

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON
Wednesday, July 1, 2026, 1:00 p.m.
Hybrid from the
John Gumm Building and Civic Center in
St. Helens, Oregon

WORK SESSION

Present: Commissioner Kellie Jo Smith, Commissioner Margaret Magruder, Commissioner Casey Garrett, Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, and Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Smith called this meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

APPROVE AGENDA

- Commissioner Garrett moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Magruder seconded. **Vote:** MM & CG all in favor. Motion Approved.

INTRODUCTION MEETING

1. Andrew Jauhiainen, Field Representative for Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici.

Newly appointed Field Representative Andrew Jauhiainen introduced himself and expressed his eagerness to understand local issues and assist with federal funding opportunities. Discussion included recent developments in federal funding, specifically a significant \$4 million EPA brownfield grant awarded to the Port of Columbia County for environmental cleanup.

The commissioners addressed the challenges they faced in getting support for critical projects, such as renewable energy initiatives, and the need for federal assistance. They highlighted delays in environmental impact statements and the importance of fiber broadband access for underserved areas, emphasizing the ongoing challenges with utility infrastructure and electricity availability. The meeting focused on collaboration to enhance community preparedness and support for various infrastructure projects.

ADMINISTRATOR BOARD MATTERS

Commissioner Garrett is getting ready to attend the Annual NACo conference in New Orleans. The Opening Ceremony for the 2026 Annual County Fair will be held at noon on July 15, 2026. Jacyn will add the dates and times for the volunteer dinner and rodeo to the calendars of Commissioner Magruder and Commissioner Smith once they are confirmed.

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BOARD ROUNDTABLE

Commissioner Smith raised the discussion about the county's annual picnic and whether we should hold it this year due to layoffs and mandated furloughs. After the discussion, it was concluded that the picnic could proceed as usual, but given the significant funding cuts, we will need to plan within our budget.

Commissioner Smith also asked about the AOC District 7 meeting scheduled for September in Columbia County, with concerns about the funding. Jacy explained that this is budgeted for and that the funds will come from the team's meeting account or from the economic development account. This meeting rotates each year between Lincoln, Tillamook, Clatsop, and Columbia County.

ADJOURN

With nothing further to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:26 pm.

The recording of this meeting is posted at www.columbiacountyor.gov/meetings

The next regular scheduled meeting is on July 8, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

By: 
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

By: 
Jacyn Normine, Administrator,

By: 
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner