



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Minutes

Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Commissioners' Boardroom
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Suite 5231
Salem, Oregon 97301

Attendance:

Commissioners: Danielle Bethell, Colm Willis and Kevin Cameron.

Board's Office: Chris Eppley, Jonathan Sanford, Jon Heynen, Trevor Lane, Kendall Hall, Toni Whitler, and Shawnnell Fuentes.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga and Scott Norris.

Public Works: Brian Nicholas and Tsige Woldegiorgis.

Health and Human Services (HHS): Troy Gregg, Carol Heard, Debbie Wells, Diana Lee Adams, and Kristina Ballow.

Clerk: Bill Burgess and Rebekah Stern Doll.

Finance: Jessica Paler and John Carlson.

Community and Economic Development: Steve Dickey, Kellie Weese, Sarah Coutley, and Chip Bury.

Sheriff's Office: Nick Hunter.

Commissioner Colm Willis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Informational

1. Change Fund Update Request

- **Salem Keizer Recycling and Transfer Station**
- **Brown's Island Demolition Landfill**
- **North Marion Recycling and Transfer Station**

-Treasurer Sam Brentano, and Jessica Paler

Summary of Presentation:

- Salem Keizer Recycling and Transfer Station:
 - Request to increase change fund for improved cash controls.
 - Financial system (Paradigm) allows issuing individual cash drawers to staff.
 - Individual drawers for accountability and reduce cash handling discrepancies.
- Brown's Island Demolition Landfill:
 - Included in same Environmental Services change fund request.
 - Individual cash drawers to align with updated cash handling practices.
- North Marion Recycling and Transfer Station:
 - Covered in the change fund increase request.
 - Adopt individual cash drawers for staff, to have same process across all sites.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

2. Contract for Election Board Worker Service with Tryfacta, Inc.

-Clerk Bill Burgess, Rebekah Stern Doll

Summary of Presentation:

- Moves 150 election board workers from county employment to temp agency model.
- County will continue recruiting and selecting workers:
 - Tryfacta will handle employment and payroll.
- Simplifies new finance system and reduces Human Resources (HR)/finance workload.
- Faster onboarding will allow responsive adjustment of partisan balance:
 - About 1–1.5 weeks
- Background checks will be performed by agency:
 - County will retain vetting responsibility and must have access to results.
- Hourly cost structure:
 - Agency billing rate about \$50.05/hour.
 - Agency keeps roughly 20% above worker pay.
 - Certain roles, such as drivers, may be paid more.
- Will provide workers' compensation, unemployment, and general liability coverage:
 - Minimum \$1M per occurrence, \$2M aggregate.
- Personal vehicle use reimbursed at Internal Revenue Service (IRS) mileage rate.
- Operational details will be resolved administratively:
 - Use of county vehicles by contracted workers

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.
- Contract language to explicitly guarantees access to background check information.
- Confirm insurance and liability provisions meet county requirements.

3. General Service Contract with Pacific Power for a 3-Phase Industrial Electric Service for Mill City & Gates Wastewater Treatment Facility

-Brian Nicholas

Summary of Presentation:

- Extend three phase electric service to Mill City & Gates wastewater treatment plant.
- Estimated cost is approximately \$180,000.
- Power is essential for plant commissioning and operation:
 - Electricity must be available by September.
- Expense was anticipated and budgeted, with contingency used to finalize actual cost.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

4. Contract with Sabia Mental Health LLC to Provide Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Service for Children's Behavioral Health and Youth and Family Services

-Carol Heard

Summary of Presentation:

- Two-year contract through June 30, 2028:
 - Option to extend through June 30, 2030.
- Not to exceed amount of \$667,000 for initial two-year term.
- Corrected workload is up to 40 hours per week:
 - Previous draft incorrectly stated up to 12 hours.
- Services:
 - Medical assessments.
 - Supervision of clients using therapeutic medications:
 - Children's Behavioral Health.

- Youth and Family Services.
- Provider brings youth experience and Spanish language capability:
 - Enables in person care while maintaining Spanish language access.
- Contract replaces two telehealth providers, one of whom billed at \$305/hour:
 - Projected to save about \$900 per week even with increased hours.
- Funding from billed revenue not as named provider item in PacificSource contract:
 - PacificSource and Open Card Medicaid
- Contract size concern and potential rate negotiation implications with PacificSource.
- Some internal documents incorrectly referenced a five-year term:
 - Need to be corrected.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent, subject to paperwork correction.
- Correct all references to term and amount so they clearly show:
 - 2-year term to June 30, 2028.
 - Not to exceed \$667,000.
 - Option to extend through June 30, 2030:
 - With separate board action
- Closely monitor actual utilization and costs.
- Prepare to revisit cost and rate in context of future negotiations with PacificSource.

