



O R E G O N

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Management Update Summary Minutes

August 12, 2025. 9:30 AM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

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

Board's Office: Alvin Klausen, Rand Feres, Chris Eppley, Jon Heynen, Toni Whitler, and Gary White.

Legal Counsel: Scott Norris, and Steven Elzinga.

Community Services: Chip Bury.

Public Works: Kevin Thompson, and Brian Nicholas.

Health and Human Services: Phil Blea, Laura Sprouse, Elisa Martinez, and Kelly Martin.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

INFORMATIONAL:

1. Contract Amendment #9 with Radio Technology Services for Radio Project Services

-Brian Nicholas

Summary of Presentation:

- Design phase is wrapping up.
- Bid documents for site construction will be advertised in about 4-5 weeks.
- Additional budget is needed for the RTS contract to cover the construction phase.
- The amendment will be brought to a board session soon.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

2. Marion County Wildfire Memorial Proposal

-Brian Nicholas

Summary of Presentation:

- Ongoing discussions about creating a memorial after the wildfire.
- Initial request was to rename a park:
 - Parks Commission recommended a memorial instead.
- Consideration of including historical information and involving local tribes in the process.
- Suggestions to split the project into two:
 - A memorial (possibly at North Fork Park).
 - A historical interpretive project (possibly along the rail-to-trail).
- Brainstorm impactful, memorable options and seeking funding sources, including possible tribal contributions.

Board Direction:

- Direct the Parks Commission to pursue both a fire memorial and a historical interpretive project at the same time.
- Ensure involvement of local tribes in the process.
- Set clear timelines for both projects to avoid delays.

3. Suicide Prevention Awareness Proclamation

-Laura Sprouse, Kelly Martin

Summary of Presentation:

- Seeking approval for a proclamation designating September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.
- Planned activities include coffee sleeve outreach, employer training, tabling events, and prevention trainings.
- Data is tracked through hospital ER visits, student health surveys, and internal reporting, though survey changes make year-to-year comparisons challenging.
- Budget for the month is approximately \$1,000–\$2,500, with some costs offset by donations.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.
- Develop a more intentional, data-driven plan for future prevention efforts.
- Establish clear benchmarks and measurable outcomes for public health campaigns.

4. Detroit Marinas Owner's Representative Draft Agreement

-Chip Bury

Summary of Presentation:

- The agreement is ready for signature, retroactive to July 22 and extending to June 2028.
- No substantive changes from previous discussions:
 - The owner's representative has begun work.
- The agreement includes reviewing applications and providing quality control.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

5. City of Salem Stormwater Easement

-Tamra Goettsch

Summary of Presentation:

- Easement is required for a retention pond at the evidence building, allowing the city to maintain the pond if the county fails to do so.
- Concerns raised about the city's ability to access the property and impose costs at its sole discretion.
- Discussion about adding objective criteria and notification requirements to the agreement.
- Legal counsel to negotiate more reasonable terms, especially while the county owns the property.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

- Legal counsel to negotiate more objective standards and notification requirements agreement.

6. Purdue/Sackler Opioid Settlement

-Steve Elzinga

Summary of Presentation:

- New nationwide opioid settlement is available:
 - Structured similarly to previous ones.
- Oregon's share could be up to \$66 million:
 - Marion County's share could be up to \$2.748 million.
- Opting in allows the county to receive funds without litigation.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

7. Consider Reappointment of Alison Kelley to Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council

-Gary White

Summary of Presentation:

- Alison Kelley is up for reappointment to the council and its executive committee.
- Discussion about the council's current focus, including the multidisciplinary Heat Team and coordination among law enforcement and nonprofit providers.
- Noted some frustration among council members about direction and communication

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.
- Summary of the council's focus, direction, and outcomes.

8. Behavioral Health Development Program Update

-Chris Eppley, Gary White

Summary of Presentation:

- Update on funding for the 4002 program:
 - Guaranteed funding has dropped significantly.
 - Additional funds available through a competitive process.
- The state is still determining criteria for phase two funding:
 - A focus on increasing program participation and outreach.
- Need stability in the program and the challenges of meeting new state requirements.

Board Direction:

- Schedule a work session with key partners to develop a budget and application strategy for guaranteed and competitive funding process.
- Board to review submissions before they are sent out.

9. Legislative Update

-Alvin Klausen

Summary of Presentation:

- Polk County's community and family outreach presentation, scheduled for the upcoming board session:
 - Will include a short video and a talk, with a change in speakers noted.

- Inquiry from Zachary at NW Natural regarding the status of the North Santiam pipeline project:
 - Previous direction to fund a \$50,000 scoping study, even without full project funding secured.
 - Clarification needed from NW Natural if they will proceed with the scoping study upon receipt of county funds.
 - Possible funding sources, including economic development, general fund, and wildfire recovery funds.
- Coordination with sewer and pipeline projects to maximize efficiency.
- Reference to a recent email about the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Biological Opinion (BiOp):
 - Additional research is being done, and a presentation will be scheduled.

Board Direction:

- NW Natural Inquiry:
 - Direction to follow up with Zachary and clarify the county's offer and process.
- Update and summary on the governor's proposed Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) legislative package before the next session.
- FEMA Biological Opinion (BiOp):
 - Simplified summary of the BiOp.
 - Confirmation that all board members received the information.
 - Future discussion with legal counsel to determine the county's position.
- Review FEMA priorities outlined in recent communications:
 - Focus on those relevant to the county

10. Board Session Agenda Review

-Commissioner Danielle Bethell

Summary of Presentation:

- Overview of board session agenda.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward

COMMISSIONERS' COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS and UPDATE

Commissioner Danielle Bethell

- 4D Recovery Provider:
 - To offer juvenile substance use treatment and recovery services in the county.
 - Faces a funding gap for its first year:
 - State grant only covers peer support, not clinical staff.
 - Potential opioid settlement use to fund clinical staff for one year until insurance billing is established.
 - No other providers currently offering services for juveniles in the county.
- Request to address youth substance use and crime:
 - Public Safety Coordinating Council to prioritize youth substance use and crime issues:
 - Begin developing related programming.
 - State funding is not available for this, and local action is required.

Commissioner Kevin Cameron

- Visited Mrs. Weesner regarding her road:
 - Previously maintained by the residents.
 - Consider residents providing material and county doing work.
- Mid-Willamette Area Transportation Meeting:
 - Meeting location moved to ODOT.
 - ODOT staff now handle administration.
 - Regional transportation priorities:
 - Dundee Bypass, Brooks Interchange, and 551 in Polk County.
 - Brooks Interchange remains a long-term priority project.
 - Winter access to Detroit and related ODOT service changes.
- Arlington Landfill Tour:
 - Overview of waste management operations and future options.
 - Upcoming meetings with stakeholders to discuss management strategies.
 - Potential new technology for waste-to-energy facility:
 - Individual briefings to be scheduled for board members.

Commissioner Colm Willis

- Will discuss the marina excavation project in a future meeting.

Other

Adjourned – time: 10:47 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White