



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 28th 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