



MARION COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOC/CAO Issues Coordination

June 25, 2025
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm
Courthouse Square
Commissioner's Boardroom
Salem, Oregon

Meeting Minutes

AGENDA

1. Welcome

Commissioner Willis

Commissioner Bethell called the meeting to order at 1:54 pm.

Chair Bethell, Commissioner Willis, Commissioner Cameron, CAO Fritz, DCAO Eppley, Sr. Policy Analyst Lawyer, Sheriff Hunter were present

2. North County Policing

Nick Hunter

- a. Sheriff Hunter provided information to the Board of Commissioners about a meeting he attended at the City of Aurora to discuss renewal of their contract with the County for policing through the Sheriff's Office. The Aurora Council is split on the issue and no decision was made. There is some discussion about creating an enhanced policing district that would include a number of cities in the Northern region of the County. More information will be forthcoming at a future date.
- b. Sheriff Hunter discussed the idea of consolidating all dispatch services throughout the County. DPSST has space they could allocate for such a center. Conceptually, the new dispatch center would be set up and be able to function as a county-wide Emergency Operations Center as well. Commissioner Willis agreed to be part of the regional discussions on the topic.

3. Marion County Water Quality Advisory Committee

Chair Bethell

- a. Chair Bethell discussed an interaction she had with an appointed member of the Marion County Water Quality Advisory Committee. The member discussed work he had done on reviewing the committee's bylaws and drafting a series of recommended changes he would like to make. Chair Bethell wants to modify the committee procedures to require the committee to get permission from the Board of Commissioners prior to initiating work on a County Committee's bylaws so that everyone is on the same page.

4. Salmon Falls and Bear Creek Park Restoration Funding Commissioner Cameron

- a. The Commissioners discussed potential pots of funding they want to use for the Salmon Falls Park restoration project. Commissioner Willis identified that there is currently \$500K of Opal Creek funding dedicated to the project but, since Opal Creek funding is federal in nature, it requires a NEPA to be completed, which will push reconstruction back by a year. The Commissioners want to replace that funding with \$500K of converted ARPA funds from the Radio Project and then replace the radio project funds with the Opal Creek funding.

5. Salem Hospital Commissioner Willis

- a. Commissioner Will would like to consider using the County's full faith and credit capacity to issue bonds to refinance a project Santiam Hospital is working on and then having the hospital pledge to pay off the bonds. This will lower the interest rate on the debt and save the hospital money. The Board wants to have a more thorough discussion on this issue int eh next week or two.

6. Adjourn

- a. Chair Bethell adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.