

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON
Wednesday, July 22, 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, Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, and Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator. Commissioner Casey Garrett was not present.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVE AGENDA

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Jaime Aanensen, Public Health Director, and Jessica Kosydar, Emergency Management (EM) Coordinator, came before the Board to give an EM Update. July 1, 2026, the Emergency Management Department moved under the Public Health Department. Jessica Kosydar moved to EM as the full-time coordinator during this interim period.

Communication has been streamlined, with a focus on maintaining the same contact number and consistent business hours under Jessica's management. They are currently finishing up the fiscal year with key tasks such as grants management, including applications for the EMPG grant due in September, and ensuring compliance for funding. The team is also working on several plans, including the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), which is in progress, and the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, which must be updated by February for FEMA funding. The Emergency Operations Center is emphasizing inventory and security needs. Future discussions include an intergovernmental agreement with the HSEMC subcommittee and ongoing planning for emergency preparedness and the Ambulance Service Area (ASA) Ordinance.

Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) is requesting an official document that appoints a person for the role of the EM Program Manager for Columbia County. Commissioner Magruder moved to appoint Jaime Aanensen as the EM Program Manager. Commissioner Smith seconded. **VOTE: KJS/MM all in favor. Motion Approved.**

County Counsel, Sarah Hanson, will draft an Order for next week's consent agenda appointing an administrator of the Columbia County Ambulance Service Ordinance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board recessed the regularly scheduled meeting to enter into executive session pursuant to ORS. 192.660 (2)(f), to consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection, with Spencer Parsons, Sr. Assistant County Counsel.

The Board returned to the regularly scheduled meeting with no action taken.

ADMINISTRATOR BOARD MATTERS

Discussed letter of Support for the Columbia River Nitrogen for the Fertilizer Investment and Expansion for Long-term Domestic Supply Grant through the United States Department of Agriculture. After the discussion, Jacyn will place it on the July 29, 2026, consent agenda for approval.

Jacyn announced she will be out of the office July 29 and returning on August 4, 2026.

Commissioner Garrett is out until July 28.

Jacyn shared a new feature in the portal of our website that breaks down the traffic by department.

The upcoming groundbreaking ceremony for the St. Helens police station, honoring City Administrator John Walsh, is Wednesday, July 29 at 4:00 pm with speeches from local officials.

Means Nursery, as a way to give back to their community, helps the 4-H program and the beautification of the fairgrounds by generously donating flowers, shrubs, trees, hanging baskets, etc. This year the Columbia County Fairgrounds plant sale raised \$54,954.

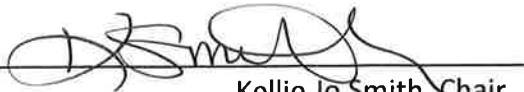
BOARD ROUNDTABLE

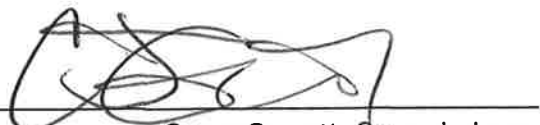
Commissioner Magruder shared that she sent an email to department heads and elected officials as the budget officer, asking that they create a 5-year budget plan. During these challenging times, we need to build resilience.

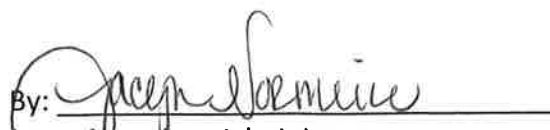
ADJOURN

With nothing further to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned. The recording of this meeting is posted at www.columbiacountyor.gov/meetings. The next regularly scheduled meeting is on July 29, 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