

County Commissioners

Colm Willis, Chair
Kevin Cameron
Danielle Bethell



Chief Administrative Officer

Jan Fritz

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Minutes

Tuesday, January 20, 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: Alvin Klausen, Jon Heynen, Heather Inayama, and Matt Lawyer.

Legal Counsel: Scott Norris, and Jennifer Rogers.

Public Works: Austin Barnes, Lani Radtke, and Brian Nicholas.

Community and Economic Development: Steve Dickey.

Human Resources: Sherry Linter.

Health and Human Services: Cole Fetherston, Rhett Martin, and Karin Perkins.

Commissioner Colm Willis called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Informational

1. Marion County Radio Project – Weyerhaeuser Site Lease, Anderson-Pierce-Wonderly Site

-Brian Nicholas

Summary of Presentation:

- Anderson/Pierce/Wonderly (EPW) is one of seven radio sites under construction:
 - Situated on Weyerhaeuser land where three creeks converge.
- Site lease terms largely mirror those of existing House Mountain contract.
- Progress:
 - Excavation.
 - Form setting.
 - Rebar inspections.
 - First slab pour.
- Three-quarters of asbestos roofing at Lower Prospects already removed:
 - Expediting restoration work.
- Winter weather has been good for roof replacement work at Lower Prospects.
- Whipper – another site:
 - Pending lease agreement still under review by County Counsel.
 - Requiring final approval before board submission.

Board Direction:

- County staff to present Weyerhaeuser site lease to the board for formal approval.
- Construction and legal teams to flag delays, legal obstacles, or contract changes.
- Whipper site agreement to be brought before board once cleared by counsel.
- Keep commissioners informed of milestone completions and potential public impact.

2. Rees Hill Road – Potential Annexation

-Lani Radtke

Summary of Presentation:

- Focus on Lone Oak Road at the Creekside neighborhood:
 - City of Salem wants to annex county road to allow public access.
- Intersection has poor visibility due to vertical crest:
 - Current funding is insufficient for county's preferred safety solution.
- Numerous intersection design alternatives discussed previously:
 - Annexation gives city ability to implement chosen alternative independently.
- Transfer outlined would only affect roadway, not adjacent parcels.
- Annexation requires Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion:
 - Followed by jurisdictional transfer and public vote:
 - Citywide, not just residents adjacent to the road.
- Indemnification:
 - City is open to robust language for risk protection.
 - City attorneys have agreed to address safety risks.
- Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is proposed as an interim step:
 - Jurisdictional transfer can't occur until after annexation is complete.
- Concerns about annexation failing at the ballot:
 - Worry if road is opened to the public, but city fails to take jurisdiction.
- Clarify process for IGA unwinding or ongoing liability management if vote fails.

Board Direction:

- Ms. Radtke and legal team to draft IGA:
 - Strong indemnification and contingency plans related to annexation/UGB.
- Ensure indemnification clauses shield county from safety and liability claims.
- Confirm city's readiness for accelerated schedule:
 - Vote slated for November.
- Clarity on legal "reversibility" if annexation fails and gain consensus on fallback plan.
- Schedule IGA and transfer meeting once draft language and risk analysis complete.

3. Intellectual & Development Disabilities (IDD) Advisory Committee

-Karin Perkins

Summary of Presentation:

- Appointment of Carol Losey to the IDD Advisory Committee.
- Carol Lohse experience:
 - Personal/family experience.
 - Over 40 years' special education experience in Salem-Keizer School District.
- Emphasized advocacy, allyship, and current knowledge of IDD system needs.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.
- Ms. Lohse, to attend board session for an introduction and public recognition.
- Ongoing engagement with IDD so board receives regular feedback on system gaps and community needs.

4. Health and Human Services Fee Schedule Update

-Rhett Martin

Summary of Presentation:

- Process and rationale for updating outpatient mental health, addiction, and public health billing codes/rates.
- Changes align with validated provider time, complexity, and actual costs:
 - Leveraging data in Electronic Health Record (HER) system.
 - Cost-per-unit calculations.
- Most client costs billed to Medicaid/private insurance:
 - Not incurred by consumers directly.

- Fee ceiling compliance is critical:
 - Some rates set by Oregon Medicaid are capped.
 - Division of Medicaid Assistance Program (DMAP) for vaccines.
- Aim to maximize reimbursement, be compliant, and minimize risk in payor audits:
 - Prior under/overestimates corrected.
- Some charges changes based on new provider mix and actual time/cost data:
 - Rates will be capped by specific insurer contract terms.

Board Direction:

- Mr. Martin to submit updated order for inclusion on the February 4th consent calendar.
- Notify partners and monitor payment or compliance issues post-implementation.
- Continue fee schedule annual review for current costs and regulatory changes.

5. Consolidated Plan Needs Assessment Public Hearing

-Steve Dickey

Summary of Presentation:

- Required public hearing for five-year consolidated plan:
 - Focusing on assessment of housing/market/community needs.
- Scheduled for February 4th:
 - Intended to gather community testimony prior to full plan drafting.
- Hearing differs from annual action plan hearings:
 - Latter occur every year.
 - Comprehensive assessment is every five years.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.
- Collect, document, and summarize public testimony to guide plan development.
- Board to review findings ahead of session to inform later policy/priority discussions.

6. Special Procurement Request for NEOGOV

-Lori Klemsen

Summary of Presentation:

- Notice that procurement request for NEOGOV was submitted a week earlier.
- Will be added to next week's agenda for consideration.
- No substantive discussion took place as decision was deferred.

