



## MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MANAGEMENT UPDATE

### Minutes

Tuesday, January 13, 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, Colm Willis and Kevin Cameron.

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

**Legal Counsel:** Jennifer Rogers, Andrew Mittendorf, and Steve Elzinga.

**Sheriff's Office:** Nick Hunter, Mike Hartford, Matt Wilkinson, Jason Bernards, and Jacob Ramsey.

**Public Works:** Lani Radtke, Brian Nicholas, and Chris Trussell.

**Community and Economic Development:** Steve Dickey, Kelli Weese, and Tami Cirerol.

Commissioner Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

#### Informational

### **1. Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Oregon Department of Correction for Family Sentencing Alternative Program**

-Commander Mike Hartford

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

- Allows Marion County to accept \$596,000 in state funding for the 2025-27 biennium.
- Program diverts eligible parents with custody of minor children from prison to intensive probation supervision.
- Aim to reduce prison use, support family stability, and lower recidivism.
- All crimes are eligible following recent legislative changes:
  - Most are high-risk drug and property repeat offenders.
  - Some low-level person crimes.
- Intense probation supervision, cognitive interventions, and other resources provided.
- Recidivism among participants is 23% lower than among comparable populations:
  - Children in the program spend 40% fewer days in foster care.
- The county does basic outcome tracking but lacks in-depth data.

#### **Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward on consent.
- Continue operating the program using state funds.
- Future meetings on deeper data collection on recidivism and child safety outcomes.

### **2. IGA Amendment #1 with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (ORPD) for Law Enforcement Services by Marion County**

-Commander Jason Bernards

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

- The amendment extends the state park patrol contract to June 30, 2027.

- Funding is not to exceed \$75,000 over 18 months.
- Services focus on Silver Falls, Detroit, and Mongold Bay state parks:
  - Mainly during the summer.
- Amendment provides for overtime patrol for law enforcement presence at parks.

**Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward on consent.
- Ongoing cooperation with parks management.
- Consider board session presentations as needed.

**3. Grant Agreement with the State of Oregon Criminal Justice Commission for Jail-Based Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Program**

-Commander Jacob Ramsey

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Grant total is \$340,000.
- Provide injectable medications for opioid use disorder in jails from 2025-2027.
- Program prioritizes continuity in medication assistance:
  - Opting for medications over mentorship.
  - Education due to funding constraints.
- Post-release intervention to prevent relapse and transition clients to supportive services.

**Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward on consent.
- Possible future improvements to the post-release intervention process:
  - Possibly routing releases through resource centers.

**4. IGA Amendment #3 with ORPD for Landscaping and Land Conservation Service by Daily Work Crew**

-Commander Jacob Ramsey

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Provides state parks Marion County work crew access for maintenance and cleaning.
- Amendment adds \$75,000 in funding.
- Raising contract total to \$280,000 through December 31, 2030.
- Clarifies compensation, overtime rates, and contract wording:
  - Especially regarding day/hour definitions.
- Services include landscaping, cleanup, and support for special events.

**Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward on consent.
- Amend the contract and ensure clear wording regarding overtime compensation.
- Ensure requests for overtime reflect county cost considerations.

**5. Association of Oregon County Planning Directors Steering Committee Voting**

-Austin Barnes

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Marion County's planning director has been elected president of the Association.
- Association participates in legislative steering committees:
  - Sometimes must vote on legislative issues.
- Internal policy/procedure to clarify how votes are cast and delegated:
  - Especially if county positions differ from organizational stances.

**Board Direction:**

- Support existing practice of not getting ahead of the board.
- Delegate as needed:
  - Ensure board awareness before votes are cast on controversial matters.
- Make procedure for handling differences in county and association positions.

## **6. Building and Planning Fee Waiver After Wind Storm**

-Brandon Reich

### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Waiving permit fees for those structures damaged or destroyed in recent windstorm:
  - Particularly for those without adequate insurance.
- Application and waiver process established for hardship situations.
- Praised staff outreach and flexibility in responding to affected residents.

