

County Commissioners
Colm Willis, Chair
Kevin Cameron
Danielle Bethell



Chief Administrative Officer
Jan Fritz

**MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Minutes

Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 9:30 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, Jonathan Sanford, Chris Eppley, Trevor Lane, Toni Whitler, and Matt Lawyer.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.

Juvenile: Troy Gregg

Sheriff's Office: Matt Wilkinson, and Nick Hunter.

Assessor's Office: Rachel Estill, Tom Rohlring.

Business Services: Kevin Dial.

Commissioner Colm Willis called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Informational

1. Proposed Resolution to Approve Fiscal Year (FY) 26-27 County Assessment Function Funding Assistance Grant

-Assessor Tom Rohlring

Summary of Presentation:

- Annual grant reimburses portion of assessment related expenditures:
 - Information Technology (IT).
 - Property Valuation Appeals Board (PVAB).
 - Treasurer functions.
- Grant has declined over time:
 - Roughly 35% of expenditures to an estimated 10.52% for current year.
- Remaining costs are effectively backfilled by General Fund.
- Imagery costs within certified expenditures.
- Share high resolution imagery with local cities by viewer and past state access was through, now expired, state Master Service Agreement (MSA) with vendor.
- Concern:
 - High resolution imagery use by state for enforcement on private property and privacy right implications.
- Department does not operate drone program.
- Only one other county currently uses drones for assessment under a grant.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

2. Contract with Greystone Tactical for Tactical Equipment

-Commander Matt Wilkinson

Summary of Presentation:

- Purchase Order (PO) with Greystone Tactical for up to \$135,000.
- Purpose is to replace ballistic vests and carriers for new and existing sworn deputies.
- Funding horizon:
 - Carries through 2025–26 and into 2026–27 budget period.
- Ballistic vests:
 - Approximate cost per vest is \$1,231.68.
 - Expected annual price increase is around 5%.
 - Service life is 5 years:
 - Vests must be replaced after or immediately if compromised:
 - Impacted/penetrated.
- Anticipated quantity covered under requested amount is about 71 vests:
 - Combination of new hires and expiring vests.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

3. Contract PO with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for Youth Needing Behavioral Rehabilitation Services in Guaranteed Attendance Program (GAP)

-Troy Gregg

Summary of Presentation:

- Change in county's Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS)/GAP program payments to OHA structure.
- OHA no longer requires an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for this:
 - Arrangement is governed under Chapter 410 rules.
- PO represents mechanism for county's required payment to OHA:
 - So that OHA can release federal/other funds back to county.
- Payments support staffing and operations for youth needing BRS in GAP:
 - Not direct physician payments.
- No reimbursement from state since January as county must make required payment under current structure.
- Item characterized as a change in form rather than change in program substance.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

4. Legislative Update

-Alvin Klausen

Summary of Presentation:

- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Comment Letter:
 - Drafted in coordination with Public Works and other partners.
 - Contains technical, legal, and policy arguments.
 - Legal review is pending/ongoing.
 - Coordination with statewide county associations and partners desired:
 - Smaller counties can leverage the analysis.
- Letter of Support for US Department of Transportation Small Community Air Service Development Program grant:
 - Seeks county support letter for airport's grant application.
 - Primary use is to establish minimum revenue guarantee for air service:
 - Likely targeted to a carrier such as Alaska Airlines.
 - Potential connections to Seattle or San Francisco:
 - Improve regional connectivity.

