



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Commissioners' Boardroom  
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Suite 5231  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Attendance:

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

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

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

**Sheriff's Office:** Kate Abraham, Jason Bernards, and Nick Hunter.

**Public Works:** Lani Radtke, Carl Lund, Brian May, Andrew Johnson, and Brian Nicholas.

**Community Services and Economic Development:** Chip Bury.

**Justice Court:** Justin Kidd.

**IT:** Gary Christofferson

**Health and Human Services:** Rhett Martin, Carol Heard, and Phil Blea.

Commissioner Colm Willis called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Informational

**1. Justice Court and Proposed Amended Suggestions for County Order 13-101**

-Justice Justin Kidd

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Justice court jurisdiction covers entire county and is funded countywide.
- Residents within defined subset of census blocks elect Justice of the Peace:
  - They serve on justice court juries.
- Others pay for and are subject to court but can't elect or serve on juries:
  - Turner, Salem, Keizer, Jefferson, and large unincorporated areas.
- Prior law prohibited including the county seat in a justice court district.
- Last year's law changes removed restriction and allows county to redesign district.
- Proposal:
  - Make district coterminous with whole county.
  - All residents can vote and serve.
- Process clarification:
  - Change would be implemented through new board order replacing 2013 order.
  - Lists specific census blocks, instead defining district as the county.

**Board Direction:**

- More research and historical context be gathered before making a decision.
- Declined to schedule a work session immediately.
- Individual follow up and potential one on one discussion.

## **2. Consider Proclamations**

- **Corrections Appreciation Week, May 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2026**
- **Police Appreciation Week, May 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

-Commander Jacob Ramsey, and Commander Jason Bernard

### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Police Appreciation Week:
  - Request to approve proclamation recognizing National Police Week.
  - May 10<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
  - Plan to present proclamation at a future board session.
  - Recognize work and sacrifices of sheriff's office staff and their families.
- Corrections Appreciation Week:
  - Proposal for a proclamation recognizing Corrections Appreciation Week.
  - May 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
  - Sheriff's Office plans to host appreciation barbecues for day and night shifts.
  - Corrections and enforcement events will be separate.
  - Enforcement will plan its own recognition activities.

### **Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward.
- Provide time of barbecues to commissioners can join.

## **3. Sole Source Procurement of Ongoing Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Maintenance Services**

-Gary Christofferson

### **Summary of Presentation:**

- County used State of Oregon price agreement to procure ESRI GIS licensing.
- Finance determined mechanism can no longer be used.
- Request for Information (RFI) published to identify alternative providers:
  - No vendors responded.
- Board previously indicated support for pursuing a sole source with ESRI.
- Materials provided:
  - ESRI quote for one year of licensing.
  - Three-year projected cost summary:
    - About \$358,708 total estimate.
  - Draft Purchase Order (PO) format.
  - ESRI Master Services Agreement (MSA) for legal review.
- Contracting structure:
  - ESRI does not enter traditional contracts with jurisdictions:
    - Unless under an enterprise agreement.
  - County intends to use contract PO backed by ESRI MSA.
  - Not-to-exceed amount over three-year term to avoid annual board actions.
  - Pricing for out years will be estimated and capped:
    - 5% annual increase.
  - If actual costs exceed cap, staff must return to board.
- Sole source determinations are approved by contract review board at board session.

### **Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward.
- Directed that:
  - Finance review process be followed.
  - Sole source notice be published:
  - Following non-response:
    - Return with contract PO.
    - Specify maximum expenditure over three-year period.
  - Legal review ESRI MSA.

#### **4. Landfill Closure Design North Marion Ash Monofil**

-Andrew Johnson

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

- Design contract for closure of fourth and final cell at North Marion ash Monofil.
  - Work includes:
    - Final grading design:
      - Cell not yet at full capacity.
    - Closure methodology.
    - Ground and stormwater management/mitigation design.
    - Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulatory and design approval.
    - Preparation of bid documents for future construction of closure.
- Contract details:
  - Geologic and Associates selected from Request for Procurement (RFP).
  - Not to exceed contract amount of \$269,428.
  - Term through December 31, 2028.
- Closure expected to significantly reduce leachate generation:
  - Reduce long-term costs and environmental liabilities to solid waste fund.
  - Design phase anticipated to move aggressively:
    - Hope to go to bid for construction as early as next year.
    - Subject to regulatory approvals.