### **Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward.
- Continue outreach to affected communities.

## **7. Rees Hill Road – Potential Annexation**

-Lani Radtke

### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Item postponed due to late-breaking information from the city.
- Staff to update the board once all relevant data is collected.

### **Board Direction:**

- Agree to table the item until new information is available.

## **8. Teeters Road – Vacation Request**

-Lani Radtke

### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Reinstate previously permitted gate and/or vacate road at request of adjacent owners.
- Road is not currently traversable:
  - Vacating road would not impact access to public lands.
- Support vacation process if affected landowners agree and public hearings are held.
- Utility and water district easements:
  - Possibility of applying road vacation to the full segment if consensus exists.

### **Board Direction:**

- Staff to explain options to property owners:
  - Pursue unanimous petition signatures if requested.
- County to initiate public hearing if necessary.
- Ensure all required easements and agency agreements are secured.

## **9. 2025 Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors Legislative Advocacy Award for Safety Corridors**

-Lani Radtke

### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Received state recognition for effectiveness of its safety corridor program:
  - Reducing crashes significantly.
- Award to be publicly presented at board session.
- Sensitive community recognition given the loss of life in the impacted area.

**Board Direction:**

- Approved to present the award at the January 28<sup>th</sup> board session.
- Consider additional community presentations, with sensitivity to local concerns.
- Recognize all staff and agencies involved.

**10. Emergent Economic Opportunity Program Salem Baseball/Softball Turf Project**

-Chip Bury

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Funding Salem Baseball Club's field project:
  - Contract to distribute up to \$300,000.
  - In alignment with funding releases by Travel Salem.
- Prefer distributing funds as Travel Salem releases their portions in two phases:
  - Considered one lump-sum payment in March.
- Construction underway at the fields.

**Board Direction:**

- Release contractual funds as received per Travel Salem payment schedule.
- Ensure contractual obligations are met and maintain transparency.

**11. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Deed of Trust Amendment**

-Steve Dickey

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Proposal to amend deed of trust for CDBG and HOME programs:
  - Allow heirs of homeowners to assume outstanding loans.
  - Instead of requiring immediate repayment when a homeowner passes away.
- Intended to help income-qualified heirs retain homes and avoid forced sales:
  - Especially spouses or children.
- Discuss how to ensure they are income-qualified and property is primary residence.
- Legal language and enforcement of occupancy requirements need refinement.
- Interested in deeper look for fairness of those on waitlists and heir's preferences.

**Board Direction:**

- Schedule work session for a more in-depth discussion.
- Detailed proposal with legal input:
  - Possible restriction to spouses or children.
  - Documentation of residence requirements.

**12. CDBG and HOME Citizen Participation Plan**

-Steve Dickey

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Amendment to consolidate and clarify participation requirements.
- New thresholds defined for what triggers a "substantial amendment,":
  - Requiring public hearings and extended public comment.
- Criteria for board versus staff approval of changes:
  - Board Approval required:
    - Addition or deletion of entire projects.
    - Funding changes to a project exceeding 25% of the annual allocation.
    - Significant changes to project location, scope, or beneficiaries.
    - Any new activities not previously described in the action plan.
  - Staff approval allowed:
    - Minor administrative changes:
      - Typographical or scrivener's corrections.

- Non-substantive technical adjustments:
  - Not affecting funding, scope, or beneficiaries.

**Board Direction:**

- Approve to move forward.
- Written criteria defining changes requiring board review or administrative handling.

**13. Council of Governments (COG) Safe Routes to School Bike Fleet Funding Request**

-Kelli Weese

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Request of \$7,000 in gap funding to purchase bikes, helmets, and trailers:
  - For school-based bike safety programs.
- Provides equipment and safety education to elementary schools.
- Significant community partnership support.
- Verify long-term program solvency before making a grant.

