



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Minutes

Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Commissioners' Boardroom  
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Suite 5231  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Attendance:

**Commissioners:** Danielle Bethell, and Kevin Cameron.

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

**Legal Counsel:** Steve Elzinga.

**Juvenile:** Michael Miller.

**Clerk's Office:** Rebekah Doll.

**Public Works:** Lani Radtke, and Max Hepburn.

**Health and Human Services:** Ryan Matthews, Debbie Wells, and Katrina Griffith.

Commissioner Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Informational

**1. Gate Request on Hovenden Lane**

-Max Hepburn

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Property owner's request to install a gate on Hovenden Lane:
  - A county road.
  - To address concerns about property access and management.
- The gate will not become the county's responsibility for maintenance or ownership:
  - Avoid repeating issues experienced on other roads:
    - North Fork Road "gate issue."
- Requirements for proceeding included:
  - Full consent from all affected parties.
  - Formal agreement:
    - Full responsibility of installation, costs, and upkeep to the owners.
- Additional options:
  - Owners could build fencing along their property lines.
  - If consensus around a gate could not be achieved.
- Leaving as-is (no gate, open road) is default if no mutual agreement is reached.

**Board Direction:**

- Require 100% consent of affected property owners before any project can proceed.
- Gates installed on a county road must:
  - Be fully funded, installed, and maintained by property owners not the county.
- No county liability or ongoing maintenance for any proposed gate:
  - These terms must be formally documented in agreement language.
- If no consensus achieved current set-up will stay.
- Allow fencing along property lines, provided it meets legal/property guidelines.

## **2. Ballot Tracking Software Services for Marion County**

-Rebekah Stern Doll

### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Review of Ballot Tracks:
  - The only available provider for voter ballot status notification in Oregon.
- The service sends voters text or email alerts at various stages of ballot handling:
  - Mailed, received, accepted, and if signatures are flagged.
- Cost structure is \$0.05 per ballot tracked:
  - \$1,000 minimum an election.
  - Current usage is around 22,000 subscribers.
  - Contract budgeted up to \$100,000 in case all 230,000 voters enrolled.
- No Request for Proposal (RFP) was conducted:
  - Only provider in the area.
  - Ballot Tracks is used by multiple Oregon counties.
- Covers up to three county-wide elections per year for three years:
  - Special elections are billed proportionally to district participation:
    - Citywide levies

### **Board Direction:**

- Move forward with the three-year Ballot Tracks contract as outlined.
- Provide historic per-election cost data for Ballot Tracks:
  - Comparison to new contract terms for board review and action.
- Strengthen public-facing communications to improve public awareness and use:
  - Web-friendly presentation and, potentially, social media outreach.
- Clear, user-friendly presentation/article for the public:
  - Explain service benefits, costs, sign-up instructions, and county usage rates.

## **3. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Salem Fire Department to Support the Rapid, Engagement, Assessment & Community Health Team Partnership (REACH) Team**

-Katrina Griffith

### **Summary of Presentation:**

- REACH is a multidisciplinary response team covering downtown Salem and bridges:
  - Comprising a paramedic.
  - Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).
  - Qualified Mental Health Associate (QMHA).
  - Respond jointly to 911 calls involving medical and/or behavioral health issues.
- All team members receive extensive crisis training and fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) operational orientation:
  - Proactive field outreach to prevent service downtime.
- Data collection protocols:
  - Comprehensive spreadsheet tracking call type:
    - Reactive or proactive.
  - Client engagement.
  - Referrals to mental health/substance abuse services.
  - Housing status.
- Cross-agency data sharing by business associate agreement for protected health information:
  - Preliminary collaboration meetings between partners began in late 2025.
- Project intends to involve community and housing partners for:
  - Wraparound support.
  - Metrics.
  - Policy coordination.

- Challenges of data systems and agreement on “what success is” for follow-up and outcome reporting.
- Issues regarding project branding/logos:
  - Recommend public-facing branding reflect the county and city equally.

**Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward.
- Require robust tracking/reporting:
  - Present 6-week, 90-day, and 6-month outcome and progress reports.
  - Outreach, engagement, cost, and outcomes.
- Convene all relevant city/county/community partners for:
  - Service tracking, reporting, and wraparound support systems.
- Include Gretchen Bennett in coordination/meetings for project:
  - Accountability, citywide impact, and follow-through.
- Public branding to accurately represent Marion County and City of Salem.

