



**MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Minutes

Thursday, June 18, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 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: Trevor Lane, Toni Whitler, Matt Lawyer, Kendall Hall, and Gary White.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.

Public Works: Lani Radtke.

Health and Human Services (HHS): Alys Anderson, Rhett Martin, Diana Lee, and Lyndsie Schwarz.

Clerk: Bill Burgess, Frank Milton and Rebekah Stern Doll.

Sheriff's Office: Jeremy Landers and Nick Hunter.

Information Technology (IT): Gary Christofferson

Marion County Courts: Janalee Weitman

Commissioner Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Informational

1. Initial Board Review Clerk's Office -

- **Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for Records Loan to Marion County**

- **Bluecrest Elevate 1 Ballot Sorter Contract End**

-Clerk's Bill Burgess, Frank Milton, and Rebekah Stern Doll

Summary of Presentation:

- IGA for Records Loan to Marion County:
 - Proposed IGA with Secretary of State to temporarily borrow three historic volumes (1850–1888) from state archives.
 - Purpose is to digitize about 741 pages and make them accessible to public and researchers through county systems.
 - No cost to county.
 - Original books will be returned to state after digitization.
- Bluecrest Elevate 1 Ballot Sorter Contract End:
 - Existing 10-year-old ballot envelope sorter is at the end of its contract term.
 - Increasing mechanical and reliability problems:
 - Including 2024 incident where about 3,500 envelopes missorted and were reprocessed manually, delaying signature cure notifications.
 - Vendor has struggled to deliver Windows 11 upgrade.
 - System is election critical and must remain on supported software.
 - Options:
 - Extend current maintenance.
 - Request for Proposal (RFP) to replace machine and related technology.
 - Evaluate funding/Capital Improvement Project (CIP) implications.

Board Direction:

- IGA for Records Loan to Marion County:
 - Proceed.
- Bluecrest Elevate 1 Ballot Sorter Contract End:
 - Meet with Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) regarding CIP.
 - Develop RFP.
 - Prepare potential 1-year contract extension.

2. Initial Board Review Sheriff's Office

- **IGA with City of Salem for 2026 Justice Assistance Grant**

-Undersheriff Jeremy Landers

Summary of Presentation:

- Annual funding where City of Salem is primary grantee and county is a subrecipient.
- County's share is \$13,229 out of roughly \$98,000 total.
- Funds will be used for defensive tactics program supports:
 - New mats and instructor training.

Board Direction:

- Proceed.

3. Initial Board Review Public Works

- **Gates Street Improvements Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Revitalization (PIER) Contract with Harper Houf Peterson Righellis (HHPR), Inc.**
- **Contract Amendment #5 with Western Federal Lands Highway Division to Repair Landslide on North Fork Road**

-Lani Radtke

Summary of Presentation:

- Gates Street Improvements PIER Contract with HHPR, Inc:
 - Engineering services contract to continue improvements funded by grant.
 - Location:
 - East Central Street, south side, between Horeb and Oak Streets.
 - HHPR selected following RFP.
 - Negotiated fee is \$372,778.37.
 - Grant is cost reimbursement with state repayment within 30–45 days.
- Contract Amendment #5 with Western Federal Lands Highway Division to Repair Landslide on North Fork Road:
 - Increase funding for ongoing North Fork Road landslide repair project.
 - About \$1.993 million
 - No change to scope:
 - Full funds for construction, construction engineering, and inspection.
 - Project is active.
 - Some secondary slides and public access/compliance managed by traffic control and coordination with Sheriff's Office and Parks.

Board Direction:

- Gates Street Improvements PIER Contract with HHPR, Inc:
 - Proceed on consent.
- Contract Amendment #5 with Western Federal Lands Highway Division to Repair Landslide on North Fork Road:
 - Proceed.
 - Jon Heynan to get press release out.

4. Board Order Establishing the Policy for Requests by Private Parties to Pay County-Maintained Gravel Roads

-Lani Radtke

Summary of Presentation:

- New policy to govern private paving on county-maintained gravel roads.
- Key provisions:
 - Projects must connect to existing asphalt section, at least one direction.:
 - To avoid isolated paved patches.
 - Work must be built to county standards and appropriately engineered.
- Existing requests already advised they must connect to asphalt and meet standards.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

5. Initial Board Review for Marion County Health and Human Services (MCHHS)

- **MCHHS Vendor for Bottled Water Review**
- **Parent Education Grant Applications 26/27 through Early Learning Hub**

-Rhett Martin and Janalee Weitman

Summary of Presentation:

- MCHHS Vendor for Bottled Water Review:
 - Ongoing water turbidity/cloudiness issues at 3180 building despite flushing.
 - Leads to concerns addressed before:
 - Fixture replacement with non-detect results now.
 - Propose renting bottled water dispensers and get bottled water service.
- Parent Education Grant Applications 26/27 through Early Learning Hub:
 - Request to apply for \$7,500 in supplemental Parent Education Grant funding:
 - \$2,500 per quarter for three quarters.
 - Supports Family Treatment Court parenting classes:
 - Families with open DHS cases and substance use treatment.
 - Attendance incentive, food, and prosocial family events at the end of quarter.
 - Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) funds cover curriculum and facilitator:
 - Cannot pay for food/incentives.
 - Hub grant fills this gap.
 - Coordination with existing MCHHS parenting programs recommended.
 - Review Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) requirements before accepting.