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

- Approved to move forward for board session on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **5. Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) Grant Proposals**

-Carl Lund

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

- FLAP funds improvements on roads providing access to federal lands.
- Proposed project concepts:
  - Continuation of North Fork Road slide repair:
    - Ongoing multi-year effort to address multiple slide sites.
    - Current funded project will not cover all known slide areas:
      - After detailed analysis, expanded scope and costs.
    - New proposals likely be broken into additional segments:
      - One around \$9M, another estimated \$5-7M.
  - North Fork Road guardrail expansion:
    - Post wildfire tree loss has exposed more steep drop offs and ridges.
    - Plan to add or extend guardrail to prevent vehicles leaving roadway.
  - Wintel Road reconstruction and Sidney Ditch bridge replacement:
    - Ankeny Wildlife Refuge area.
    - Road and bridge improvements to support access within refuge area.
- Applications require concurrence and prioritization from federal land agencies:
  - United States Forest Services (USFS).
  - Bureau of Land Management (BLM).
- Agencies must sign paperwork demonstrating joint planning and agreed priorities.
- FLAP is locally administered and iterative:
  - Projects have been on regional lists for several years.
  - Western Federal Lands is familiar with these needs.
  - If partner agency disagrees with project:
    - That application may be withdrawn or modified.
  - Timing and phasing are flexible.
  - Grants can be used over several years, as with current slide repair effort.

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

- Approved to move forward.
- Directed staff to:
  - Coordination with federal partners to finalize priorities and secure signatures.
  - Return to an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) if/when a grant is awarded.

## **6. Transportation Growth Management (TGM) Grant**

-Carl Lund

### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Opportunity to fund transportation planning effort for Brooks/Brooklake area.
- Brooklake Road corridor:
  - From Wheatland Road to about 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue, including community of Brooks.
- Corridor and sub area transportation plan focusing on:
  - Safety, capacity, and multimodal needs:
    - Including pedestrians and bicycles.
  - Intersection analysis:
    - Notably Brooklake Road and River Road N.
  - Future eligibility positioning for other funding sources.
- Program structure:
  - TGM administered by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT):
    - Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) involved.
  - Includes both transportation and housing-oriented categories.
  - Preference expressed to apply under transportation category:
    - Often labeled Category 1.
  - Funding pool is approximately \$2.0–2.5 million per year statewide.
  - Target request is approximately \$200,000–\$300,000.
- Concern of DLCD’s influence on local land use and transportation outcomes:
  - Including lane diets and parking mandates.
- Federal funding participation and ensure compliance with federal restrictions.
- Staff have experience balancing board priorities with DLCD requirements.

### **Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward.
- Confirm federal vs state funding breakdown.
- Proceed with application development.
- Bring forward policy conflicts or unacceptable grant conditions before committing.

## **7. Speed Limit Transition Zones Entrances to Mt. Angel and Gervais**

-Carl Lund

### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Many cities requested speed transition zones on roads entering their communities.
- Transitions limited and often jump from high rural speeds to low urban speeds:
  - From 55 miles per hour (mph) to 25 to 35 mph.
  - Contributes to enforcement difficulty and crashes.
- Current proposal:
  - Implement transition speed zones at:
    - Entrances to Mt. Angel.
    - Entrances to Gervais.
  - Examples:
    - 55 mph rural segments transitioning down (e.g., 55 → 40 → 25).
  - Application packages to ODOT prepared, including mapping of:
    - Existing 55 mph segments.
    - Existing 25 mph zones within city limits.
    - Proposed transition segments and revised posted speeds.

