



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Minutes

Tuesday, September 29, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 10:38 a.m.
Commissioners' Boardroom
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Suite 5231
Salem, Oregon 97301

Attendance:

Commissioners: Danielle Bethell and Kevin Cameron.

Board's Office: Matt Lawyer, Jon Heynen, Alvin Klausen, Trevor Lane, Jonathan Sanford, Toni Whitler, Chris Eppley, and Cameron Russell.

Community and Economic Development: Kelli Weese, and Steve Dickey.

District Attorney: Pami Guerra.

Health and Human Services (HHS): Troy Gregg and Debbie Wells.

Information Technology (IT): Gary Christofferson and Steve Brooks.

Legal: Steve Elzinga and Jennifer Rogers.

Public Works (PW): Brian Nicholas and Ryan Crowther.

Sheriff's Office (SO): Sheriff Nick Hunter, Commander Wilkinson, Commander Bernards.

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

Informational

1. Initial Board Review – Multiple Items

1.a. Incoming Funds Contract for Services with St. Paul Rodeo Association – Commander Jason Bernards

Summary of Discussion:

The Sheriff's Office presented a proposed three-year, do-not-exceed contract for law enforcement and security services at the St. Paul Rodeo, covering 2027–2029 and totaling \$315,000. Annual amounts would be \$100,000, \$105,000, and \$110,000, with an option to extend for two additional years; the County would bill for actual costs. Staff reported the prior year's expenses were \$62,300. Commissioners also discussed event safety and traffic management.

Initial Board Review Outcome:

PROCEED – Board Session

Direction & Follow-Up:

Board Session Placement – CONSENT

Return to Management Update Before Board - No

Task: Follow up by email with the requested rodeo expense information.

Assigned To: Jason Bernards
Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

1.b. Facility Usage Agreement with Chemeketa Community College — Commander Matt Wilkinson

Summary of Discussion:

The Sheriff's Office presented a **\$2,640** facility-use agreement for its Crisis Intervention Team training, scheduled for October 19–22, 2026. The annual training addresses responses to mental-health and substance-use crises, de-escalation, and community resources. Commissioner Bethell requested a copy of the curriculum.

Initial Board Review Outcome:

PROCEED – Board Session

Direction & Follow-Up:

Board Session Placement – CONSENT

Task: Provide commissioners with a copy of the CIT training curriculum.

Assigned To: Matt Wilkinson

Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

1.c. Independence Bridge Rehabilitation, DOWL Amendment for Design Load Rating — Ryan Crowther

Summary of Discussion:

Public Works presented an approximately \$33,068 amendment for a load rating of the Willamette River Bridge based on the design plans. ODOT requested that the rating be completed before bidding rather than after construction; approximately 89.73% of the cost would be federally funded, with the County paying the match. Staff said the rating would be required for the project in either case.

Initial Board Review Outcome:

PROCEED – Return to Management Update

Direction & Follow-Up:

Return to Management Update Before Board Session – YES; return with the contract.

1.d. Contract with Legacy Wireless Services, Inc for Tower Climbing and Antenna Installation Services — Brian Nicholas

Summary of Discussion:

Public Works reported that Legacy Wireless, a local company, was selected through a competitive process at approximately **\$3,350 per day**, including vehicles, equipment, hoisting equipment, and consumables. The estimate assumed 75 working days; staff anticipated the work could take longer but did not expect the daily rate to increase. The draft agreement was still undergoing staff review.

Initial Board Review Outcome:

PROCEED – Return to Management Update

Direction & Follow-Up:

Return to Management Update Before Board Session – YES; return with the contract.

Staff anticipated requesting expedited review when the item returned; Board approval of expedited review was not stated.

Task: Return with the full contract.

Assigned To: Brian Nicholas

Deadline/Timeline: The following week

1.d.2. Homeland Security Grant Program – EOC Audiovisual Assessment — Brian Nicholas

Summary of Discussion:

Public Works discussed assessing audiovisual upgrades for the Emergency Operations Center's Willamette Room as a potential homeland security grant project. The immediate request was to engage CVE to assess the room and develop options and estimates. Commissioner Bethell supported beginning the assessment, subject to consultation with Tamra about team capacity and coordination with facilities as appropriate.