- City of Salem Request:
 - Katrina Griffith of Health and Human Services (HHS) to be Marion County Representative for National Fentanyl Awareness Day Proclamation.
 - April 27th at their city of Salem Townhall.
- Oregon Opt-In Tax Credit for nonprofit Scholarship Granting Organization (SGOs):
 - Program provides a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit for donors.
 - SGOs in Oregon under this program require Governor to opt-in.
 - If opted-out:
 - Taxpayers can use federal credit by donating to out-of-state SGOs.
 - Could divert scholarship dollars away from Oregon students.
 - Confirm if program has any negative impact on Oregon state revenue and to address that explicitly.
- Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) grant:
 - Extreme weather impacts on youth.
 - Grant funds would flow to third-party entity, not the county.
 - County would not control which youth are engaged or how:
 - There is no guarantee of direct programming in the county.
 - County has access to similar research work from prior local partnerships.
- Veteran Affairs (VA) Public Hearing:
 - Upcoming VA public hearing on expansion scheduled for April 30th:
 - Midday and 5:00 p.m. options.

Board Direction:

- Ms4 Permit Comment Letter:
 - Complete legal review and finalize the MS4 comment letter.
 - Submit the letter by the deadline.
 - Share letter with associations and partners so others can join position.
- Salem Municipal Airport Letter of Support:
 - Prepare letter of support.
 - Funds for minimum revenue guarantee to support expanded air service.
 - Potential regional and economic benefits of new or expanded routes.
- City of Salem Request:
 - Commissioner Danielle Bethell will attend instead.
- Oregon Opt-In Tax Credit for non-profit SGOs:
 - Draft letter urging Governor to opt-in to federal SGO tax credit program.
 - County supports public health, healthy communities, and educational opportunity.
 - Verify if opt-in is revenue neutral or positive for Oregon.
- PIRE grant:
 - Decline letter of support.
- Veteran Affairs (VA) Public Hearing:
 - Commissioner Bethell waiting on confirmation from Governor’s office before committing.
 - Hearing to be added to the interested commissioner’s calendar as tentative.
 - Draft letter related to VA issue is with legal counsel.

5. Board Session

- **April 22, 2026 – Preview Agenda**
- **April 29, 2026 – No Board Session**
- **May 6, 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

- N/A

Other

Gates Property – Timber Removal and Tree Health

Matt Lawyer

Summary of Presentation:

- County property in Gates, about six acres, where trees are in poor condition.
- Initial estimate of 35–45 trees needing removal has increased:
 - More than triple that number after further on-site assessment.
- Many trees are dead or dying with very poor canopies:
 - Conditions create significant public safety risk.
- Recent wind event caused two trees to fall toward nearby residence:
 - Ultimately fell away from home, but incident reinforced hazard.
- Recommend salvaging as many trees as able.
- Property may need to be effectively clear cut for safety and forest health.
- Plan is to engage a timber company that will:
 - Remove trees and downed material.
 - Take the logs for sale.
- Contract total is expected to be under \$25,000:
 - Primary issue is extent of tree removal and not overall contract cost.
- Problems with individuals entering to cut or remove downed wood for firewood:
 - Removal of material is intended to reduce activity and improve safety.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.
- Will county receive any share of timber sale proceeds:
 - Goal of using revenue to replant trees and restore shade on the property.

Customer Concern Regarding Water

Commissioner Danielle Bethell

Summary of Presentation:

- Email from resident served by privately owned North County Water system.
- Resident dissatisfied with current water rates and service practices:
 - Has repeatedly contacted the board.
- Multiple county staff and external contacts already engaged the issue, including:
 - County legal staff,
 - Board of Commissioners' office,
 - Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) contacts.
 - OHA / Drinking Water Program contacts.
- Water system is private entity, not county-owned or county-regulated utility.
- Board has no authority to set or regulate rates or address shut-off practices.
- Prior guidance provided to the resident has included:
 - Referral to PUC as potential venue to request regulation of rates:

- With caveat PUC involvement may result in rates similar to other systems of comparable size.
- Detailed legal strategy or challenge regarding rates or shut-offs requires resident to retain private legal counsel.
- County's role is limited and does not include enforcement over private water system.
- Resident has continued to underpay his bill and remains frustrated with guidance.

Board Direction:

- Jon Heynen to compile a comprehensive summary of all prior guidance.
- Send it to the resident to from the board.

Adjourned – time: 10:21 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White