

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

WORK SESSION MINUTES

July 20, 2010

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled work session at 10:00 a.m. with Commissioner Earl Fisher and Commissioner Rita Bernhard, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary. Commissioner Hyde was not present.

Commissioner Fisher called the meeting to order.

INCREASE IN OREGON TORT CLAIM LIMITS:

Sarah addressed the Oregon Tort Claim Limits which increased as of July 1, 2010 to \$1,066,700. The Risk Management Committee (RMC) has looked at how to address this and the initial recommendation was to increase our general comprehensive liability requirements throughout the county to \$1,066,700, which is the new limit.

There are some problems with implementing this because most insurance companies don't issue insurance in increments of \$66,000, so in some cases it has to be bumped up to \$2 million however there might be others that can get the \$1.5 million level.

After another review by the RMC, they felt that the \$1.5 million should be included in the policy. The personal services contracts, use of county property and parks, etc. all require general comprehensive liability insurance. This is up to the Board, but Sarah feels the best way to handle this is to simply require a \$1.5 million. There is no need for a decision today, but this does need to be dealt with fairly soon. In the interim, she is just using the \$1.5 million on current contracts.

The other issue is related to use of County property and Parks. They are finding it difficult to bump people up to the \$1.5 million. There is a "tulip" insurance policy available whereby people can buy "event" insurance, however that's capped at \$1 million. So the Parks Department and Dave Hill recommended to the RMC that the increase of the Tort Claims Limit be waived for use of county property and parks. The RMC agreed that we should keep it a \$1 million. If the Board is in favor of waiving that additional insurance requirement for use of county property then Sarah will write that into policy for Board review and approval.

SCAPPOOSE BAY WATERSHED COUNCIL:

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Janelle St. Pierre, SBWC, came before the Board to give an annual report on their program activities. In 2009, the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council continued its mission of supporting the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds by serving as a source of information about the watershed and by coordinating restoration and enhancement efforts among watershed stakeholders. The Council's activities in 2009 included restoration and enhancement of creeks and natural areas in Columbia County, data gathering, community involvement, fundraising, and partnering with watershed stakeholders. They are in the process of implementing their 5-year strategic plan (2008-2010). In 2009, the SBWC was able to successfully bring in \$740,754 in grant funds. About half of the funding went to support on-the-ground projects and a quarter to monitoring and project planning. The remaining funds are split between organizational support and community involvement. The economic multiplier for the restoration work is estimated to be between \$445,000 and \$1,800,000. General discussion was held on the various projects.

While present, Janelle invited the Board to an onsite tour of projects sometime in September. She will get some potential dates to Jan to determine what works best for the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(d)(h):

This was carried over to the 7/21/10 Staff meeting.

With nothing further coming before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 20th day of July, 2010.

NOTE: A tape of this meeting is available for purchase by the public or interested parties.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____ Not Present

Anthony Hyde, Chair

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Recording Secretary:

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

By: _____

Rita Bernhard, Commissioner