



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Minutes

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Commissioners' Boardroom  
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Suite 5231  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Attendance:

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

**Board's Office:** Trevor Lane, Alvin Klausen, Chris Eppley, Jon Heynen Toni Whitler, and Matt Lawyer, Gary White and Shawnnell Fuentes.

**Legal Counsel:** Steve Elzinga, and Andrew Mittendorf

**Public Works:** Brandon Reich, John Speckman, Dennis Mansfield, Max Hepburn, Ryan Wade, Stephanie Pulvers, and Brian Nicholas.

**Finance:** Jeff White.

**Citizen:** Kathy Rogers, Kaitlyn Clark, and KC.

Commissioner Colm Willis called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Informational

**1. Consider Grant Agreement Approval of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Grant**

-Stephanie Pulvers

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Fund temperature Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) streamside evaluation:
  - Data analysis and field verification of shade conditions.
- The Study will identify shade deficiencies and barriers:
  - Decisions on regulatory versus voluntary measures come later.
- Concerns:
  - TMDL data could be used later to justify new regulations and costs.
  - Avoid burdening residents, especially fire affected Canyon communities.

**Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward.
- Require:
  - Legal review of TMDL obligations before further commitments.
  - All scopes and final reports to return to board before submission.
  - Voluntary/partner-based approaches that avoid burdens on residents.

**2. Update to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) System Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Phase II Permit**

-Stephanie Pulvers

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Final draft out for public comment.

- Stormwater management area expanded:
  - About 1,800 acres to align with the Salem/Keizer Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).
- Concerns:
  - Broad new construction activity definition may capture normal farming.
  - Possible overreach beyond federal requirements.
  - Prior county comments largely ignored.
  - Legal issues flagged:
    - Unfunded mandate, and non-delegation.

**Board Direction:**

- Submit formal public comments that:
  - Seek explicit exclusion of normal farming from construction activity.
  - Challenge scope of expanded stormwater area where it exceeds federal requirements.
- Direct legal counsel to:
  - Board letter to delegation.
  - Separate technical legal letter preserving legal arguments.
  - Provide prior comment letters to board.
- Direct staff to:
  - Confirm how/if agriculture is exempt in new framework.
  - Notify affected farmers/agriculture organizations.
  - Coordinate with Polk County on parallel issues.

**3. Consultation on Historic Resources for Veterans Cemetery**

-Brandon Reich

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Federal Consultant requested county input on historic resources:
  - Proposed Willamette National Cemetery expansion site.
- Waldo House recognized as historic resource in county plan and by consultant.
- Federal projects on federal land generally exempt from local land use processes:
  - Especially appealable ones.
- Draft Environmental Assessment (EA):
  - Plans to demolish Waldo House.
  - Concludes “no significant impact” on historic resources, traffic, water, etc.:
    - The board disputes this.

**Board Direction:**

- Send a letter:
  - Waldo House’s historic significance.
  - County position is demolition should follow local historic/conditional use:
    - Even if Veteran’s Affairs (VA) is exempt.
- Staff:
  - Draft EA public comments:
    - Historic, traffic, and water/waste concerns.
    - Bring them back for approval.
  - Draft letter to Governor summarizing actions to date and request a meeting.
  - Use community letters to reinforce concerns with state/federal delegation.
- Planning/Legal:
  - Respond to VA land use compatibility request.
  - Clearly stating applicable zoning and review requirements.

#### **4. North Santiam Floodplain Mapping Project**

-John Speckman

##### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Army Corps is mapping the floodplain using Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) and a 2-Dimensional (2D) Hydrologic Engineering Center's River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) model.
- Informational maps, not Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulatory maps.
- FEMA may not adopt them as regulatory due to method differences:
  - No cross sections/velocity work.
- Possible use as advisory risk information, not new regulation.

##### **Board Direction:**

- Continue coordinating with the Corps and:
  - Obtain draft and final maps.
  - Present with comparison to FEMA maps and possible advisory uses.
- Maintain that any use will be advisory only:
  - Until board decides to pursue regulatory changes through a formal process.

