



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Minutes

Tuesday, August 11, 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: Chris Eppley, Matt Lawyer, Jon Heynen, Alvin Klausen, Trevor Lane, Jonathan Sanford, Toni Whitler and Kendall Hall.

Community and Economic Development (CED): Steve Dickey and Kellie Weese.

Finance: John Carlson.

Health and Human Services (HHS): Troy Gregg, Rhett Martin, Carol Heard, Stacie Neal, Laura Sprouse, and Kelly Martin.

Legal: Steve Elzinga, Jennifer Rogers, Andrew Mittendorf, and Michelle Teed.

Public Works (PW): Brian Nicholas, Lani Radtke, Austin Barnes, and Carl Lund.

Sheriff's Office: Jeremy Landers, Jacob Ramsey, and Matt Wilkinson.

Guest: Kathy Rogers.

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

Informational

1. Initial Board Review

Sheriff's Office:

- **Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with City of Mt. Angel for 2026 Oktoberfest Overtime Funding**
- **Jail Based Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Grant Supplement Funding**
- **Emergency Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for Radio Equipment at the Jail**
- **Contract Amendment #1 with BC Towing, Inc for RV Towing and Other Related Services**
- **Sheriff's Office Gala Contracts**
 - **Two MC, LLC for Catering Services for the Sheriff's Office Appreciation Gala.**
 - **Ubetcha Ent. for Entertainment**

-Sheriff Nick Hunter, Jacob Ramsey and Matt Wilkinson

HHS:

- **Seeking New Contract for Janitorial Services**
 - **Contract with Jeffery A, Luty, MD for Medical Director Services**
- Stacie Neal, Rhett Martin and Carol Heard

CED:

- **2026-2027 Santiam Hospital & Clinic Community Development Block Grant Scope Discussion**
- Steve Dickey

Summary of Presentation:

- IGA with City of Mt. Angel for 2026 Oktoberfest Overtime Funding
 - Sheriff's Office patrol overtime coverage during 2026 Mt. Angel Oktoberfest.
 - Reimbursed at hourly overtime rate for shifts worked during event.
 - Total agreement amount is not expected to exceed \$6,000.
- Jail Based Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Grant Supplement Funding:
 - Existing two-year Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) grant funds jail-based medications for opioid use disorder.
 - Second round of funding available:
 - Plan to request up to \$45,931 to extend support through 2027.
 - Final award amount may be less than requested:
 - Depending on applications statewide.
- Emergency CIP for Radio Equipment at the Jail:
 - Maintenance revealed failure of critical GPS synchronization clock:
 - Maintains timing and functionality of jail radio system.
 - Propose adding \$8,730 to current purchase order with Communications Northwest to replace failing hardware:
 - Plus, related increases in the maintenance agreement.
 - \$11,746 in related maintenance costs anticipated in Materials and Services (M&S) budget:
 - Future supplemental general fund adjustment will be needed.
- Contract Amendment #1 with BC Towing, Inc for RV Towing and Other Related Services:
 - Existing contract runs through April 30, 2028:
 - Originally not-to-exceed \$40,000.
 - Since February 2025, \$32,150 has been encumbered for 10 RV tows:
 - About \$3,200–\$3,500 per RV.
 - Towing, storage, title processing, demolition, and hazardous material abatement.
 - Amendment will increase contract not-to-exceed amount to \$100,000:
 - Cover ongoing RV cleanup needs through the end of the term.
- 2026 Sheriff's Office Gala Contracts:
 - Two MC, LLC for Catering Services for Sheriff's Office Appreciation Gala:
 - Provide catering services for 2026 Sheriff's Office Appreciation Gala.
 - Event recognizes sworn and non-sworn staff for actions:
 - Life-saving, valor, and outstanding service.
 - Gala scheduled for November 21, 2026, at Willamette Heritage Center:
 - Catering cost is \$5,336.
 - Ubetcha Ent. for Entertainment:
 - Entertainment and games for 2026 Sheriff's Office Appreciation Gala.
 - Activities use fake money solely for entertainment:
 - No actual gambling or exchange of real funds involved.
 - Contract amount is \$2,500, similar to prior gala entertainment costs.
- Seeking New Contract for Janitorial Services:
 - Janitorial contract for leased HHS buildings expires September 30, 2026:
 - With Garton, via Oregon Forward program
 - Solicit bids from all Oregon Forward janitorial vendors for leased facilities:
 - Cost estimates based on Garton payments and inflation assumptions.
 - Beverly Avenue buildings being removed from portfolio:
 - Reduces nightly cleaning volume and related monthly costs.
 - Prior Beverly janitorial was about \$6,000–\$8,000 per month.
- Contract with Jeffrey A. Luty, MD for Medical Director Services:
 - Contract with medical director for Addiction Treatment Services Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program expires December 31, 2026:
 - With no extension option.
 - Three-year, not-to-exceed \$400,000 contract, with two-year extension:

- Based on updated estimate of 10 hours per week.
 - Reduced from 20 hours previously budgeted but not fully used.
- Prior recruitment efforts to alternate providers produced no viable candidates:
 - Contract continues a critical, hard to replace medical director role.
- 2026-2027 Santiam Hospital & Clinics CDBG Scope Discussion:
 - Previous award of \$250,000 in CDBG funds approved for sanitary water well project to support Santiam Hospital during municipal water interruptions.
 - City of Stayton determined hospital could construct a well with capacity of 1,000 gallons/day:
 - Far below hospital's requirement of 20,000–30,000 gallons/day.
 - Hospital developed an alternative contingency plan using trucked food grade water and on-site storage.
 - Request repurposing funds for constructing expanded clinic in Aumsville.
 - Concern as this is major scope change from competitive award and directed staff to return with other eligible reallocation options.
 - CDBG constraints prevent shifting funds into HOME funded homeownership program.

Board Direction:

- IGA with City of Mt. Angel for 2026 Oktoberfest Overtime Funding:
 - Proceed.
- Jail Based Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Grant Supplement Funding:
 - Proceed.
- Emergency CIP for Radio Equipment at the Jail:
 - Proceed.
- Contract Amendment #1 with BC Towing, Inc for RV Towing and Other Related Services:
 - Proceed.
- 2026 Sheriff's Office Gala Contracts:
 - Two MC, LLC for Catering Services for Sheriff's Office Appreciation Gala:
 - Proceed.
 - Ubetcha Ent. for Entertainment:
 - Proceed.
- Seeking New Contract for Janitorial Services:
 - Proceed.
- Contract with Jeffery A. Luty, MD for Medical Director Services:
 - Proceed.
- 2026-2027 Santiam Hospital & Clinics CDBG Scope Discussion:
 - Proceed.

2. Opportunity to Testify at the Land Conservation and Development Commission Hearing

-Austin Barnes and Carl Lund

Summary of Presentation:

- Regional Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) scenario plan was submitted with two versions:
 - For Salem/Keizer.
 - Reflecting county positions.
- Rules call for a single regional plan.
- Both forwarded to Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) for a hearing scheduled October 22–23, 2026:
 - Public testimony will likely be limited to 3–5 minutes per speaker.
- Develop clear bullet point differences between county's and Salem/Keizer version:
 - Include opposition to items like payroll tax for transit without a vote.
- Salem agrees with 90% of county's requested changes.

- Keizer staff have not yet engaged:
 - May be inconsistencies between Keizer position and prior city council.
- Options:
 - Oral testimony by commissioners, legal counsel, and planning staff.
 - Submission of written comments.
 - Outreach to Salem and Keizer elected officials and staff.
 - Joint or staff level meetings to narrow disagreements ahead of hearing.
- Explore if hearing date could be delayed or plans withdrawn and resubmitted to alter LCDC schedule.

Board Direction:

- Prepare concise talking points and written testimony options.
- Reengage Salem and Keizer staff and explore a joint work session:
 - Preferably after staff level coordination.
- Review rules and options related to delaying or restructuring the hearing timeline.

3. Consider Proclamation for September Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

-Laura Sprouse and Kelly Martin

Summary of Presentation:

- County's annual recognition of September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.
- Presentation will highlight ongoing efforts to promote access to mental health supports and awareness of 988-crisis line.
- Outreach to first responders and community emphasizing that 988 is for crises and emotional distress:
 - Not only imminent suicide risk.
- 988 phone scripts may over emphasize suicide screening:
 - Potentially discouraging broader crisis calls.
- Suggest coordinating with partners on messaging and call handling improvements:
 - Northwest Human Services, Salem Fire, Willamette Valley Communication Center (WVCC).

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

4. Proposed Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) – Chapter 309, Division 35

-Steven Elzinga and Jennifer Rogers

Summary of Presentation:

- Reviewed Oregon Health Authority (OHA) draft revisions to mental health residential rules (OAR Chapter 309, Division 035):
 - OHA circulated two slightly different tracked change versions while describing them as the same.
- County legal and HHS prepared consolidated markup highlighting OHA's changes and county's requested edits, focusing on:
 - Safety concerns in facilities:
 - Rules prevent discharge of residents who assault or threaten others.
 - Legal clarity regarding "reasonable" weapons searches and provider liability.
 - Administrative burden:
 - Such as proposed daily real time bed capacity reporting.
- Some OHA changes are modest:
 - Overall, insufficient to protect staff and residents and align with statute.
- Key county proposal:
 - Allow discharge when resident inflicts or threatens substantial personal injury on or near premises.
 - Correct language that sets an unreasonably high threshold:

- Akin to imminent death or irrecoverable injury.
- Outlined strategy:
 - Use August 14th OHA rulemaking meeting to push adoption of county's edits.
 - If no reasonable changes, file formal rulemaking petition and seek support from other counties.
- Commissioners expressed strong concern about staff safety and facility liability, and support for leading a broader county coalition if needed.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

5. Tax Account 333121 Update

John Carlson

Summary of Presentation:

- Breach-of-contract property tax account involving residence owned by two brothers.
- One brother is living in the home.
- Neither have financial ability nor desire to assume contract, initiate probate, or make required payments:
 - Past outreach has not produced a workable resolution.
- Board order declaring breach of contract scheduled for August 19, 2026.
- Order will grant 20 days to cure breach or file a petition.
 - If neither occurs:
 - County will verify occupancy and proceed with next enforcement steps.
- Situation reflects lack of willingness to maintain ownership:
 - Despite prior consideration of leniency or partial forgiveness.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

6. Legislative Update

-Alvin Klausen

Summary of Presentation:

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Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

7. Board Session

- **August 12, 2026 – Agenda**
- **August 19, 2026 – Agenda**

-Commissioner Colm Willis

Summary of Presentation:

- Reviewed upcoming agenda.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS and UPDATE

Commissioner Danielle Bethell

-

Commissioner Kevin Cameron

- Ken Hector of Materials Management Advisory Committee (MMAC) passed:
 - Need to identify new urban citizen representative.
 - Rural citizen member will remain in place.
- Former Oregon State Fair executive director is applying for a position on the Parks Commission:
 - Letter of recommendation will be provided.
- Thanked legal counsel for extensive work on a motion for preliminary injunction regarding dam drawdown impacts on Detroit Lake:
 - Material is thorough yet accessible.
- Update from Mid-Willamette Valley Area Commission on Transportation (MWACT):
 - Regional priority for Connect Oregon funding assigned to Portland & Western Railroad track improvement project.
 - Other proposals:
 - Fixed-Based Operator (FBO) building in McMinnville.
 - Through lane at the Aurora Airport.
 - Transit payroll tax revenues discussed:
 - Cherriots' asked to replace paratransit vehicles and move to renewable natural gas.
 - Woodburn request for an electric accessible vehicle.
- Went to the chamber on Thursday:
 - Discussed Detroit drawdown and Data Center.

Commissioner Colm Willis

- Resigning from SEDCOR board.

Other

Amendment #6 to Add Funds for North Fork Road Slide Stabilization Project

-Brian Nicholas

Summary of Presentation:

- Opportunity to secure end of biennium Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funds.
- Fully cover higher than expected construction bids and additional costs:
 - Slope failures encountered during North Fork Road slide stabilization project.
- Western Federal Lands is preparing Amendment #6 to increase project funding:
 - Funds must be obligated by September 30th or risk lapsing.
- Due to timing, amendment may arrive close to deadline:
 - Potentially requiring expedited internal review and board action.

Board Direction:

- Proceed.

Marion County Radio Project – Colton Construction Amendment #1

-Brian Nicholas

Summary of Presentation:

- At Whitler radio site, foundation work for new tower encountered unforeseen subsurface conditions:
 - Clay lenses within otherwise competent rock prevented proper installation of designed ground anchors.
- To ensure adequate uplift resistance and structural stability, foundation design will be changed to drilled shaft foundations:
 - About 6-foot diameter, 35-foot-deep reinforced concrete.
- Change Order #5 for Colton Construction will push cumulative change order total above internal thresholds requiring board approval:
 - Over \$100,000 and 25% of contract value.
- Overall radio project funding remains tight but within current projections:

- Pursuing additional funding:
 - Assistance to Firefighters Grant.
 - Reallocations of unspent American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

Brooks Water Project – Tank Filing & Schedule

-Brian Nicholas

Summary of Presentation:

- Brooks water tank structure is complete.
- Initial fill will begin on Monday to flush construction debris and sanitize the tank.
- Full operational filling of system is expected to begin in approximately seven weeks:
 - Assuming remaining steps proceed on schedule.
- Potential conflict of interest noted on record by Commissioner Danielle Bethell whose family member works for the contractor (Slayden):
 - Commissioner Bethell did not participate in substantive discussion.

Board Direction:

- Good with the update.

Homeless Alliance – Executive Director Transition

-Danielle Bethell

Summary of Presentation:

- Executive director of the Homeless Alliance has submitted notice of resignation.
- An interim executive director will be needed:
 - Likely for 6–12 months.
 - Through late spring/early summer 2027.
 - Preferably someone experienced in federally funded projects and local homeless services.
- The Alliance faces significant funding instability:
 - Community Action Agency has been selected to receive most of state's local homeless funds.
 - Reducing Alliance's operational funding by roughly 50%.
- Concern about long-term sustainability and structure of the Alliance.
- Oppose using additional county dollars for Alliance operations under circumstances.

Board Direction:

- Good with the update.

Detroit/Green Peter Drawdown – Communications

-Jon Heynen

Summary of Presentation:

- Legal counsel completed motion for preliminary injunction concerning deep drawdown operations impacting Detroit Lake:
 - Good quality, clarity, and thoroughness of the document.
- Press release package:
 - Motion and supporting image.
 - Drafted for distribution.
 - Minor wording edits were suggested:
 - Revising language about "the outcome of the Green Peter drawdown" to more clearly describe the damage caused.

- Motion and press materials are timely in light of ongoing public interest:
 - Commissioner plan to reference issue during noon community media appearance.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

Adjourned – time: 10:52 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White