- Staff develop countywide concept for transition speed zones into all cities.
- Mt. Angel and Gervais identified as early priorities:
  - Strong local concern and safety issues.
- Transition signs inside city limits require city concurrence:
  - Cities are road authority inside their boundaries.
- Transition zone removal caused abrupt changes and higher enforcement sensitivity:
  - Sublimity, River Road to Salem, etc.
- Interest in better transitions to improve fairness and safety.

**Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward with application for Mt. Angel and Gervais.
- Pursue similar transition plans for other cities without board-by-board preapproval:
  - Coordinate with city councils where city limits are involved.
  - Bring significant speed limit change strategies to board for awareness

**8. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Opportunity**

-Carl Lund

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Major federal safety grant program:
  - Maximum recommended project award of \$10 million to have optimal scoring.
- Proposed project:
  - Corridor safety improvements on McKay/Yergen/Ehlen corridor.
  - Connect existing widened medians in two currently improved segments.
  - Add left turn pockets at French Prairie Road and Case Road.
  - Continue safety median and access management improvements to east:
    - As far as federal funding allows.
- Matching requirement:
  - Typically requires match of at least 20% of total eligible project costs.
  - Anticipated match would be primarily from county transportation funds:
    - Gas tax and not private developers.
- County applied for same type of project in prior SS4A round and was not awarded:
  - Staff held a debrief with program officials.
  - Facilitated in part by recent visits to Washington, DC.
  - Received feedback to improve competitiveness in this round.

**Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward.
- Pursue support letters from partners.

**9. Amendment #5 with Garten Services for Janitorial Services**

-Rhett Martin

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Provides services at leased county buildings under existing contract:
  - Running through September 30, 2026.
- Beverly building delays project to exceed contract funding by about three months.
- Proposed amendment:
  - Increase contract amount by about \$110,000 to cover shortfall and carry services through current contract end date.
  - No change to term.
  - Funding adjustment only.
- Facilities/janitorial model:
  - County custodial staff generally serve county owned facilities.
  - Contracted janitorial services are used for leased buildings.
- Future procurement:

- Garten participates in Oregon Forward program:
  - Will be pathway for new procurement.
- New contract is expected to exclude Beverly's once departments relocate to new facility.
- Move into new building targeted for July–August:
  - Beverly lease ends in October and will not be renewed.

**Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward.
- Begin planning for new Oregon Forward janitorial contract for leased facilities:
  - Excluding the Beverly's.
- Bring amendment forward for formal approval at board session.

**10. Consider Proclamation for National Nurses Week May 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

-Carol Heard

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Joint effort across:
  - Health and Human Services.
  - Sheriff's Office.
  - Juvenile Department.
- Publicly acknowledge and express gratitude for critical contributions of nurses in multiple county settings.
- Highlight dedication, compassion, and professionalism of nursing staff.
- Nursing programs:
  - Public health, behavioral health, and addiction treatment services (ATS).
  - ATS nursing team:
    - Two nurses, covering Monday–Saturday dosing at Silverton Road site.
    - Saturday dosing now available at ATS site, expanding access.
- Includes reference to Florence Nightingale and her work during the Crimean War.

**Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward.

**11. Public Works (PW) Building 4, 5, and 12 Exterior Painting Project**

-Tamra Goettsch

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Exterior maintenance project for three public works buildings:
  - Sandblasting to remove old paint.
  - Applying paint primer.
  - Applying new exterior paint.
- Contracting:
  - Garland will manage projects and oversee construction.
  - PW will provide funding and coordinate with Capital Projects for oversight.
  - Garland has positive work history with county on prior building projects:
    - Roofs and related work.
- Color scheme is likely to match existing campus palette to maintain consistency:
  - Tan with green accents

**Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward on consent.

**12. Willamette Heritage Center Funding Request**

-Chip Bury

### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Proposal to fund access for about 5,700 students for field trips next year:
  - Title I, grades 3–5.
- Cost estimate is \$9.50 per student:
  - Annual pass style access.
- Funding would cover admission:
  - School districts would remain responsible for transportation.
- Questions/concerns:
  - Unclear if request replaces funding historically provided by school district:
    - Or represents a new expansion effort.
  - Want to avoid backfilling a district's budget reductions using county funds.
  - Desire county programs being open to all districts in Marion County:
    - Not just Salem Keizer.
  - Clarify if \$9.50 rate is discounted, and what actual cost per student is.
  - Interest in program design details:
    - How access would be equally allocated if demand exceeds funds.
    - How outreach would occur to all eligible school districts and schools.

