

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

STAFF MEETING MINUTES

May 27, 2015

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Henry Heimuller, Commissioner Anthony Hyde and Commissioner Earl Fisher.

Commissioner Heimuller called the meeting to order.

TRANSIT DISCUSSION:

The Board held general discussion on the future of funding for CC Rider with the failure of the funding measure. No decisions were made.

INTERVIEW KIM BUNNELL:

The Board met with Kim Bunnell to interview her for an open position on the Columbia County Planning Commission. After the interview was over, the Board discussed their options for appointments, after which, *Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to appoint Kim Bunnell to the full time position and Claudia Frace to the alternate position on the Columbia County Planning Commission. The motion carried unanimously.*

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

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(d)(h). Upon coming out of Executive Session, *Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to deny the Westfall grievance and directed Jean Ripa to send their decision in writing. The motion carried unanimously.*

SALLE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT:

Jean Ripa addressed the employee contract with Steve Salle and after a brief discussion, *Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Heimuller seconded to approve the Employment Contract with Steve Salle. The motion carried unanimously.*

CCDA INSURANCE PROPOSAL FROM BROWN & BROWN NW:

Dave Hill and Jean Ripa met briefly with the Board regarding renewal of the insurance policy with Brown and Brown Northwest. The Board had reviewed the proposal and would prefer to meet with Brown and Brown to discuss their proposal before taking any action. Dave will make those arrangements.

AMENDMENT 11 TO SITE CERTIFICATE TO EXPAND MIST GAS STORAGE:

Glen Higgins was present, along with Robin McIntyre to discuss Amendment #11 to the Site Certificate to Expand the Mist Underground Gas Storage Facility Related. Glen reviewed the staff report to the Board. Applications to County to Approve 4 Injection/Withdrawal Gas Wells (CU 15-10). The County has received a public notice from the State Department of Energy regarding a request by Northwest Natural Gas Co.(NWN) to amend its current Mist Underground Natural Gas Storage Site Certificate by extending into a new area to the north of the present area. Glen provided copies for Board review. Comments are due by June 8, 2015. The Adams Storage reservoir is the first of three potential storage areas for this extension. The Energy Facilities Siting Council (EFSC) has jurisdiction for permitting this expansion through Mist Storage Site Certification Amendment #11. The State DOGAMI has the permitting jurisdiction for the subsurface gas well drilling. The State DOE administers and provides staff for the EFSC under the guiding Code of Federal Regulation and State OAR for siting regional energy facilities. NWN has submitted Site Certificate Amendment #11 to the Oregon DOE and proposes to develop the Adams reservoir as a new underground natural gas storage area, to install injection/withdrawal wells, transmission lines to a new compressor facility, and construct an approximately 13 mile long, up to 24" diameter, natural gas transmission line between the compressor station and Port Westward

Industrial Park.

NWN submitted a Conditional Use Permit application (CU 15-10) to Columbia County for drilling of four new injection/withdrawal wells and one monitoring well in the proposed expansion area. The four I/W wells are on a single pad of about three acres next to an existing logging road and the monitoring well pad will be about a mile or more to the east. The proposed compressor station will be in the approximate area as the four I/W wells. The Staff Report for CU 15-10 recommends conditional approval.

Planning Staff has drafted comments in the format desired by DOE. The County's land use substantial criteria listed in the amendment application has been correctly identified and adequately addressed. A statement confirming this finding should be included in the comments. In addition, LDS will require a Building Permit for the new Compressor Station structure; and, a Flood Plain Development Permit is required for transmission line development within a the flood hazard area, prior to entering the Beaver Drainage District. Staff has some concerns about the lack of a sufficient Safety Plan in case of an emergency, not addressed in the amendment application. The new gas transmission line will take advantage of existing right-of-ways to the greatest extent possible. Other issues which the Board may want to consider is impacts to public ROWs, particularly those owned by the County.

Discussion was held on the comment process requested by DOE. Staff believes that the applicant had adequately addressed all of the correct land use criteria. Commissioner Hyde said that he has invited NWN to talk to the Board next week about the Site Certificate Amendment #11, and Robin and Glen should plan to attend. We will develop the County's comments at that time.

REQUEST TGM GRANT APPLICATION:

Michael Ray, CC Rider, approached the Board regarding his request for approval to

submit a Transportation Growth Management grant application to ODOT. This grant funding would be used to update the Columbia County Community-Wide Transit Plan and US 30 Transit Access Plan. This is information only at this time as Robin McIntyre is preparing a Resolution of Support for Board consideration next week.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 27th day of May, 2015.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Henry Heimuller,

Chair

By _____

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: _____
Earl Fisher,

Commissioner
By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh
Board Office Administrator