**Board Direction:**

- Invite program to apply for funding through identified county programs.
- Confirm continuation and staffing viability of the program before release of funds.

**14. 2026 State of the County Planning**

-Gary White

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Early planning for the State of the County.
- Last year's event agenda and introductory statements provided for review.
- Asked for input on what was liked, disliked, or wanted to change for this year.
- Discuss whether to include awards or special recognitions in this year's event.

**Board Direction:**

- Finalize event agenda and schedule, incorporating board feedback.
- No fundamental changes requested.
- Clear communication regarding time for both commissioners and attendees.
- Bring final plan back to the board for confirmation.

**15. Legislative Update**

-Alvin Klausen

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Congressional community project funding application process:
  - Top three projects for application:
    - Mobile incident command vehicle.
    - Her Place 2.
    - Horizon House 2.
  - Coordination with Senators' and Congresswoman's office:
    - Indicated these projects were most viable for federal support this year.
  - Potential fourth project, body-worn cameras:
    - Need updated cost estimates.
    - Focus on the three priorities based on federal delegation input.
  - Work with federal advisor to finalize and maximize funding likelihood.
- Oregon Department of Forestry's public comment period for state forest management plan:
  - Review and potential comment on Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).
  - Developing detailed summary memo of forest management plan.

- Drafting public comment letter for board review.
- Concern of implications of HCP:
  - Past opposition.
  - Balance protection measures with timber harvest and local priorities.
- Coordination with Polk and Lane counties to develop consistent comment themes:
  - Allowing for county-specific issues to be addressed.
- Perceived tendency of Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) to avoid strong opposition:
  - Affirms Marion County's intention to take assertive stance if needed.
- Need expert consultation to be informed about developments at Board of Forestry level.

**Board Direction:**

- Congressional community project funding application process:
  - Proceed with submitting the projects.
- Oregon Department of Forestry's public comment:
  - Outline highlights, concerns, and recommendations before drafting letter.
  - Collaborate with counties and advisors to maintain local advocacy position.
  - Prepare official public comment for final board review before submission.

**16. Board Session Agenda Review**

-Commissioner Kevin Cameron

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Agenda overview.
- Meeting can't be moved to next week.
- Consent items only on agenda.

**Board Direction:**

- Good with update.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS and UPDATE**

**Commissioner Danielle Bethell**

- Meeting with Representative Paul Evans:
  - Discuss veterans and housing.
- Meeting with Representative Ben Bowman:
  - Discuss behavioral health.

**Commissioner Kevin Cameron**

- N/A

**Commissioner Colm Willis**

- Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council meeting:
  - Victim's Assistance presentation.
  - Wallace Marine Park

**Other**

**HEAT Team**

-Sheriff Nick Hunter

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Update on the Heat Team:
  - Multi-jurisdictional, data-driven initiative targeting violent and drug-related crime hotspots.
- Challenges in focus area selection, city-county collaboration, and resource shifting:

- Between downtown, Wallace Marine Park, and northeast Salem.
- Interagency coordination of Salem PD, Woodburn, Keizer, and Marion County:
  - Shared analysts and clearly defined funding/support.
- Need clarity, transparency, and formal definition of:
  - Objectives, resources, implementation plan, and funding.
- Possibly use opioid settlement funds for crime and drug enforcement efforts.
- Need documentation, measurable outcomes, and clear communication between departments and board.
- Groundwork by crime analysts underway:
  - Need board direction before operationalizing the team.

**Board Direction**

- Draft outline or plan describing project goals, partners, roles, required resources (including overtime/FTE), metrics, and interagency agreements.
- Board to review draft plan for clarity, resource needs, and preferred focus area(s) before giving final approval.
- Emphasis on maintaining accountability, data-driven practice, and regular reporting of outcomes to the board.

**Adjourned** – time: 11:19 a.m.

**Minutes by:** Mary Vityukova

**Reviewed by:** Gary L. White