

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BOARD MEETING

WORK SESSION MINUTES

January 30, 2019

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Henry Heimuller, Commissioner Margaret Magruder and Commissioner Alex Tardif.

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Doug Hayes, Port of St. Helens was present to give the Board an update on Port activities.

MEET WITH OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION:

The Board met with Jan Hunt and others from the Oregon Parks & Recreation, to talk about the proposed Nehalem Scenic Waterway Management Plan. They presented a PowerPoint presentation to detail what is involved with putting this plan together. Discussion was held on the details of the plan.

GABLE ROAD PROJECT UPDATE:

Mike Russell and Tristan Wood, Road Department, were present to update the Board on the Gable Road project.

Tristan Wood, Assistant Public Works Director and Michael Russell, Public Works Director came before the Board to discuss and update the Commissioners on the Gable Road Sidewalk and Bike Lane Improvement Project. Currently the County is negotiating ROW with residents along the project. Negotiations are going well, residents are asking the questions you would expect on a project of this size. Discussed timeline of project and how certain features of the project will be completed this summer and possible construction completion would move into summer of 2020.

Also discussed was the upcoming All Road Transportation Safety project which will clear hazards within the right-of-way along Scappoose-Vernonia Hwy and Apiary Road. The agreement was presented to Public Works, Tristan and Robin McIntyre Assistant County Counsel briefed the Board that the termination language is a little different where both parties, County and State have to agree to terminate the project. This will be on the Consent Agenda February 4th for approval.

Michael updated the Board on the work the maintenance crews are doing on Scappoose-Vernonia HWY at MP 20.1 currently. The work is to place a catch basin at the inlet of a culvert that drains into Scappoose Creek, and also replace a steel culvert with a new culvert. This work has been sensitive to area residents as the water flow is

from a wetland. Past years this culvert has become plugged to the point that multiple homes and properties each winter were being flooded for months at a time.

HOMELAND SECURITY AGREEMENTS #18-212 & #18-213:

Steve Pegram, EOC, came before the Board to request approval of EMPG Grant Agreements #18-212 and #18-213. After a brief review and explanation of the agreements, the Board will have them added to the next consent agenda for approval.

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTER:

Mike Paul, Public Health Coordinator, updated the Board on the regional measles outbreak and discussion followed.

Mike informed the Board that he has a meeting with the Oregon Health Authority on 1/31/2019 to discuss minimum standards at three of the four school-based health centers and reviewed the findings in recent compliance reports. He has a meeting set to meet with Columbia Health Services' Coordinator on Monday.

Mike then reviewed a proposal to collaborate with regional partners to develop a Regional Health Improvement Plan. The proposal is for the Rede Group (consultant) to convene and develop the plan by June 30, 2019. There will be no cost to County, but the partners request the County be a signatory to a Letter of Agreement, and that the County participate in developing the priorities in the health improvement plan. Discussion followed. Commissioners approved of collaboration and directed Counsel to review the Letter of Agreement.

CONTRACT WITH SOIL & WATER:

Casey Garrett and Jean Ripa met with the Board to discuss a proposed General Services staffing agreement between the County and the Columbia Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). SWCD recently wrote a letter to General Services asking if the County would consider providing facilities maintenance support at their St. Helens office space for an agreed upon fee. Jean expressed several concerns to the Board that would have to be evaluated further before pursuing this type of agreement, and she strongly advised against it. Jean's primary concerns were focused on insurance liabilities and potential rate increases, labor union issues that may arise from working for other non-represented entities, and whether our current staffing had the capacity to take on additional work. Casey communicated that he did not think the additional workload was much of a concern, since the SWCD building is relatively small and a new facility. He also explained that he did not anticipate generating very much revenue from this particular proposition, but thought there may be potential to fund an additional staff person if the County sought similar arrangements with other public entities. After additional discussion, and hearing the ideas and concerns brought before them, the consensus of the Board was to not move forward with the SWCD proposal at this time,

since significant resources would be spent for further evaluation of risks and the anticipated revenue generation would be minimal. No action was taken.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 30th day of January, 2019.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Henry Heimuller, Chair

By: _____
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

By: _____
Alex Tardif, Commissioner

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh
Board Office Administrator