 - Ensures seamless transition and no service gaps.
- Only six parks included in the contract for nightly closure:
 - History of after-hours trespassing and related issues;
 - Parks up the canyon are closed seasonally and don't see same level of after-hours problems.

- Parks included in the contract are monitored for trespassers;
- Service provider is responsible for clearing parking lots:
 - Does not inspect shrubbery.
- RVs and those with vehicle trouble are given notices to vacate:
 - Sometimes require a few days to leave.
- Process for removing trespassers involves posting notices:
 - If necessary, call the sheriff's office for assistance.
- New contract is with current service provider:
 - Minimizes any potential learning curve.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

Office of Community Services (OCS) Funding Award

Matt Lawyer

Summary of Presentation:

- Notification received regarding funding awards for peer projects through OCS:
 - Totaling over \$34 million.
- Need to compile and share the list of funded projects for review.

Board Direction:

- Project list and information about recipients will be distributed to all board members.

Adjourned – time: 11:06 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White