



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# Management Update Minutes

**Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 9:30 a.m.**

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem  
5th Floor, Suite 5231, Commissioners Boardroom

## ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Kevin Cameron, Danielle Bethell, and Colm Willis, Jan Fritz, Chad Ball, Jessica Stanton, Jon Heynen, Matt Lawyer, Melissa Rounds, Tanisha Bush, Jane Vetto, Brian Nicholas, and Robert Manier as recorder.

Jan Fritz called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

## INFORMATIONAL:

### **Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program Update**

- Melissa Rounds, Robert Manier

#### ***Summary of presentation:***

- \$1,419,850.91 of ERA 1 funding has been spent:
  - The money was distributed to 274 households.
- There are currently 223 applications in progress that if approved will distribute another \$1.4 million;
- The county submitted a performance improvement plan to Treasury on November 15, 2021:
  - The plan was required because 65 percent of the award had not been spent by September 30, 2021; and
  - The plan includes action items the county will take to increase expenditures.
- The county was notified that Treasury was recapturing \$1.3 million of the award:
  - That brings the award to \$9.1 million.
- There is approximately \$1 million in additional funding that is reserved for administrative expenditures;
- The United Way has been very helpful in getting more applications submitted;
- Treasury notified the county on December 27, 2021 that they have accepted the performance improvement plan;
- As part of the performance improvement plan the county has agreed to take the following actions:
  - Send mail and billing messages through utility companies explaining the program;
  - Leverage existing community partnerships:
    - Recovery Outreach Community Center (ROCC); and
    - United Way.

- Reach out to Latinx and Pacific Islander communities; and
- Identify internal or external programs where up to 10 percent of the award can be spent on housing stability services:
  - Eviction diversion;
  - Eviction prevention;
  - Landlord and tenant mediation;
  - Housing counseling;
  - Fair housing counseling;
  - Housing navigators;
  - Case management related to housing stability;
  - Housing related services for survivors of domestic violence or human trafficking;
  - Legal services or attorney fees related to eviction proceedings; and
  - Specialized services for seniors or individuals with disabilities that support their ability to access and maintain housing.
- The Community Action Agency is now helping with getting new applicants:
  - They are targeting individuals who are about to be evicted.
- The United Way has the ability to add staff to provide housing stability services;
- No funds have been spent from the ERA 2 \$8.2 million award:
  - The county has received 40 percent of the award.
- Per Treasury policy, ERA 2 programs must allow direct to tenant payments:
  - Staff is looking for guidance from the Commissioners.
- The contract with Yardi Systems will have to be amended to include ERA 2.

**Board discussion:**

- The Commissioners recommend that staff reaches out to the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation, the BIPOC community, Catholic Community Services, the Santiam Service Integration Team, Union Gospel Mission, and Commander Karvandi for possible assistance with this program;
- The Commissioners would agree with checks being sent directly to tenants, if they are made payable to the landlord:
  - The tenant could then give the check to the landlord.
- The Commissioners might be willing to have checks made directly payable to tenants if Yardi provides proof that the landlord refuses to participate in the program;
- The Commissioners would like Legal to review Treasury’s policy to determine what is allowed; and
- ERA 1 is finished in September 2022, ERA 2 can be started at any time.

**Wildfire Update**

- All

**Summary of presentation:**

Brian Nicholas:

- Tree removal is continuing;
- The land use hearing for the wildfire housing project in Gates is on January 20, 2022;

- The county has received preliminary acceptance from the Department of Environmental Quality for the proposed septic solution for the Gates housing project;
- At North Santiam State Park, the state archeologist needs to clear the site before the septic site evaluation can be done:
  - The county is going to have to provide the archeologist.
- The Oregon Department of Transportation has been delivering nonmarketable timber to the Juvenile Department who will sell it as firewood;
- There are three property owners in the North Fork corridor who need help removing wood from their properties; and
- There is a change order of approximately \$1.4 million on tomorrow's Board Session Agenda for the ice storm damaged tree removal contract:
  - The initial inventory of damaged trees for the original estimate was performed during the summer; and
  - With leaves off trees during the winter a lot more damage can be seen.

***Board discussion:***

- A few trees have come down due to the recent weather; and
- Public Works is preparing for the possibility of future flooding.

OTHER:

Tanisha Bush:

- Looking for feedback from the Commissioners on the draft of Corissa Neufeldt's testimony for the state committee.

***Board discussion:***

- Commissioner Bethell does not agree with the statement under bullet 3:
  - Local Public Health Authority does not understand intellectual and developmental disabilities services, systems, or how to meet the needs of those served.
- Commissioner Willis would like Ms. Neufeldt to speak with the Commissioners first if she has concerns; and
- Ms. Fritz will speak with Mr. Matthews to get more information.

COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND UPDATES:

Colm Willis:

- Commissioner Willis met with several parties for a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) meeting to discuss LEAD employee qualifications and organizational structure.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

COMPLETED BY: **Betsy Young**

*Reviewed by: Shawnnell Fuentes*