Initial Board Review Outcome:

PROCEED – Return to Management Update

Direction & Follow-Up:

Return to Management Update before submitting a grant application.

Task: Consult Tamra about team capacity, engage CVE for the assessment and estimates, and return to the Board before submitting the grant application.

Assigned To: Brian Nicholas

Deadline/Timeline: Before the grant application deadline, identified as the third week of October

1.e. 2026 – 2027 Santiam Hospital Scope Change Request — Steve Dickey

Summary of Discussion:

Staff presented Santiam Hospital's request to replace its previously approved water-well project, which was not feasible because of well-capacity issues, with on-site water storage, sanitation systems, and related plumbing to address an interruption of municipal water service. The hospital indicated it was ready to proceed and had resources for the project. Commissioners expressed support and noted that County funds would be reimbursed only for costs incurred.

Initial Board Review Outcome:

PROCEED – Return to Management Update

Direction & Follow-Up:

Return to Management Update Before Board Session – YES; return with the contract.

2. Oregon Impact High Visibility Enforcement Grant Agreements — Commander Jason Bernards

Summary of Discussion:

The Sheriff's Office reported an award of **\$44,000** for traffic enforcement from October 2026 through September 2027, with a 20% County match provided through in-kind services. Grant-funded overtime enforcement will focus on speeding, distracted driving, impaired driving, and seat-belt use.

Direction & Follow-Up:

The item was identified for **Consent** placement at Board Session.

Task: Provide commissioners the prior year's grant report, including results for the enforcement focus areas.

Assigned To: Jason Bernards
Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

3. Contract for Services with Emelda Wanjiru Nance-Peniel Care Home, LLC to Provide Residential Treatment Home — Jennifer Chun

Summary of Discussion:

The item was pulled from the agenda and was not discussed.

4. Contract for Services with Shangri-La Corporation for Residential Treatment Home — Jennifer Chun

Summary of Discussion:

The item was pulled from the agenda and was not discussed.

5. IGA Amendment #2 with OHA for Financing Community Mental Health Programs — Troy Gregg, Debbie Wells

Summary of Discussion:

Staff reported that the County had revised its budget for the amendment and obtained OHA approval. Commissioners discussed the Civil Commitment Fund and emphasized that County priorities and the local service plan should guide the use of funds. Legal counsel flagged federal language requiring alignment with SAMHSA priorities as posted online, which could change through website updates; Commissioner Bethell said she would pursue advocacy and language for future contract cycles.

Direction & Follow-Up:

The item was identified for **Consent** placement at Board Session.

Task: Work with Jonathan and legal counsel on advocacy and contract language addressing requirements that could change through SAMHSA website updates.

Assigned To: Danielle Bethell

Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

5.1. PacificSource Contract Renewal

Summary of Discussion:

Troy Gregg discussed a proposed change to the PacificSource contract that would make it evergreen and eliminate annual renewal. Commissioners discussed the County's negotiating leverage while it sought approximately **\$400,000** in back-billing and requested further discussion before proceeding with the change.

Direction & Follow-Up:

Task: Arrange a discussion with Troy Gregg, Commissioner Willis, and legal counsel regarding the contract terms, then bring a recommendation to the BOC/CAO.

Assigned To: Troy Gregg

Deadline/Timeline: Early the following week

6. Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation — Pami Guerra

Summary of Discussion:

Pami Guerra requested an opportunity to present the proclamation at the October 7 Board meeting, following the Hands Are Not for Hurting presentation. Commissioner Bethell expressed no objection.

Direction & Follow-Up:

Task: Present the proclamation at the October 7 Board meeting, coordinated with Hands Are Not for Hurting.

Assigned To: Pami Guerra

Deadline/Timeline: October 7, 2026

7. Contract Amendment #3 with Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments and DevNW — Steve Dickey**Summary of Discussion:**

Staff presented amendments to add annual action plan funds to existing agreements for homeowner rehabilitation and home-buyer assistance. Staff explained that DevNW's per-purchase fee is paid only when a home purchase is completed, despite work with applicants who may not ultimately purchase a home. Commissioners requested information on successful and unsuccessful applicants, reasons applicants did not complete purchases, and the Council of Governments' administrative costs.

Direction & Follow-Up:

The item was identified for **Consent** placement at Board Session.

