

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

STAFF MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 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.

CONFERENCE CALL WITH O&C BOARD MEMBERS:

As Board President of the O&C Counties, Commissioner Hyde chaired a conference call with the members of the O&C Board, along with Commissioner Heimuller and Commissioner Fisher. Following is the discussion held on the BLM Forest Management Plan. Commissioner Hyde stated that the Federal Government is planning to leave the O&C Counties high and dry once again, and it is just not acceptable. The law states that O&C lands are to be managed for sustained yield timber production to produce revenue for the counties and support jobs in our rural communities. The BLM's plans mostly ignore these legal requirements. Much more is possible to simultaneously produce economic and environmental benefits, but the BLM did not even analyze or consider these more balanced options. The O&C Association's comments provide positive suggestions and ask the BLM to formulate new alternatives that address the Association's concerns, which the BLM would then analyze and publish in a supplemental draft EIS. Among the many concerns expressed in the Association's comments filed with the BLM Thursday are:

- The BLM failed to recognize the legal requirements for the O&C forest under principles of sustained yield to generate revenue for the Counties.
- The BLM failed to prioritize forest resiliency treatments to address fire risk in SW Oregon. Emphasizing fire treatments would protect the resources while maintaining infrastructure in SW Oregon and improving the regional distribution of jobs.

- All alternatives considered by the BLM would designate excessively large reserves, precluding sustained yield management on 68 to 86% of the O&C forest as upfront decisions without demonstrated need.
- Sustained yield management can take many forms from high yield timber production to long rotations that maintain high levels of late-successional forest at the landscape level. The BLM failed to analyze using long rotations across a broader landscape as a way to simultaneously produce high quality wildlife habitat and adequate economic benefits.
- The DEIS did not disclose many important facts on the land use allocations and harvest that are important to understand what is being proposed and the likelihood that projected harvests will actually be achieved.
- The BLM will not resolve the overlap and doubling up of constraints between the BLM's plans and spotted owl regulatory policies. This a major concern for certainty in implementation and casts doubt on the BLM's forecast of payment levels to Counties.
- BLM's preferred alternative is forecast to initially provide \$36 million dollars for Counties, which is just 27% of historic payment levels. The forecasted payment levels would then decline to even lower levels in future years.

After lengthy discussion, Rocky McVay was directed to prepare a summary of the Association's comments to be submitted to BLM with regards to the Western Oregon Draft Resource Management Plan. A copy will be sent out to all Association counties next week.

INTERVIEW STEVE PLANCHON - LANDS CONSULTANT:

The Board met with Steve and Shannon Planchon, of Planchon Consulting to interview for the administration services for natural gas resources and real property for Columbia County. They responded to a scenario given for renewing a DSL lease. The Board felt impressed with their answers and, at this time, *Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Fisher seconded to tentatively approve a contract with Steve & Shannon Planchon, with Planchon Consulting for Natural Gas Resource and Real Property Administration Services. The motion carried unanimously.*

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 19th day of August, 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