

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council**  
**held at the Oregon State Capitol, Room 350**  
**February 8, 2011**

**Attendees:** Commissioner Patti Milne, Walt Beglau, Ray Byrd, Mark Callier, Faye Fagel, Don Frederickson, Alison Kelley, Pete McCallum, Ed McKenney, Jason Myers, Dale Penn, Bob Royer, Mike Runyon, Tom Sermak

**Oregon State Legislators:** Senators Jackie Winters, Peter Courtney and Fred Girod;  
Representatives Vickie Berger, Brian Clem and Vic Gilliam

**Staff:** Barb Young, Don Russo

Chair Patti Milne called the meeting to order at 4.05 P.M. Quorum Achieved.

**Welcome to Oregon State Legislators**

Commissioner Milne thanked the legislators for attending, and asked all PSCC members to introduce themselves. Sen. Winters began by explaining the current balance of power in the legislature calls for increased cooperation to get things done. The major issue is the budget. As a key member of the Ways and Means Committee, she is very involved in budgeting and was asked by Senate President Peter Courtney to lead the budget process for public safety. "The governor proposes and the legislature disposes," she stated, encouraging people to attend the budget hearings and testify.

Representative Vickie Berger explained her role on the Revenue Committee is focused on the tax revenue received by the state. Senator Fred Girod mentioned an article in today's Oregonian that stated his support for the Governor's proposed budget. "I stand behind the Governor on this because he recommends real cuts in hard dollars. We have to cut spending." Representative Brian Clem mentioned several bills he has initiated, then said, "Department of Corrections is ground zero. We have to reduce the cost of prisons so we can reinvest in other programs like reentry."

Senator Peter Courtney thanked the PSCC for coming to the capitol to help. He is nervous that there may be insufficient tax revenue to fund the remainder of the current year and stated the economic forecast due next Tuesday is critically important. He asked Senator Winters to lead the public safety budget because of her experience and strengths in working with other leaders. In response to a question from Judge Dale Penn, he emphasized that the budget process needs to be de-politicized by getting business leaders and law enforcement leaders working together to make positive changes within the criminal justice system.

District Attorney Walt Beglau offered the PSCC as a resource to the legislators. The top issue faced everyday in law enforcement and criminal justice is mental illness, he stated. Crisis scenarios occur throughout the system in Marion County with the mentally ill. Senator Girod said he wants to hear more from leaders about these problems and invited members of the council to contact his office, offer suggestions, attend hearings and testify. Senator Winters added that it's often during a crisis that we can do our best. "I applaud your involvement," she said.

Responding to a handout showing PSCC as crew on a ship carrying a cargo of serious public safety issues, Representative Berger said, "We get it. Marion County is the best model in the state. Keep leading and work together with us." Senator Courtney said that trying to change the system is dangerous politically. It's hard to know if people will tackle the tough issues. He said Corrections is too expensive and that conservative people in other states are saying its time to look at reducing sentencing guidelines. Representative Clem added that Marion County is located at the center of the crisis because of the many prisons located here.

Senator Girod said, “The budget is about core values and hard dollars. Safety is a core value that has to be supported in the budget. I do not want to put repeat DUII offenders back on the road. I am open to ways to save money and I want to hear your ideas.”

Representative Vic Gilliam explained that he serves on two committees: Environment, Energy and Water and Human Services. Neither committee funds public safety, but he sees great opportunity to work together. Don Russo said Commissioner Milne often states that public safety depends on economic development. He said that PSCC wants to support your committee work in economic development. Representative Clem remarked that while agribusiness is weak, timber is worse. He said as chair of the Forestry Committee, he wants the state to buy federal forest land. He is supportive of biomass, but said we need logs.

Commission on Children and Families Director Alison Kelley mentioned a bill sponsored by Representative Vickie Berger to permit employers to pay a “training wage” to teens at a lower rate than Oregon minimum wage. Senator Girod told about a bill he has initiated to help rural fire departments acquire land for fire stations by changing the land use laws. This is specific to a project of the Aurora Rural Fire District. Commissioner Milne expressed her support for this bill and thanked the senator for his work. The senator again emphasized his interest in hearing more from leaders on the Public Safety Coordinating Council.

### **Adjourned**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm and Senator Girod led a tour of the State Capitol for those interested.

### **Future council meetings**

The March 8 PSCC meeting will be held at the Marion County jail.