Task: Provide a breakdown of successful and unsuccessful applicants and reasons purchases were not completed, along with the Council of Governments' administrative-cost detail.

Assigned To: Steve Dickey

Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

8. Legislative Update — Alvin Klausen**Summary of Discussion:**

Alvin Klausen presented a draft letter supporting Aurora Airport's request for ODOT Connect Oregon funding to build an internal routing road that would reduce vehicle movement through the airport security gate. Commissioners discussed the project's safety benefits. Commissioner Bethell offered to prepare a letter describing her safety concerns, and Commissioner Cameron asked staff to seek additional support letters.

Direction & Follow-Up:

Task: Follow up with the Sheriff's Office, engineering, and Public Works regarding additional support letters for the airport request.

Assigned To: Alvin Klausen

Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

Task: Prepare a letter describing safety concerns at the airport.

Assigned To: Danielle Bethell

Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

9. Board Session — Commissioner Willis**9.a. September 30, 2026 – Agenda****9.b. October 7, 2026 – Agenda Draft****Summary of Discussion:**

The commissioners briefly described the September 30 Board Session as expected to be straightforward. The transcript does not reflect substantive review of the listed agendas.

Other

10. Contract Purchase Order for Data Center Equipment — Gary Christofferson, Steve Brooks

Summary of Discussion:

Information Technology presented an **\$800,000** purchase order for firewall and switching equipment needed for the County's data-center colocation services and identified it as funded through an approved capital project. Staff distinguished the purchase order from the related state intergovernmental agreement, which was scheduled for Board Session and included monthly space costs of approximately \$3,600.

Direction & Follow-Up:

The item was identified for **Consent** placement at Board Session.

11. Commissioners' Committee Assignments Update

Summary of Discussion:

No discussion of committee assignments is reflected in the transcript.

12. Detroit Lake Lawsuit Update and Press Release

Summary of Discussion:

Jon Heynen updated the Board on discovery in the Detroit Lake lawsuit. Legal counsel said the Army Corps was arguing it need not provide its administrative record before a ruling on a motion to dismiss; the County had challenged that position. Commissioners reviewed a proposed press release and requested revisions to its opening and to wording attributed to Commissioner Cameron.

Direction & Follow-Up:

Task: Revise the press release opening and adjust the wording attributed to Commissioner Cameron.

Assigned To: Jon Heynen

Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

13. Brooks Water Campus Event

Summary of Discussion:

The Board discussed marking the Brooks Water Campus entering service shortly before Thanksgiving. Commissioners supported holding an event at the County office, with the Board's office coordinating to limit additional work for Public Works and Brian Nicholas attending as available.

Direction & Follow-Up:

Task: Coordinate the event at the County office and arrange for Brian Nicholas to attend.

Assigned To: Jon Heynen

Deadline/Timeline: Around the campus's expected entry into service, shortly before Thanksgiving

14. Hope Pregnancy Center Ribbon-Cutting

Summary of Discussion:

Commissioner Bethell noted that the ribbon-cutting was scheduled for October 15 at 11:00

a.m. and asked Jon Heynen to attend on the County's behalf. Commissioner Cameron said he would attend if available.

Direction & Follow-Up:

Task: Attend the ribbon-cutting and represent the County.

Assigned To: Jon Heynen

Deadline/Timeline: October 15, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

15. Conference Report and Injectable MAT Services

Summary of Discussion:

Commissioner Bethell reported that representatives from 17 states expressed interest in learning about County programs, including the Places program and coordination of medication-assisted treatment services between the jail and Health and Human Services. She also described potential federal funding opportunities and raised questions about the DEA's position on injectable MAT services in jails.

Direction & Follow-Up:

Task: Compile and send commissioners information on the DEA position, including the relevant federal letter and state DOJ response.

Assigned To: Danielle Bethell

Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

16. Travel Salem and Transient Occupancy Tax

Summary of Discussion:

Commissioner Cameron asked Toni Whitler to attend a Travel Salem meeting on his behalf. Participants discussed a possible increase in the local transient occupancy tax and the effect of changes to lodging-tax revenue distribution; no County position was stated.

Direction & Follow-Up:

Task: Attend the Travel Salem meeting and listen on Commissioner Cameron's behalf.

Assigned To: Toni Whitler

Deadline/Timeline: The meeting scheduled for that day

Adjourned – approximately 10:39 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White