Board Direction:

- Ensure relevant documentation is prepared.

7. Consideration of Possible Withdrawal of Ordinance 1485 Approving Case No.

CU/CP24-038

-Steve Elzinga

Summary of Presentation:

- Recommendation to withdraw ordinance 1485 for TLM Holdings application, Aurora Airport:
 - Which is under Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) appeal.
- Withdrawing before record closes allows for minor corrections to findings:
 - Anticipated to streamline appeal and prevent a remand:
 - Which would delay final resolution.
- Under LUBA/state law, ordinance can be withdrawn for edits prior to record close:
 - Then resubmitted with clarified findings.
- No additional public hearing required.
- Decision on remand will rest on existing record.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.
- Amend findings and resubmit to board for final review and adoption:
 - Ensure compliance with legal requirements.

8. Consider Adoption of Policy 215, 215-A

-Jon Heynen

Summary of Presentation:

- Formalizes current informal content review/approval process for social media and all other communications:
 - Including presentations, multimedia, and print.
- Policy will not extend to other elected officials' channels, nor litigation documents:
 - Covers county communications submitted for broad public distribution.
- Concern of enforceability:
 - Need discipline and accountability for department heads if standards violated.
- Discipline for violations hasn't been well defined or consistently enforced in the past.
- Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) directed—per prior board retreat—to recommend a framework for annual reviews and discipline for noncompliance:
 - Board agrees that content compliance should be part of annual evaluations.
- Clarification about handling public records requests/media communications within policy scope.

Board Direction:

- Mr. Heynen to revise draft policy:
 - Excludes:
 - Litigation
 - Adds guidance:
 - For media/public records requests.
 - Details enforcement/discipline approaches.
- Consult CAO on enforcing compliance via head evaluations and discipline measures.
- Update board after CAO and legal review, with intent for adoption after clarification.
- Staff to coordinate details on review schedules and response for emergencies.

9. Legislative Update

-Alvin Klausen

Summary of Presentation:

- Public Comment on Oregon Department of Forestry's Forest Management Plan:
 - Draft public comment letter on impacts of state's forest management plan on local communities:
 - Attention to the Santiam Canyon and statutory roles of counties.
 - Collaboration with Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) refined points.
 - 10-year harvest target of 2.05–2.43 billion board feet.
 - Submit letter before January 31st deadline.
 - Final formatting/checks and distribution for signature were assigned.
- Upcoming Legislative and Community Events:
 - Senator Jeff Merkley rescheduled town hall:
 - Invited board members' attendance.
- Civil commitment transport bill:
 - Allows law enforcement to transport individuals on a civil warrant.
 - Bipartisan sponsorship and ongoing outreach to interest groups:
 - National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) & Multnomah County.
- Federal Advocacy and Washington, DC Trip:
 - Meetings set with agencies relevant to county priorities:

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife.
- U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Veterans Affairs (VA).
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT):
 - If funding/opportunity available.

Board Direction:

- Public Comment on Oregon Department of Forestry's Forest Management Plan:
 - Copies of public comments from Polk and Lane Counties:
 - Ensure alignment and coordination on regional needs.
- Upcoming Legislative and Community Events:
 - Coordinate schedules as not everyone can attend.
- Legislative/Bill Updates:
 - Work with lobbyists, state representatives, and schedule meetings with stakeholders.
 - Weigh benefit of in-person versus virtual meetings with agencies:
 - Depending on staff level and issue urgency.

10. 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

- Email from Polk County Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst:
 - Nothing can be done regarding parvo in park

Commissioner Kevin Cameron

- Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (MVCOG) meeting.
- Materials Management Advisory Council (MMAC).
- Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) interview:
 - Regarding Detroit drawdown.
 - Have not seen it yet.
- Doris New Place Grand Opening.

Commissioner Colm Willis

- N/A

Other

Quarterly Radio Interviews

-Jon Heynen

Summary of Presentation:

- Discuss resuming quarterly radio meetings with local stations:
 - KBZY (1490 AM), KYKN, and KMUZ.
- Previous attempts at scheduling have had mixed success:
 - Calls to the show did not go as planned or hosts forgot about scheduled slots.
- Clarified which station is which, and locations of past appearances, including in-studio and phone-in interviews.

- Value of media segments for community outreach, sharing updates, and providing “the other side of the story.”
- Possibility of expanding participation to multiple local stations:
 - Suggest coordinating year-long schedule.
 - Rotate board participants to cover various topics.
- Support reengaging regular radio outreach to strengthen public communication efforts.

Board Direction

- Mr. Heynen tasked with gathering more information about shows:
 - Host names, time slots, and formats.
 - Reach out to KMUZ to revisit previous engagement.

Detroit Drawdown Public Concerns

-Commissioners

Summary of Presentation

- Public concerns regarding potential impacts of dredging project on Detroit Lake Marina and boating season.
- Project scheduling is intended to avoid interfering with boating season:
 - Dredging will occur only after marinas have closed.
- Rumors and confusion stemming from social media and local forums.
- Source of public concern:
 - Belief that county could impact boat access.
 - Reconfirmed no anticipated negative effects.
- Coordination with city officials and marina operators is key for project updates.
- Consistent messaging and staying responsive to inquiries about county involvement in city issues.

Salem Health and Santiam Hospital

-Commissioner Danielle Bethell

Summary of Presentation:

- New facility, collaboration between Salem Health and Santiam Hospital.
- Benefits:
 - Increased after-hours care availability.
 - Improved continuity for patients.

Adjourned – time: 10:30 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White