#### **5. Contract with Waxie Sanitary Supply for Janitorial Supplies & Equipment**

-Tamra Goettsch

##### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Current PO with Waxie for janitorial supplies and services is nearing its limit:
  - \$100,000.
- Rising costs and added square footage are driving higher usage.
- Proposed increase to \$150,000 for current fiscal year.

##### **Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward.

#### **6. Purchase Order (PO) with Professional Credit Services (PCS) for Collection Services**

-Jeff White

##### **Summary of Presentation:**

- PCS has long-productive collections:
  - The county has now selected The Western Agency as the new vendor.
- PCS will finish existing cost intensive accounts, garnishments:
  - Transfer other accounts to The Western Agency.
- Both vendors will remit net collections (fee deducted), reducing need for large PO's.

##### **Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward on consent.

#### **7. Contract with The Western Agency for Debt Collection Services**

-Jeff White

##### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Selected The Western Agency by Request for Proposal (RFP):
  - To take over new and most active collection accounts.
- It will send net payments, simplifying cash flow and accounting:
  - Collections less fees.

##### **Board Direction:**

- Approved to move forward on consent.

## 8. Legislative Update

-Alvin Klausen

### Summary of Presentation:

- Congresswoman Janelle Bynum Community Funded Project Presentation:
  - Requested participation in the Presentation of the North Santiam Sewer Project.
  - Stayton received \$850,000 for a Roundabout on Shaff and Wilco Roads.
- Draft Environmental Assessment for Willamette National Cemetery Expansion:
  - 30-day public comment period for Draft EA.
  - Public hearing on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. at the Salem Public Library.
  - Community Forum at Macleay Grange on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
- Renewable NW (RNW) Stakeholder Group Participation:
  - Nonprofit advocating for development of clean renewable resources in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana.
  - Identify areas of alignment and policy that work for state and local governments.
  - Marion County already engaged in Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) work.
- Aurora State Airport – Circulation Road Grant:
  - Request for county support of a grant to study/construct a circulation road at Aurora State Airport.
  - Required to have at least 200 feet of clearance from the primary runway surface to do a local circulation road:
    - Would put it out on the highway.
  - Many challenges.

### Board Direction:

- Community Funded Project Presentation:
  - Have a commissioner participate when scheduled.
  - Confirm Public Works is proceeding with jurisdictional transfer regarding Stayton.
- Willamette National Cemetery Expansion:
  - Jon Heynen to inform public this is taking place.
- Renewable NW (RNW) Stakeholder Group:
  - Decline participation at this time.
  - Existing representatives to provide updates.
- Aurora State Airport:
  - Provide a letter supporting the grant as a safety effort, leaving feasibility to technical review.

## 9. Board Session

- **March 25, 2026 – Agenda**
- **April 1, 2026 – Preview Agenda**
- **April 8, 2026**

-Commissioner Colm Willis

### Summary of Presentation:

- Overview of Agenda.

### Board Direction:

- Good to move forward.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS and UPDATE

### **Commissioner Danielle Bethell**

- N/A

### **Commissioner Kevin Cameron**

- N/A

### **Commissioner Colm Willis**

- N/A

### Other

#### **Sheriff's Programs**

-Commissioner Danielle Bethell

#### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Programs:
  - Keeping parents out of jail and in the home with their children.
  - Impaired driver grant.
- One program's data showed:
  - Child safety outcomes "not as positive" as desired.
  - A relatively high rate of recidivism.
- Concerns:
  - County responsible for community safety and protection of minors:
    - Not just keeping parents out of jail.
  - Need for more than just avoiding incarceration:
    - Should receive stabilization services.
- Impaired driver grant:
  - Temporarily held while questions asked about long term funding and sustainability.
  - Basic responses allowed to move forward with this year's grant.
  - Ongoing concern about if funding ends and how it will be sustained.

