

MINUTES FOR THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
STATE OF OREGON, COUNTY OF JACKSON
STAFF MEETING HELD ON
DECEMBER 23, 2021

The Board of Commissioners' Staff Meeting was opened by Commissioner Rick Dyer on Thursday, December 23, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. by videoconference. Those participating were:

Rick Dyer, Chair
Dave Dotterer, Commissioner
Colleen Roberts, Commissioner
Danny Jordan, County Administrator
Pete Philbrick, Senior Assistant County Counsel
Steve Lambert, Director, Roads and Parks Department
Mike Kuntz, County Engineer, Roads and Parks Department
Jeff Pruitt, Road Maintenance Program Manager, Roads and Parks Department
Ted Zuk, Director, Development Services Department
Shandell Clark, Planning Manager, Development Services Department
Kacie Kinney, Recording Secretary
Members of the Public and Press

1. *Discussion of Proposed Revision to the Department of Land Conservation and Development Transportation Planning Rule – Ted Zuk, Director, Development Services Department; and Steve Lambert, Director, Roads and Parks Department*

Mr. Zuk began by providing a brief background on the Transportation Planning Rule (TPR) (*Submission No. 1*) and actions that were taken to reduce and regulate greenhouse gas emissions while considering climate change impacts. He then discussed the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) and the Oregon Transportation Commission's (OTC) implementation plans for the TPRs. Mr. Kuntz then provided information about the TPR revisions which were published in October 2021. The updated TPR would require local governments in metropolitan areas, including the Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization, to plan for greater development in transit corridors and downtowns where services are located and less driving is necessary. Mr. Kuntz also reviewed the required planning that will be needed for bicyclists and pedestrians, and how it affects future project selection. Ms. Clark then spoke about the climate-friendly areas that will be established in cities within the County. She further explained that the goal is to create compact, high-density locations that promote people to get outside more. Mr. Zuk explained that the County will not be as impacted as the individual cities. He then explained that the climate-friendly areas will need to be 1000 feet wide, which means they will be about 23 acres in size. He also reported that these climate-friendly areas will have no tax base, so there are concerns about where the funding will come from to build and support the climate-friendly areas. Commissioner Dyer said that, at this point, he has more concerns than questions about the TPR.

Mr. Zuk explained that the timeline for designating the climate-friendly areas is very aggressive and would require an amendment to the Jackson County Land Development Ordinance (LDO). Mr. Lambert expressed his concern about the difficulty that each city will have due to the lack of funding. There was additional discussion about requirements of the climate-friendly areas and how each city will be affected, except for Shady Cove and Butte Falls who do not have to participate. Commissioner Dotterer said that he appreciates the insight that has been provided today and that he recently heard similar concerns at a Central Point City Council meeting. Commissioner Dyer said that the TRP is ineffective in this community and is an unfunded mandate. Commissioner Roberts said that, even if it were a funded mandate, there is reason to question the TRP. Mr. Zuk explained that many details are still unknown because the information that has been provided so far is vague. He explained that he wanted the Board to be aware of what is being proposed and that he will come back before the Board once there is more information.

2. *Discussion of Proposed Changes to the Roads Dust Abatement/Soil Stabilization Program – Steve Lambert, Director; Mike Kuntz, County Engineer; and Jeff Pruitt, Road Maintenance Program Manager; Roads and Parks Department*

Mr. Lambert began by explaining that the County currently offers citizens Dust Abatement and Soil Stabilization Programs (*Submission No. 2*). Mr. Kuntz provided historical background on the County Dust Abatement Program and the costs and benefits of the Program. It requires a lot of time and coordination between County employees and County residents. He reviewed the common complaints that are received from residents. Mr. Jordan clarified that the County is proposing to change the Program and allow citizens to pay licensed contractors, from an approved list, in order to continue receiving dust abatement services, instead of the County performing the service. Mr. Pruitt explained the best times of year for providing dust abatement services. Mr. Lambert said that the Soil Stabilization Program will continue and that it is not as affected by weather, nor is it as time sensitive. Commissioner Roberts asked if the list of licensed contractors is ample and prepared. Mr. Kuntz said that the list of contractors is not yet prepared; that they were waiting until after this meeting to do so. Mr. Jordan added that each contractor will have minimum required qualifications. Commissioner Roberts expressed concern that citizens will not have options available to them, and asked how many roads the County previously performed dust abatement services on. Mr. Kuntz estimated that it was about 60 miles total. There was additional discussion about the difficulties in the County completing dust abatement services with the current staffing shortages. The Board supported the changes in the Dust Abatement and Soil Stabilization Programs. Commissioner Dyer thanked Mr. Lambert, Mr. Kuntz, and Mr. Pruitt for the presentation.

3. *Input From County Counsel*

Mr. Philbrick had nothing to report.

4. *Input From County Administrator*

a. *Review Agenda Items for the December 29, 2021, BoC Regular Meeting*

Mr. Jordan reviewed the agenda (*Submission No. 3*) and there were no changes.

5. *Discussion of Vacancies on the Jackson County Fair Board – Colleen Roberts, Commissioner*

Commissioner Roberts reported on the recent Jackson County Fair Board (Fair Board) meeting and the additional member applications and resignation (*Submission No. 4*) that were received. Commissioner Dotterer asked if the Board thought that Ms. Kimberly Clarkpugsley, Fair Board applicant, should be removed from consideration, to allow for wider-spread citizen involvement, since she was recently approved for the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory

Committee. Both Commissioners Dyer and Roberts believe that Ms. Clarkpugsley's application should still be considered. Mr. Jordan said that he believes a decision needs to be made by the current Board of Commissioners on how many terms Fair Board members will be allowed to serve. Commissioner Roberts stated that three terms is ample and will also help prevent the previous longevity issues from reoccurring. She also expressed that some longevity does help the Fair Board. There was additional discussion about the importance of training new Fair Board members while there are still experienced members serving.

Commissioner Dyer said that he would like to wait a couple more weeks to see if more applications are received, then schedule interviews with the applicants. Commissioner Dotterrer asked if the maximum number of terms that a Fair Board member could serve is going to be three terms. Mr. Jordan said that, if that is the Board's position, then a Board Order can be prepared. The Board agreed to review the Fair Board applications at the Board's Work Session on January 18, 2022, followed by interviews during the Board's Staff Meeting on January 20, 2022. There was a brief discussion about the ways that each Commissioner will be acknowledging the many accomplishments of Mr. Jim Teece, current Fair Board member, whose third term expires at the end of this year.

6. *Emergency Management Update*

Mr. Jordan began by explaining that there have been a lot of citizens inquiring about the responsibilities of Jackson County Emergency Management with regard to the winter weather. He provided a brief weather report and discussed the impacts on the Roads Program. Mr. Jordan outlined the different responsibilities of the Oregon Department of Transportation and the cities. There was a brief discussion about the predicted snowstorm that could heavily affect Jackson County during the Christmas holiday. Due to the increasingly cold weather, cities will be coordinating the operation of cold weather shelters; this is not an operation that Jackson County Emergency Management coordinates. Commissioner Roberts commented on how wonderful the Roads Program staff have been over the past years.

Mr. Jordan reported on the onboarding of two new employees to Emergency Management. He provided a brief background on each of the new employees and how their backgrounds fit into emergency management. He also provided a brief update on the Citizen Alert system and message translation issues. The County is looking into different translation services to provide translated messages with accurate urgency. Mr. Jordan reported that Ms. Holly Powers, Jackson County Emergency Manager, is continuing to make progress with training individual cities on the Citizen Alert system. There was a brief discussion about changes that were made to evacuation zones.

7. *Discussion Regarding Fires and Fire Recovery*

Mr. Jordan provided an update on the State's request for an extension on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Direct Housing Mission. He explained that FEMA approved the request and has extended the Direct Housing Mission through September 22, 2022; however, beginning in April 2022, FEMA will begin charging fair market value rent to occupants living in the transportable temporary housing units (TTHU). If citizens show proof of hardship, their rent could be lowered to \$50 per month. Mr. Jordan said that 131 occupants have expressed interest in purchasing their TTHU, and 15 occupants are not interested. He also explained that FEMA is not interested in discussing the Donations Program until after all sales are complete. He then reviewed the criteria that would disqualify a TTHU from the Donations Program. There was a brief discussion about the local Veterans' Administration (VA) possibly being able to accept some of

the TTHUs from the Donation Program. Commissioner Dotterer will reach out to the VA and confirm that they have FEMA's contact information.

8. *Discussion Regarding COVID-19*

Mr. Jordan provided an update on new positive COVID-19 case numbers, deaths, and hospitalizations. Commissioner Dyer referenced a recent news article about the Omicron variant, which was reported to be one-third as likely to lead to hospitalization in positively diagnosed patients. Mr. Jordan also referenced recent new articles and studies which indicate there could be super-immunity for vaccinated people that have also had breakthrough cases.

9. *Liaison Committee Reports*

Commissioner Dotterer reported on attending meetings of the Central Point City Council and the Ashland City Council.

Commissioner Roberts reported on attending the Association of Oregon and California Counties Annual Meeting and a Fair Board meeting.

Commissioner Dyer reported on participating in an Oregon Health Authority mental health recertification interview.

10. *Citizen Committee Nominations – Recording Secretary*

Commissioner Dyer referenced information provided to the Board regarding citizen committee nominations (*Submission No. 5*). The Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee recommends the appointments of Mr. Jason McCauley and Ms. Mary Wallis. Commissioner Roberts asked if the applicants were interviewed by the Committee. Commissioner Dyer confirmed that each of the applicants was present during the interview process and there was a tie during voting for the second vacancy, between Mr. McCauley and Ms. Carol Heikkila. The Board agreed to the appointments as recommended. The Recording Secretary will prepare the Orders for approval at a future meeting.

11. *Review Calendars – Week of December 27, 2021*

The calendars were reviewed and there were no changes. Mr. Jordan explained that while he is out of the office next Thursday, and the following Monday and Tuesday, Mr. Harvey Bragg, Senior Deputy County Administrator, will be covering the Board's meetings. There was also a brief discussion about upcoming Board meetings.

12. *Executive Session*

There was nothing for Executive Session.

There being no further business, Commissioner Dyer adjourned the Staff Meeting at 11:52 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

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 December 23, 2021.

/s/ Kacie Kinney

Kacie Kinney, Recorder

Approved on: 01/05/2022