Board Direction:

- MCHHS Vendor for Bottled Water Review:
 - Proceed.
- Parent Education Grant Applications 26/27 through Early Learning Hub:
 - Proceed after reviewing DEI requirements.

6. Volunteer Award Recognition Request

-Gary White

Summary of Presentation:

- Provide nominees at Marion County Fair with ice cream cone coupon at Dairy Barn:
 - In addition to existing cake recognition for award winners.
- Estimated cost under \$200-\$300 total:
 - Depending on final quote and number of nominees.
- Potential funding sources, including Board's Office community/Good Neighbor fund.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.
- Need to discuss with CAO regarding funds.

Other

1. Initial Board Review Public Works

- **Spring 2027 Paving Projects**
- **Center Street Bowling Alley Right-of-Way Condemnation Check Request**

-Lani Radtke

Summary of Presentation:

- Spring 2027 Paving Projects:
 - Conceptual list of spring paving projects to be funded from any remaining resurfacing budget after current construction season:
 - Airport Road/Aurora Road intersection:
 - Shared geography with Clackamas County.
 - Marion responsible per IGA.
 - Intersection pavement in poor condition.
 - Grim Road segment near OR 99E/OR 551:
 - Resurfacing and railroad related pavement and guardrail work.
 - Crosby Road segment west of Front Street, north of Woodburn:
 - Dip attributed to suspected culvert failure.
 - To be repaired in coordination with culvert work.
 - Goal is to bundle these into a single bid package if funding allows.
- Center Street Bowling Alley Right-of-Way Condemnation:
 - Condemnation needed to acquire right-of-way on Center Street:
 - For a transportation project.
 - Just compensation deposit must be paid into Circuit Court:
 - About \$169,700.
 - Higher negotiated settlement verbally accepted but never signed by owner:
 - About \$208,000.
 - Delay in acquisition risks project funding and schedule.
 - Condemnation would proceed at lower just compensation value.

Board Direction:

- Spring 2027 Paving Projects:
 - Proceed.
- Center Street Bowling alley Right-of-Way Condemnation Check Request:

A motion was made by Commissioner Bethell and Seconded by Commissioner Cameron to delegate authority to the Chief Administrative Officer to sign a \$169,700 Check request for the Center Street Bowling Alley Right-of-Way Condemnation.

Discussion: None.

Vote:

Commissioner Bethell: Aye.

Commissioner Cameron Aye.

Commissioner Willis Aye.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS and UPDATE

Commissioner Danielle Bethell

- N/A

Commissioner Kevin Cameron

- N/A

Commissioner Colm Willis

- N/A

Other

Made in Marion Letter of Support

-Gary White

Summary of Presentation:

- Two draft outreach letters for upcoming Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) product showcase event:
 - Formal letter for businesses without existing relationships with county.
 - A follow up/less formal version to be used after initial contact.
- Leverage Strategic Economic Development (SEDCOR's) business relationships:
 - Expand "Made in Marion" product showcase.
- Discussion:
 - Staff in Board's Office do bulk of planning and logistics work for event.
 - Concern of giving SEDCOR credit/branding on communications when not leading effort and county's contract with SEDCOR is ending.
 - Allow SEDCOR to help recruit vendors and show value to community:
 - Avoid appearance that they are co-hosting or driving event.

Board Direction:

- Revise letters and remove SEDCOR name and logo.
- Remove any language implying co-hosting.

Travel and Tourism Work Session

-Commissioner Danielle Bethell

Summary of Presentation:

- Revisited concerns of work session on tourism grant program and its applications:
 - Travel Salem requested very large amount of funding twice.
 - Keizer Chamber requested full allocation for one fund:
 - Suggested others would benefit indirectly.
 - Raising equity concerns.
- When new tourism model was created, the intent had been to:
 - Enable Santiam Canyon entities to apply and lead their own initiatives.
 - Avoid canyon community being subsumed under Salem larger organizations.
- Gap was identified in current structure:
 - Defined Salem region and North Marion areas exclude much of the canyon:
 - Sublimity, Stayton, Santiam communities, Jefferson.
- Contact working with Detroit said canyon has needs beyond tourism marketing:
 - Website and social media support.
 - Tools to share information on local businesses, lodging, events, and safety.
 - Communication infrastructure support for those with limited staff and Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) revenue.
- Detroit and similar communities receive Community Prosperity Initiative funds:
 - Detroit's \$15,000/year, reportedly being saved for central gathering space
 - Still lack adequate communication and tourism support capacity.
- Delay until summer or fall causes another season to end without canyon support.
- June 25th work session scheduled:
 - Will review tourism travel grant selections and other topics.
 - Will reexamine applications at this time.
 - Explore canyon-specific funding track/contract.

Board Direction:

- Staff to individually meet with each commissioner:
 - Clarify tourism and canyon support priorities.
- Staff to develop options for:

- Specific grant/contract opportunity for the canyon and related communities.
 - Allow canyon groups to access tourism and communications support directly.
- Proceed with scheduled work session.

Adjourned – time: 10:57 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White