### **Board Direction:**

- Decline to approve specific request at this time.
- Directed staff to:
  - Research historical funding:
    - If school districts have annually purchased passes and at what levels.
    - Whether request represents lost revenue versus an expansion concept.
  - Work with Willamette Heritage Center to:
    - Broaden concept to serve students from all Marion County districts.
    - Clarify pricing, discounts, and per student service design.
    - Develop an equitable participation and outreach plan countywide.
  - Return to board with a more fully developed proposal and options.

## **13. Travel Salem Agreement**

-Chip Bury

### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Long standing tourism promotion contract with Travel Salem expired June 30, 2025.
- Board directed staff to develop more open tourism grant program:
  - Allocate lodging tax funds via Request for Proposal (RFP).
  - Instead of automatically renewing Travel Salem's contract.
- New tourism grant RFP:
  - RFP is currently on the street:
    - Expected to close at the end of April.
  - Draft RFP currently contemplates awards beginning January 1, 2027.
- Propose to extend Travel Salem contract from July 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026:
  - Maintain tourism promotion services until new grant awards begin.
- North Marion tourism collaboration and potential funding gap:
  - Contract details pending.
- Board concerns:
  - Lengthy delay between contract expiration and new RFP based awards.
  - Retroactively funding Travel Salem for work performed after contract ended:
    - Without board approval.
  - Preferential treatment perception:
    - Travel Salem gets extension when others wait for outcomes.
- Direction given was to not simply renew or extend prior Travel Salem contract.
- Travel Salem (and others) should compete through the new grant process.
- Legal/process questions:
  - RFP currently sets expectations of funding commencing January 2027.

- Changes may require amending and possibly reopening application period.
- Clarify if changes to award timing legally permissible and fair to all applicants.

**Board Direction:**

- Decline to approve.
- Willingness to:
  - Fund Travel Salem and North Marion, July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, if:
    - RFP can be amended to allow awards by July 1, 2026.
    - Awards from RFP would determine funding beyond that date.
- Directed staff to:
  - Detailed timeline and justify why awards could not be made by July 1, 2026.
  - Consult legal on amending RFP while being fair and not requiring a restart.
  - Clarify dates and funding amounts for North Marion tourism collaboration.
  - Return with specific options and implications for decision.

**14. Six Remnant Opioid Settlement**

-Jennifer Rogers

**Summary of Presentation:**

- New opioid litigation settlement available for counties to join.
- Estimated county share is approximately \$59,870.
- Funds must be spent or encumbered within five years of receipt:
  - Consistent with opioid abatement and related allowable uses.
- Opting in through statewide or national settlement program:
  - Less burden and cost effective than pursuing independent county lawsuit.
- County has successfully opted into prior opioid settlements with positive outcomes.

**Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward.

**15. Discovery Card Merchant Settlement**

-Steve Elzinga

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Class action settlement related to Discover Card merchant processing fees.
- Many departments accept Discover payments:
  - May be eligible for portion of settlement funds.
- Likely payout is uncertain:
  - Modest or, in aggregate, potentially meaningful given transaction volumes.
- County has no plan to pursue its own separate litigation against Discover.
- Opting in to class action is an efficient way to recover any available funds.

**Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward.

**16. Marion County Fair**

-Gary White

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Proposed 2026 fair schedule mirrors 2025:
  - Later start first day.
  - Most commissioner-related activities clustered for maximum productive participation time on site.
  - Fair Board supports repeating last year’s schedule approach.
  - Review of proposed schedule for:
    - Legislative dinner.

