

MINUTES FOR THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
STATE OF OREGON, COUNTY OF JACKSON
STAFF MEETING HELD ON
OCTOBER 28, 2021

The Board of Commissioners' Staff Meeting was opened by Commissioner Rick Dyer on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. by videoconference. Those participating were:

Rick Dyer, Chair
Dave Dotterer, Commissioner
Colleen Roberts, Commissioner
Danny Jordan, County Administrator
Joel Benton, County Counsel
Kacie Kinney, Recording Secretary
Members of the Public and Press

1. *Input From County Counsel*
Mr. Benton had nothing to report.

2. *Input From County Administrator*
 - a. *Review Agenda Items for the November 3, 2021, BoC Regular Meeting*
Mr. Jordan reviewed the agenda (*Submission No. 1*) and there were no changes.

3. *Discussion of a Letter of Scoping Comments Regarding the Rogue Gold Vegetation Management Project – Joel Benton, County Counsel*
Mr. Benton explained that the County received a notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is looking at the Rogue Gold Vegetation Management Project and is providing an opportunity for comment regarding scoping. He explained that the initial impression is that the Project would include commercial harvest, fire-related vegetation work, road repairs, and building of permanent and/or temporary roads to facilitate and complete the work. Mr. Benton said that, historically, the Board likes to provide comments; He wrote a letter (*Submission No. 2*) based on items that the Board had previously focused on. There was additional discussion about the content of the letter presented. Commissioner Dyer feels that the letter reiterates the Board's policy position and continues to remind BLM that the County is paying attention. Mr. Benton also said that this will ensure that the County receives updates regarding the Project. Commissioner Roberts said that she really appreciates the letter and said that she reached out to BLM to discuss how many acres are in the harvest land base and how many of those are Oregon and California (O&C) lands. Mr. Jordan said that, normally, he would have brought this item before the Board to discuss prior to drafting the letter; however, the deadline for submitting the scoping comments is tomorrow. The Board agreed that the letter is well written and represents the Board's positions well.

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve the letter as presented. Commissioner Dotterer seconded the motion. Those who voted aye: Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Dotterer, and Commissioner Dyer. Motion passed.

Following the motion and roll call vote, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Dotterer, and Commissioner Dyer each authorized the use of his/her electronic signature on the letter presented, pursuant to Order No. 1-21.

Commissioner Roberts requested that a copy of the signed letter be sent to Mr. Rocky McVay, Executive Director, Association of O&C Counties.

4. *Discussion Regarding a Letter of Congratulations for an Eagle Scout Rank Recipient*
Commissioner Dyer said that he is not sure if the recipient noted in the letter (*Submission No. 3*) is the first or second female to earn this honor, but that it is very impressive. He also spoke about the rigorous regimen that is required to reach this rank and that the accomplishment is always worthy of recognition. Commissioner Roberts agreed and said that the letter is very well written.

Commissioner Dotterer made a motion to approve the letter as presented. Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. Those who voted aye: Commissioner Dotterer, Commissioner Roberts, and Commissioner Dyer. Motion passed.

After approval of the letter, the Board agreed that they would like to individually sign the letter after today's meeting.

5. *Discussion of a Request by Association of Oregon Counties for Participation in Product Tasting Event*
Commissioner Dyer spoke about the Product Tasting Event (*Submission No. 4*) that the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) has regularly held, and that the County normally declines. Mr. Jordan said that he wanted to make sure that the current Board still agrees with not participating, and will be declining the opportunity. He explained that the Board would essentially be soliciting donations from companies that have a legislative or administrative interest in the County, or each Commissioner would have to provide the items themselves. Mr. Jordan feels that it conflicts with ethics laws and, additionally, he explained the difficulties of past Boards participating in the Event. Commissioner Dyer said that he felt it was okay for it to be the standing position of the Board to decline to participate in future Product Tasting Events, unless a Commissioner brings it back for discussion. There was additional discussion about the current and past reasons for choosing not to participate in the Event. The Board agreed that they do not have any interest in participating.

6. *Discussion Regarding COVID-19*
Mr. Jordan began by explaining that he met with County Human Resources and County Counsel to discuss the new Federal contract requirements, Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidance, and the three ways that the Federal government is enforcing its mandates. He said that he is not ready to discuss these items, and that much of the conversation will have to take place under Executive Session since it will be in regards to labor negotiations.

Mr. Jordan explained that Jackson County Public Health is working with the State to set up additional mobile COVID-19 testing sites. They are trying to find an alternate location for the mobile testing units since the Expo currently has events scheduled on the days that they want to set up the mobile test site. Commissioner Dotterer asked if there is an advantage to the mobile testing

sites. Mr. Jordan said that the local test sites around the community continue to be overwhelmed and the updated Oregon OSHA guidelines could significantly increase the number of COVID-19 tests administered. The additional mobile test sites would provide additional relief to the hospitals and other testing facilities.

Commissioner Dotterrer reported on the ongoing vaccination efforts at the Veterans Administration (VA). Commissioner Dyer spoke about the impact of the VA vaccinations that are not counted in the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) reports, and the dramatic impacts that the Federal mandates could soon have on the State. Commissioner Roberts asked if the details of the Federal mandate have been released yet. Mr. Jordan explained that the information that has been released is in the contracts that the County has been receiving. Mr. Jordan provided examples of contracts that would place vaccination requirements on County employees, or else the County risks losing the contract and funding. There was further discussion about OSHA's requirements and how, even if the County chose not follow the guidelines in the Federal contracts, the County could not ignore OSHA requirements. Mr. Jordan explained that OSHA has not released its guidelines, but the County is starting to see some of their guidelines appear in contracts. He said that they are still working through the details, but there are many driving factors behind the conclusions that the County will have to come to. Commissioner Dyer said that this highlights the untenable situation that the County is being put in and that it rises to a level of coercion. Mr. Jordan said that the County is still researching legal premises around areas that the vaccination mandates may not apply. Commissioner Roberts asked if the religious and medical exemptions and/or exceptions still apply with the Federal contracts and guidelines. Mr. Jordan explained that the exemptions and exceptions are still being recognized; however, what they believe is going to occur is that the individuals that are unvaccinated will be required to take a weekly COVID-19 test. Mr. Benton said that Federal OSHA has been proposing language that businesses with 100 or more employees would be required to follow the criteria of either having their employees vaccinated, or administering weekly COVID-19 tests to those with exemptions or exceptions.

7. *Liaison Committee Reports*

Commissioner Dyer had nothing to report.

Commissioner Roberts reported on attending an Eagle Point City Council meeting.

Commissioner Dotterrer reported on attending a Bear Creek Greenway tour during a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting. He also reported on attending a tour of Anderson Butte and a Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Jordan explained that aha!, operated by ExpressJet, is a new airline with a direct flight from the Rogue Valley International-Medford Airport to the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. The inaugural flight will arrive Tuesday, November 2nd, and Mr. Jerry Brienza, Airport Director, would like to have a Commissioner attend the event. Commissioner Dyer said he would attend the event, but that he may need to leave the Board's Work Session early if the meeting is not completed in time.

Commissioner Dotterrer added that he attended an A Greater Applegate Board meeting and a Local Public Safety Coordinating Council meeting.

At 10:10 a.m., the Board discussed Agenda Item No. 8.

At 10:18 a.m., the Board agreed to return to this Agenda Item No. 7.

Mr. Jordan explained that Representative Pam Marsh held a town hall meeting in regards to marijuana and she had suggested that Mr. Obie Strickler, Chair of the Marijuana Advisory Committee, might be interested in providing a presentation on behalf of Jackson County. Mr. Jordan said that committees do not normally represent County policy positions and he wanted to be sure that Commissioner Roberts was aware.

