

County Commissioners

Colm Willis, Chair
Kevin Cameron
Danielle Bethell

**Chief Administrative Officer**

Jan Fritz

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, signup 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 19th.
 - 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