



Work Session Summary Minutes

OREGON

Federal Agenda Update

January 30, 2025. 10:30 AM
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

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

Board's Office: Matt Lawyer, Alvin Klausen, and Toni Whitler.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga, and Cody Hawkins.

Salem Daily Reporter: Alan Cohen

CRM Advocates: Kirby Garrett

Field Representative for Representative Andrea Salinas: Brandon Jordan

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m.

Summary

Focus on aligning local priorities with federal funding and policy initiatives. Key projects include the North Santiam Canyon wildfire recovery, a \$20 million sewer project, and bridge replacements with a pending application for \$100 million. Also addressed the need for public safety radio systems, body-worn cameras, and behavioral health facilities. Policy priorities include flood plain development restrictions, Detroit Lake drawdown impacts, and rural broadband deployment. Emphasize the importance of bipartisan support and effective communication with federal agencies to secure funding and address local needs.

Introduction of Federal Agenda

- The purpose and importance of the annual federal agenda:
 - Aligns priorities with funding opportunities and policy initiatives.
 - Ensures a strong voice at the federal level.
 - Communicate needs and desired projects to the congressional delegation.
- The crucial role of the federal agenda:
 - Secure funds for items that can't be fully supported locally or by the state.
 - Maintain federal partnerships so the county has its federal investment and policy considerations.
- Updates and changes made to the federal agenda from the previous year:
 - Same core policies and priorities with targeted tweaks and refinements.
 - Review allows the agenda reflects evolving needs and strategic objectives
- Federal Agenda Asks:
 - North Santiam Canyon wildfire recovery:
 - Wastewater infrastructure, phase two.
 - \$20 million for the sewer project in Detroit and Idanha areas.
 - Public safety radio system:

- Ongoing funding gap.
 - Discuss whether different users or the county should lead the request.
- Parks & Wildfire Recovery:
 - Been on the agenda for the last few years.
 - Will need to fine tune funding request to identify which parks and the scope of work.
- Bridge replacement project:
 - To replace or repair 7 bridges in the county that are in dire need of attention.
 - Pending application to the Bridge Investment Program.
 - We received positive feedback, but it was unsuccessful last year.
 - The application stays in the queue for consideration.
 - Application includes specific bridges in need of help.
- Body Worn camera programs:
 - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the Sheriff's Department.
 - Focus on the equipment costs.
 - Coordination with local partners emphasized.
- Safety corridor:
 - Secured funding for the roundabout.
 - Continued need for funding for other projects in the corridor.
- Flood plain development restrictions:
 - Significant risk posed by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) requirements.
 - Explore legislative options and outreach to the new administration.
- Behavioral health facility flexibility:
 - Reintroduce HR 1201 in the new session, with delegation support.
- Other topics:
 - Youth homelessness demonstration program.
 - Waste to Energy Facility.
 - Opioid and methamphetamine funding.
 - US Forest Service wildfire management reform.

Community Project Funding (CPF) Project

- CPF process (formerly known as earmarks).
- Need to coordinate with delegation offices on priorities.
- The key details about the CPF process are:
 - Members of Congress submit for funding to be added in appropriation bills.
 - Targeted, community-based projects that want federal funding.
 - Local governments work with their congressional delegation to advocate for priority projects.
- County to coordinate with their delegation offices to determine CPF priorities.
- A meeting planned for February 5th:
 - Discuss allocating ARPA funds.
 - Determine the county's CPF requests to submit to Congress.
- This process allows Marion County to secure federal funding for local initiatives that may not be funded by grant programs.
- SRS Funding versus reestablishing harvesting

Other

- The importance of grouping federal agenda priorities by topic:
 - Natural resources, health, public safety.
- Upcoming Washington D.C. trip plans were outlined:
 - Meetings with US Forest Service, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and other relevant agencies.

Next Steps

- Add the Detroit Lake drawdown issue to the federal agenda policy priorities.
- Reach out to the City of Salem:
 - Gather information on water flow requirements and potential impacts from the Detroit Lake drawdown.
- Schedule a meeting with the US Forest Service during the Washington D.C. trip.
- Coordinate additional agency meetings with Kirby.
- Discuss CPF priorities at the February 5th meeting.

Adjourned – time: 11:22 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White