5. Contract Amendment #1 with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for Financing of Community Mental Health Program

-Troy Gregg & Debbie Wells

Summary of Presentation:

- Adjusts Community Mental Health Program funding within County Financial Assistance Agreement (CFAA) framework.
- County to get \$844,206.47 in additional funds earmarked for aid and assist services.
- Budget shows new restricted dollars and shifts of internal mental health categories:
 - From National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) general fund to Mental Health (MH) general fund.
 - Changes in networking capital and Per-Member Per-Month (PMPM) Medicaid allocations.
- Legal review states amendment’s language consistent with prior CFAA agreements.
- Concerns raised:
 - Funds appear to be redesignated rather than entirely new appropriations.
 - Restricting new funds to aid and assist may undermine control achieved through prior state negotiations.
 - Budget changes could conflict with local community mental health plan:
 - Which remains in effect.
 - Unity with other counties may be negatively affected by reallocation.

Board Direction:

- Not approved to move forward until:
 - Need detailed explanation regarding origin and restriction of the funds.
 - Revised budget and current local plan are aligned.
 - Discuss with peer counties and statewide partners to understand impacts.

6. Tek84 Intercept Whole Body Scanner Service Agreement

-Alicia Cozad

Summary of Presentation:

- Juvenile Department uses for detention intake as less invasive:
 - More trauma informed alternative to traditional searches.
- Extends the service and warranty agreement.

- Extension runs through June 30, 2029.
- Three-year commitment is more cost effective than renewing annually.
- Costs are covered by Washington County bed rental revenues:
 - No General Fund impact.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

7. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)/HOME Interested Application Workshop

-Steve Dickey

Summary of Presentation:

- Launch 2027–2028 CDBG and HOME cycle with an applicant workshop.
- Workshop scheduled for June 25th at 9:00 a.m.
- Goals:
 - Improve quality and completeness of applications.
 - To understand eligibility, federal requirements, and responsibilities before applying.
 - Reduce project delays and cost increases tied to compliance issues.
- Content will cover:
 - Program purpose and eligibility for CDBG and HOME projects.
 - Roles and responsibilities of grant and loan recipients.
 - Key federal requirements:
 - Environmental review.
 - Prevailing wage.
 - Buy America/Build America.
 - Procurement.
 - Year-round funding interest form to show project ideas outside formal cycle.
 - Walkthrough of full application:
 - Including detailed project budgets and organizational financial context.
- New year-round interest form replaces the previous “pre application” model.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

8. Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Request for Information (RFI) Results

-Sarah Coutley

Summary of Presentation:

- RFI issued for BRE services following impending expiration of SEDCOR contract:
 - 30 days in April.
- Six RFI responses were received:
 - Four out of region providers:
 - East Coast.
 - Two local/regional providers, including SEDCOR.
 - One local respondent willing only to cover part of the county.
- Determine if there are viable alternative providers for county-wide BRE services.
- Limited outreach beyond traditional procurement postings:
 - Many potential partners may not monitor these channels.
- Earlier dedicated BRE staff actively engaged businesses and promoted tools:
 - Recent efforts appear more diffuse and regionally spread.
- Concern of SEDCOR and similar organizations focusing on other jurisdictions and less emphasis on expansion of Marion County businesses.
- Want strong focus on rural communities:
 - Foundational, long-term growth rather than surface level projects.

- Consider alternative uses of lottery dollars:
 - Targeted infrastructure support for specific business expansion projects.

Board Direction:

- Do not automatically renew current BRE model as structured.
- Allow SEDCOR contract to expire on schedule absent a new agreement.
- Over the summer:
 - Meet individually with commissioners to discuss outcomes and BRE scope.
 - Develop 2–3 concrete structural options and return to the board.
- Consider more direct, Marion County focused approaches, including:
 - Single dedicated BRE professional under contract or on staff.
 - More strategic use of lottery funds for business enabling infrastructure.

9. Tax Account Updates:

- **333121 Breach of Contract**
- **564738 Prior Owner Buy Back Request**
- **576846 Prior Owner Buy Back Request Update**

-John Carlson

Summary of Presentation:

- 333121 Breach of Contract:
 - Property foreclosed and transferred to county in January 2022.
 - Land sale contract, buyback, executed with prior owner in June 2022.
 - Contract holder died in September 2025.
 - Heirs maintained some payments before becoming delinquent in early 2026.
 - Heirs do not wish to assume contract:
 - Financial constraints and property’s condition.
 - Remaining balance on contract is just over \$4,000:
 - Approximately \$16,000 has already been paid.
 - Foreclosure predated recent statutory changes:
 - Newer restitution requirements do not apply.
- 564738 Prior Owner Buy Back Request:
 - Property foreclosed on April 1st of current year.
 - Owners are seniors with documented health and financial hardship.
 - Requested buyback but initially could only afford about \$6,900:
 - Roughly 17% down.
 - County policy requires 25% down payment:
 - Statute allows as low as 10%.
 - Owners indicated might access retirement funds to meet 25% threshold:
 - This could create hardship.
- 576846 Prior Owner Buy Back Update:
 - Prior owner requested buyback:
 - Originally anticipated lump sum payment from a family member.
 - No longer available.
 - Updated proposal is to buy back on contract.
 - Proposed terms:
 - Down payment of \$5,000:
 - Above 25% minimum requirement.
 - Five-year contract with monthly payments of about \$265.
 - Owner intends to use property as retirement asset once paid off and sold.

