



**MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Minutes

Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 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: Matt Lawyer, Alvin Klausen, Jon Heynen, Jonathan Sanford, Toni Whitler, Trevor Lane, and Kendall Hall

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga, and Jennifer Rogers.

Public Works: Brandon Reich.

Health and Human Services: Rhett Martin, Phil Blea, and Sam Andress.

Community and Economic Development: Sarah Coutley.

IT: Steve Brooks

Online: Kathy Rodgers

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

Informational

1. State Rulemaking for Urban Unincorporated Communities

-Brandon Reich & Austin Barnes

Summary of Presentation:

- Overview of proposed updates to state rules for urban unincorporated communities:
 - Brooks, and Hubbard area.
- Potential opportunities identified:
 - Ability to expand community boundaries:
 - Currently difficult/prohibited by rule, including 20-mile limitation.
 - Ability to amend zoning and allowed uses within community.
 - Clarify whether city services can be extended into community.
- County has substantial existing work for Brooks:
 - Futures report documenting community needs and potential development:
 - Technical memorandums on public facilities and services.
 - 2021 Draft
 - GIS data on boundaries and zoning.
- Concern:
 - Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) making major changes by rule rather than statute.
 - Risk of mandatory requirements or new restrictions being added.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.
- Approve sharing GIS data, technical memorandums, and draft futures report with DLCD.

- Desire voluntary, option creating rules and elimination/relief of 20-mile rule.
- Avoiding new mandatory or restrictive provisions.
- No targeted public outreach to Brooks at this stage:
 - Revisit outreach after rules are finalized.
- Keep board informed of committee progress and list of participating counties.

2. Contract Amendment #1 Future Ready Oregon Bilingual Behavioral Health Initiative

-Phil Blea

Summary of Presentation:

- Awarded to Marion and Polk counties, to support bilingual behavioral health students:
 - Polk County withdrew, and all funds shifted to Marion County.
- Program under enrolled for strictly bilingual positions:
 - Expanded to any student in mental health field in relevant programs.
- Implementation details:
 - Approximately 40 students interviewed, 32 offered positions, 29 hired.
 - Original plan of 12 students per semester for 4 semesters:
 - Target of 48.
 - Hours expanded from 16 hours/week up to full-time for some:
 - Due to underutilized funds.
- Administrative staffing changed during grant:
 - Coordination responsibilities were reassigned internally.
- Program ends June 30 and no continuation funds identified.
- Not all funds can be utilized:
 - Plan to reduce grant award and return unneeded funds.
 - School can reallocate remaining money for future scholarships.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.
- Final outcome report required:
 - Board would like to see this report.

3. Rural Health Transformation Program

-Rhett Martin & Samantha Andress

Summary of Presentation:

- Opportunity to receive approximately \$522,000 to expand rural health services.
- Funding parameters:
 - Cannot be used to replace or offset existing funded/reimbursable services.
 - Cannot be used for construction projects.
- Two core concept areas discussed:
 - Behavioral health prevention and early intervention:
 - Community based mental health and substance use prevention.
 - Youth focused early support and suicide prevention activities.
 - Health navigation for rural residents:
 - Access, coordination, and navigation for underserved populations.
 - Potential use of community health workers / traditional health workers.
- Implementation approach:
 - Apply for funds, issue procurement for partners to deliver services.
 - Some initial outreach to community organizations:
 - Strong interest indicated by multiple potential partners.
- Discussion of:
 - Ensuring detailed, outcome focused proposals.
 - Desire to fund multiple organizations, not a single recipient.
 - Concern about weak outcomes in past rural efforts:

- Need for clear accountability and metrics.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.
- If awarded develop Request for Proposal (RFP) for community partners.
- Draft RFP to board for review.
- Legal to determine if boards involvement in scoring creates a conflict with contract approval.
- Updates on application status and subsequent steps.