- Pie judging event.
- Potential board or Department Head and Elected Official (DHEO) meeting at fair:
  - Conference/meeting rooms available.
  - Consideration of morning timing before fair opens to public.
- State of the County planning:
  - The conference center reported filling dates quickly for 2027.
  - Available Wednesdays/Thursdays identified.
  - Board discussed alignment with State of the City.
- Commissioner involvement:
  - Continued interest in fair traditions (e.g., legislative dinner, pie judging panel).
  - Awareness that certain fair food booths (e.g., dairy women ice cream) rely on volunteer staffing; commissioners referenced volunteer opportunities.

**Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward with schedule for fair.
- Support:
  - The legislative dinner.
  - The pie judging event, with at least two commissioners participating.
- Finalize fair schedule with Fair Board and commissioners’ calendars.
- Hold March 10, 2027, as tentative date for State of the County.
- Explore hosting board/DHEO meeting at fair.

**17. Legislative Update**

-Alvin Klausen

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Letter of Support – Youth, Disasters, and Mental Health Grant:
  - Grant application by Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation.
  - Study weather and natural disaster impacts on youth mental health:
    - In partnership with local resiliency staff.
  - Questions of out-of-state entity’s role and benefit to Marion County youth.
- Marina Leases and Corps Permitting:
  - Lease with Forest Service extended one year:
    - Through December 31, 2026.
  - Needed so Army Corps of Engineers can issue excavation permits.
  - Plan to use extension as part of permit documentation.
  - Uncertainty remains on whether Corps will accept temporary lease term.
  - Staff already coordinating with Corps on permitting process.
- Opal Creek Promise Funding Mechanism:
  - Concern regarding funding structure for Opal Creek Promise related projects:
    - Reimbursement or 30-day advance.
  - Contacts at Forest Service indicated funding mechanism is firm.
  - Board believes federal process can be revised with higher level engagement.
- Health Data Publication:
  - Health requested guidance on publishing recent State of County health data.
  - To ensure data is current, accurate and board good with posting publicly.

**Board Direction:**

- Letter of Support – Youth, Disasters, and Mental Health Grant:
  - Interest in local resiliency staff present directly on their work before committing to a support letter.
- Marina Leases and Corps Permitting:
  - Accepted use of one-year lease extension for permit applications.
  - Raise lease term issue explicitly with Army Corps in the upcoming call.
  - Return if Corps require longer term lease or further Forest Service action.

- Opal Creek Promise Funding Mechanism
  - Elevate issues to higher-level Forest Service leadership as needed.

## **18. Board Session**

- **April 8, 2026 – Agenda**
- **April 15, 2026 – Preview Agenda**
- **April 22, 2026**

-Commissioner Colm Willis

### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Overview of Agenda.

### **Board Direction:**

- Good to move forward.

## COMMISSIONERS' COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS and UPDATE

### **Commissioner Danielle Bethell**

- N/A

### **Commissioner Kevin Cameron**

- N/A

### **Commissioner Colm Willis**

- Meeting with Jason Icenbice and Jan Fritz:
  - Discuss owner occupied housing in Woodburn.

## Other

### **AI Consultant and Policy Development**

-Matt Lawyer

### **Summary of Presentation:**

- AI Consultant and Policy Development:
  - Plan to bring in Artificial Intelligence (AI) consultant in mid-May to:
    - Assess county operations.
    - Present to commissioners, elected officials and department head.
    - Developing AI use and procurement policy:
      - Drafted by administrative and IT leadership.
  - Proposed schedule:
    - Consultant arrival May 13<sup>th</sup>.
    - Department meetings May 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>.
    - Presentation and discussion with department heads present:
      - May 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. target.
  - Staff developing policy "skeleton" for AI tools and services:
    - Refined after consultant input.

### **Board Direction:**

- Approve proceeding with AI consultant visit.
- Schedule special DHEO on or around May 14.
- Directed continued development of an AI use/procurement policy framework.

### **Health Data Publication**

-Jon Heynen

### **Summary of Presentation**

- Health requested guidance on publishing recent State of County health data:

- Given in a speech.
- To ensure data is current, accurate and board good with posting publicly.

**Board Direction:**

- Approved publishing State of the County health data.

**Adjourned** – time: 11:25 a.m.

**Minutes by:** Mary Vityukova

**Reviewed by:** Gary L. White