Board Direction:

- 333121 Breach of Contract:
 - Before breach and repossession process, have conversation with heirs to:
 - Clearly explain options, including listing and selling property.
 - Clarify sale proceeds could pay county’s remaining interest at closing:

- With heirs retaining the net.
 - If heirs decline to pursue sale or assume contract after discussion:
 - Proceed under established statutory and contractual breach process.
- 564738 Prior Owner Buy Back Request:
 - Approved buyback payment of about 17% as one-time exception to policy.
 - Structure rest of it on contract term consistent with policy and ability to pay.
 - Allow owners to opt for higher down payment if they wish:
 - Cautioning against excessive depletion of retirement funds.
 - Document hardship basis and board's explicit exception to 25% policy.
- 576846 Prior Owner Buy Back Request Update:
 - Approve the proposed contract terms for buyback.
- Approved to move forward on consent.

10. Board Session

- **June 17, 2026 – Agenda**
- **June 24, 2026 – Draft Agenda**
- **July 1, 2026 – Draft Agenda**

-Commissioner Colm Willis

Summary of Presentation:

- Reviewed upcoming agenda.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS and UPDATE

Commissioner Danielle Bethell

- N/A

Commissioner Kevin Cameron

- N/A

Commissioner Colm Willis

- N/A

Other

Safety Compass

-Commissioner Danielle Bethell

Summary of Presentation:

- Have contracts with Clackamas and Washington counties to house their youth.
- Both have contracts with Safety Compass for sex and human trafficking services.
- Contract language appears to limit Safety Compass services to youth within those counties' geographic boundaries:
 - Creating an issue when their youth are held in Marion County's facility.
- Emails sent to chairs of Clackamas and Washington regarding amendments:
 - For services to be given to their youth when in Marion County.
- Juvenile alerted so they understand context if contacted about these amendments.

Board Direction:

- Informational.

Tree Removal Resident Compliant

-Brian Nicholas

Summary of Presentation:

- South Salem resident submitted multiple emails and formal complaint claiming county cut down her trees and caused loss of privacy:
 - Headlights visible at night.
- Trees and brush were within county right-of-way on Viewcrest Road.
- Trimmed back for line of sight and traffic safety on high speed, curving segment.
- Door hanger notice placed several months before work:
 - Offering owner chance to address trees herself.
- Report neighbor conflict, including claiming hearing gunshots directed toward them:
 - Resident is very upset and disputes the county's actions.
- Visuals show house is well set back from road:
 - Internal vegetation remaining on property side of trees.
- Public Works stated this was safety driven, standard practice operation:
 - Not an arbitrary removal.

Board Direction:

- Affirm county has legal duty to maintain safe sight distance within road right-of-way.
- Respond formally to resident:
 - The safety rationale.
 - The right of way authority.
 - That prior notice was provided.
- Continue current safety practices:
 - Consider reinforcing communication process where feasible.

Letter to U.Ss Army Corps of Engineers

-Steve Elzinga

Summary of Presentation:

- Presented red-lined draft letter regarding plans for Detroit Lake.
- Previously directed that letter clearly oppose any deep drawdown of lake in 2026.
- Updated wording:
 - Requests to cancel any deep drawdown or draining of Detroit Lake in 2026.
 - Asks to reevaluate future plans after collecting and analyzing relevant data.
- Edits remove references that might imply acceptance of partial drawdowns:
 - The intent is to oppose deep drawdown outright.
- Chinook counts and data accuracy, checked against actual numbers before citing.

Board Direction:

- Approve to move forward with letter.
- Finalize letter text and circulate clean final version.
- Share with partner organizations interested in signing or supporting it.

U.S. Department of Education – Chemeketa Letter of Support for Grant

- Jon Heynen

Summary of Presentation:

- Grant focused on basic needs for post-secondary students:
 - Housing stability.
- County's role would be supportive only, not as direct grantee.
- Does not affect county's own CDBG allocation:
 - Formula based.
- County previously provided local funding to Chemeka.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward:
- For any future or parallel local funding requests from Chemeka:
 - Require sufficient budget transparency before committing more funds.
- Want to be aware of any continued or overlapping requests.

Adjourned – time: 10:13 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White