



MARION COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BOC/CAO Issues Coordination

May 14, 2025  
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm  
Courthouse Square  
Commissioner's Boardroom  
Salem, Oregon

**Meeting Minutes**

**AGENDA**

**1. Welcome**

Danielle Bethell, Chair

Chair Bethell called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm

Chair Bethell, Commissioner Willis, Commissioner Cameron, CAO Fritz, County Counsel Elzinga, Business Services Department Director Goettsch, Risk Manager White, Marion County Building Official Trussell, and Senior Policy Analyst Lawyer were present

**2. Electrical Permits for Revocable Trusts**

Chris Trussell

- a. Chris Trussell, the Marion County Building Official, led a discussion regarding electrical permits for homes with revocable living trusts. The State Building Code division has interpreted that if a home is owned by a business entity, a licensed contractor is required for electrical work. However, Mr. Trussell suggested that the County could take a different position and file a rulemaking petition with the State. The options discussed were to continue enforcing the State's interpretation, support legislation to change the law, or take a different position and file a rulemaking petition. The decision was left to the legal team to provide guidance on next steps.

**3. Transportation Funding and Ferry Support**

BOC

- a. The Board discussed school issues and the need to send a letter in support of transportation funding. A motion was made to authorize the CAO to sign a letter on behalf of Marion County to support a federal limitation action related to the Buena Vista Ferry. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. State and Federal Funding**

BOC

- a. The Board discusses strategies for potentially bypassing the State to receive Federal funding directly, particularly for transportation projects. They consider hiring a lobbyist with connections to the current administration and forming a coalition with other rural counties. The Board agrees to prepare and gather information before taking any action, with Matt tasked to lead this effort. They also briefly touch on the Sanctuary State issue and immigration policy, with the county attorney seeking clarification on whether to maintain a conservative legal approach or pursue more aggressive positions.

**5. Joint Drug Investigation Team Creation**

Commissioner Willis

- a. The Commissioners discussed the recent arrest of a Sinaloa Cartel leader in Salem and expressed frustration about the lack of local drug enforcement capabilities. They decided to create a joint drug investigation team between the Marion County Sheriff's Office and Salem Police Department, funded by opioid settlement money. The commissioners requested a legal memo from County Counsel, Steve Elzinga to clarify the intersection of state and federal laws regarding sanctuary policies and drug enforcement. They plan to invite the sheriff, district attorney, police chief, and mayor to discuss the initiative soon. The board also considered seeking federal resources to support larger drug investigations.

**6. Upcoming Meetings and Event Scheduling**

BOC

- a. The Commissioners discussed scheduling for upcoming meetings and events. They decided to move the environmental licensing fee discussion and reschedule a work session on May 15th to accommodate a drug team funding meeting with Salem and the sheriff. An update was provided to the group on the Materials Management Advisory Committee, which is progressing and will be presented to the Board soon. They also touched on internship programs, upcoming timber-related events, and a draft bill for flow control in four counties. The group noted important dates, including budget meetings and Eric Peterson's farewell gathering.

**7. Adjourn**

- a. Chair Bethell adjourned the meeting at 2:32 pm.