**4. Marion County and Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for Expunction of Juvenile Records Reimbursement**

-Troy Gregg and Mike Miller

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Funds county expunction work for eligible juvenile cases:
  - Record-clearing.
- Recent statutory changes added categories of non-violent felonies to expunction eligibility:
  - Set new 4-year post-probation waiting period for some misdemeanors:
    - Assault, strangulation, and bias crimes.
- Expunction cases expected to increase with additional administrative work required:
  - From 360 a year to roughly 420 a year.
- Some offenses are explicitly non-expungable regardless of age or time:
  - Notably Measure 11/violent felonies.
- Personally Identifiable Information (PII) is removed on expunction:
  - Post-expunction recidivism tracking impossible.
  - Unless new court involvement occurs.

**Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward on consent.
- Provide legislative rationale/data supporting expunction statute changes.
- Monitor long-term funding and staffing implications:
  - Maintain required performance with the higher projected caseload.

**5. Legislative Update**

-Alvin Klausen

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Salem Chamber – Leadership Salem Day:
  - On February 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - Would like one or more commissioners to participate.
  - An hour-long event with about young business minded participants.
- Washington D.C Trip:
  - Planning for upcoming DC trip.
  - Confirming which agencies and departments they would like to visit.
  - Interest in natural resources policy:
    - Tried to meet with Department of Interior previously and has been challenging.

**Board Direction:**

- Salem Chamber – Leadership Salem Day:
  - Commissioner Kevin Cameron will participate.
- Washington D.C Trip:
  - Would like to meet with:
    - U.S. Forest Service.
    - U.S. Department of the Interior.
    - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
    - Send list of last year's requests.
  - Mental health advocacy:
    - Prescription.
    - Kratom.
- Oregon Historical Society:
  - Street naming bill.
  - Give historical context on areas.
- Legislative Concepts:
  - Coming out for short session.
  - Civil commitment bill coming next week.
  - Representative Rick Lewis's bill:
    - Increased penalty for felony attempt to elude police officers.
    - Assist law enforcement handling veteran's in crisis.
  - Ensure meeting with Representative Ben Bowman and Commissioner Danielle Bethell still taking place.

**6. Board Session Agenda Review**

-Commissioner Kevin Cameron

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Agenda overview.

**Board Direction:**

- Good with update.

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

- N/A

**Commissioner Kevin Cameron**

- N/A

**Commissioner Colm Willis**

- N/A

Other**Storm Recovery Update**

Commissioner Kevin Cameron and Danielle Bethell

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Extensive storm damage:
  - Continued efforts to remove debris by private citizens and county staff.
- Impacts on property:
  - Downed trees causing major damage to homes and outbuildings.
- Public sites like City Hall parking lot and the old Cedars are filled with debris.
- Utility disruptions:
  - Loss of water service due to high turbidity and leaks from uprooted trees.

- Repair/upgrade work planned for critical infrastructure.
- No major delays to county radio system projects reported:
  - Ongoing checks for any storm-related project or infrastructure setbacks.
- Limited reports of storm damage elsewhere across the county:
  - A few homes near Kaiser experienced trees falling on roofs.

#### **Board Direction**

- Continue monitoring the situation.

#### **Dog Shelter and Parvo Outbreak Issues**

Commissioner Danielle Bethell

##### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Met with county dog shelter team about Parvo virus outbreak affecting dogs in city parks and shelter population.
- Polk County declined to co-host or support additional Parvo response actions or shelter event collaboration:
  - Citing satisfaction with their nonprofit partners' current measures.
  - Commissioner Lyle of Polk County sent notification of this.
- Marion County committed to a downtown Salem spay/neuter and vaccination event:
  - For animals owned by homeless or frequenting downtown shelters and parks.
- Willing to commit up to \$25,000 for the event:
  - Aim to include both sterilization and vaccinations in a one-day clinic format.
- Event planning coordinated with local partners and stakeholder organizations:
  - Logistics considering animal care, post-surgical recovery, and accessibility.
- Potential venues include large and centrally located properties.
- Provide transportation options if farther venue chosen.
- Marion County to move forward independently:
  - Use available local resources and volunteer support

##### **Board Direction:**

- Mr. Klausen to send Commissioner Lyle's e-mail to the board.
- Mr. Klausen to find out when Polk County and City of Salem discussed Parvo issue.
- Place signs to let the public know of the issues.

**Adjourned** – time: 10:28 a.m.

**Minutes by:** Mary Vityukova

**Reviewed by:** Gary L. White