4. Technology Upgrades for Health and Human Services (HHS) Conference Rooms

-Rhett Martin & Steve Brooks

Summary of Presentation:

- Upgrade audio visual technology in two conference rooms at Silverton Road location.
- Regularly used for Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee (LADPC) and Mental Health Advisory Committee meetings with community partners.
- Technology causes recurring connection and audio problems during virtual meetings.
- Planned upgrades include:
 - In ceiling microphones and in ceiling speakers.
 - Upgraded TVs/monitors.
 - Single, simplified connection point for laptops:
 - Instead of multiple cords and adapters.
- Cache Valley Electric is selected vendor.
- Project funding:
 - Total estimated cost: \$53,530.65.
 - Vetted and approved through Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process.
 - Costs to be allocated across programs located in building:
 - Adult outpatient and other programs under HHS cost centers.
 - Funding will come from program/administration allocations:
 - Including state and other eligible funding sources.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

5. Legislative Update

-Alvin Klausen

Summary of Presentation:

- Support for Public Works (PW) grant application under "Safe Streets for All" program:
 - Proposed project focuses on safety corridor improvements, specifically:
 - Installation of median in corridor to improve roadway safety.
 - Effort does not include roundabouts.
 - Grant part of rural transportation planning and safety coordination:
 - Implemented via existing intergovernmental structures and plans.
- Water Resources / House Bill 3372 and Related Rulemaking:
 - Policy flyer indicating potential operational and policy impacts on counties.
 - Concerns raised around:
 - Enforcement increase on waste, illegal use, water hauling, and reporting.
 - Risk of unfunded mandates on counties and expanded Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) involvement.
 - Ambiguity in terms such as bulges in system and how enforcement would be applied.
 - Past efforts in short and long sessions targeted counties in ways seen as harmful.

- National Cemetery Expansion – Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA):
 - Comment deadline is May 21st.
 - Significant concerns about:
 - Water impacts, including groundwater and surface water issues.
 - Impacts on farming operations not adequately analyzed:
 - Spraying, helicopter lifts, agricultural practices.
 - The public meeting format:
 - Daytime meeting:
 - Limited access for working residents.
 - Index cards for questions:
 - No open microphone or direct dialogue.
 - Seen as disrespectful and not real public comment opportunity.
 - Inconsistencies and concerns about site selection process and surveyed properties.
 - Desire to verify claims about alternative sites reviewed:
 - Including state owned facilities.

Board Direction:

- Approved to provide letter of support.
 - Clarify in letter that project limited to median/safety corridor improvements:
 - Not roundabouts.
 - Proceed with ODOT coordination
- Water Resources / House Bill 3372 and Related Rulemaking:
 - Legal provide summary and analysis of proposed changes and implications.
 - Ensure county participates in relevant meetings and provides comments on the record.
 - Coordinate with other counties and associations:
 - Notify AOC and confirm their engagement.
 - Reach out to neighboring counties to coordinate response.
- National Cemetery Expansion – Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA):
 - Draft strong board comment letter before EA comment deadline:
 - Details process concerns with public meeting.
 - Outlines agricultural and water impacts not adequately addressed.
 - Question site selection and alternatives analysis.
 - Initiate Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for list of 12 properties reportedly considered.
 - Include:
 - More transparent, respectful public engagement.
 - Thorough analysis of local impacts:
 - Especially on farmers and water resources.

6. Board Session

- **May 13, 2026 – Agenda**
- **May 20, 2026 – Agenda**
- **May 27, 2026 – No Meeting**

-Commissioner Colm Willis

Summary of Presentation:

- Land use hearing next week:
 - Received DLCD comments.
 - Would like Steve Elzinga to review.

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

Bybee Lakes Tour

-Commissioner Daniell Bethell

Summary of Presentation:

- Interest in using model as template for local transition center / homelessness wrap around services.
- Scheduling challenges.
- Intent to understand the model in preparation for future funding requests.

Board Direction:

- Commissioner Bethell will be attending with the Sheriff and a few commanders.
- Other commissioners to schedule a time to see it in the future.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan Work Session

-Commissioner Danielle Bethell

Summary of Presentation:

- Commissioner Willis will not be here for this work session.
- Commissioner Willis to look at the packet before leaving.

Board Direction:

- Trevor Lane to get notes from Commissioner Willis regarding his thoughts/direction.

Volunteer Awards Committee

-Matt Lawyer

Summary of Presentation:

- Committee for selecting Volunteer Award recipients.
- No representatives from:
 - Dog Services.
 - Finance.
 - Sheriff's Office.
 - Finance.
 - PW.
 - Legal Counsel.
- Legal Counsel nominates individuals every year.
- PW does not usually participate.
- Sheriff's Office has not had nominees consistently.
- Allison Daily is the volunteer that participates in process.

Board Direction:

- Chad to be the HR representative.
- Add representative from Sheriff's Office and Dog Services.

Adjourned – time: 10:19 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White