Mr. Jordan reported that Ms. Ruth Staten, Valuation Manager, Assessor's Office, is retiring. He feels that there is a very short timeline to put a plan in place and he suggested that Commissioner Dyer reach out to Mr. Dave Arrasmith, County Assessor.

At 10:22 a.m., the Board agreed to discuss Agenda Item No. 9.

At 10:31 a.m., the Board agreed to return to this Agenda Item No. 7.

Commissioner Dotterrer said that he looked at Representative Marsh's announcement regarding a town hall meeting and it does say that Mr. Strickler is speaking on behalf of Jackson County, not as an individual grower.

At 10:32 a.m., the Board agreed to discuss Agenda Item No. 10.

8. *Citizen Committee Nominations – Recording Secretary*

Commissioner Dyer referenced information provided to the Board regarding citizen committee nominations (*Submission No. 5*). The Animal Control Advisory Committee recommends the appointment of Ms. Alissa Weaver, and the Jackson County Veterans' Advisory Committee recommends the appointments of Mr. Joey Minear and Mr. Richard Thibodo. The Board agreed to the appointments of Mr. Minear and Mr. Thibodo, as recommended. Commissioner Roberts said that she has concerns about Ms. Weaver filling the Animal Control Advisory Committee vacancy, and does not support the recommendation. She said that it is great that Ms. Weaver attends the meetings as a citizen; however, she feels that there is an agenda that has been pushed by her in the past. Commissioner Dyer said that he agrees that he does not want someone that is going to try and push their own agenda and he informed the Board that it was not a unanimous vote of the committee to recommend Ms. Weaver. He does feel that Ms. Weaver has a lot of credentials and sometimes there are good conversations that take place amongst the Committee and Ms. Weaver. There was additional discussion about the concerns of Ms. Weaver's appointment recommendation. The Board agreed to postpone the appointment of Ms. Weaver to allow more time for additional applicants to respond. Mr. Jordan also recommended that the Board encourage other individuals to apply. The Recording Secretary will prepare the Order appointing Mr. Minear and Mr. Thibodo for approval at a future meeting.

At 10:18 a.m., the Board agreed to return to Agenda Item No. 7.

9. *Discussion of Meeting Schedules for Upcoming Holidays and the Association of Oregon Counties Annual Conference November 16-18*

Commissioner Dyer said that he will not be attending the AOC Annual Conference but is going to attend the Annual Business Meeting virtually. Commissioner Dotterrer and Commissioner Roberts both confirmed that they would be attending the Conference. The Board agreed to cancel all Board meetings from November 16th to November 18th due to the lack of a quorum. If a pressing item

arises, it would be possible to add a meeting back to the morning of November 16th. Commissioner Dyer asked that staff prepare a Board Order canceling the Board's November 17th Regular Meeting. There was a brief discussion about AOC virtual voting during the Annual Business Meeting and the Board's upcoming Budget Committee Meeting.

At 10:31 a.m., the Board agreed to return to Agenda Item No. 7.

10. *Review Calendars – Week of November 1, 2021*
The calendars were reviewed and there were no changes.

11. *Executive Session*
There was nothing for Executive Session.

There being no further business, Commissioner Dyer adjourned the Staff Meeting at 10:33 a.m.

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Rick Dyer
Rick Dyer, Chair

/s/ Dave Dotterer
Dave Dotterer, Commissioner

/s/ Colleen Roberts
Colleen Roberts, Commissioner

/s/ Kacie Kinney
Kacie Kinney, Recorder
Approved on: 11/10/2021

Due to the existing novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the need to promote physical distancing, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners is conducting meetings through electronic and telephonic means. On January 5, 2021, the Board of Commissioners approved Order No. 1-21 authorizing the use of their electronic signatures on Ordinances, Orders, and other documents. Following the motion and roll call vote, Commissioners Dyer, Dotterer and Roberts authorized the use of his/her electronic signature on these minutes of October 28, 2021.