#### **Board Direction:**

- Allow the current year sheriff programs to move forward.
- Require Sheriff's Office to:
  - Conduct a thorough review of program outcomes, focusing on:
    - Recidivism.
    - Child safety in participating homes.
- Work with Health and other partners to identify stabilization and support services.
- Report back before the next grant cycle.
- Future approval of similar grants as contingent on:
  - Stronger evidence of positive outcomes.
  - A clearer plan for long term funding and program quality.

### **State of the County**

-Gary White and Shawnnell Fuentes

#### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Would the board like to be on stage during the Future Farmers of America (FFA) presentation:
  - May feel awkward for to sit on stage for 8-10 minutes during his speech.
- Event Schedule:
  - Sam Brentano to welcome audience and introduce FFA group.
  - Introduce presenter.
  - Introduce each commissioner with a short bio as they come to the stage.
- Recognition for Levi/FFA:
- No formal awards/certificates planned.

- Staff will have information on amount of money county provided to FFA:
  - How it was used.
- District Attorney's (DA) upcoming retirement:
  - Her last State of the County.
  - Interest in a special, memorable recognition.
- The event is effectively sold out, with approximately 340+ tickets sold.
- Capacity for lunch seating is about 342 seats:
  - Small number of additional tickets will be held for day of sales.
  - About 20 seats.
- Seating and table management:
  - Some seats are pre-assigned.
  - Seating chart and list of attendees assigned to each table will be prepared.
  - Commissioners will receive list so remaining seats at their tables can be filled.

**Board Direction:**

- Program order:
  - Good to proceed with the schedule.
  - Recognize FFA verbally, no formal awards.
- DA's Retirement:
  - Light hearted "warrant/subpoena" concept to honor at the end of the event.
  - Coordinate with Sheriff to stage surprise and present a plaque.
  - Staff to finalize logistics consistent with direction.
- Capacity:
  - Treat event as sold out and retain small number of tickets for day of.
  - Provide commissioners with final seating chart and table lists.
  - Manage day of ticket availability within the remaining seat capacity.

**Forest Land Classification – Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)**

-Matt Lawyer

Summary of Presentation:

- E-mail from Assessor.
- New state statutes and rules requiring ODF to work with counties to establish local forest land classification committees.
- Marion County has not yet been directly engaged, while some other counties have.
- Communication suggests lack of local support could leave district in less comfortable position when new classification results are shared with landowners.
- Concern that language feels coercive:
  - Want clarity on legal authority, impacts, and local options.
- Staff suggested inviting ODF to a work session to explain:
  - The new statutory framework.
  - The role and responsibilities of counties and committees.
  - Potential consequences of participation or non-participation.

Board Direction:

- Schedule work session with ODF to brief board on:
  - Forest land classification committees.
  - Statutory authority, process, and implications for Marion County.
- Target a date after May 19<sup>th</sup> to allow preparation.
- Legal Counsel:
  - Review cited statutes and rules in advance.
  - Provide board with brief legal opinion before work session:
    - Including options and potential risks/benefits of county participation.
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## **Marion County Today**

-Jon Heynen

### **Summary of Presentation:**

- Layout and content feedback:
  - Any changes to be made in the newsletter before State of the County.

### **Board Direction:**

- Newsletter edits:
  - Remove photo.
  - Use space to add prominent Elections related image/message.
- Newsletter content:
  - Add language noting North Fork Road will experience construction activity and temporary kiosk outages.
  - Access to much of Little North Fork will be by Gates Hill Road during some of the construction period.
- Dynamic updates via QR code:
  - QR code in newsletter that links to current online page with:
    - North Fork and Gates Hill Road status.
    - Day use pass purchase locations and any temporary changes.
  - Direct Public Works:
    - Up-to-date information so information accurate throughout season.

**Adjourned** – time: 10:49 a.m.

**Minutes by:** Mary Vityukova

**Reviewed by:** Gary L. White