

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 21, 2025, 9 AM**

Present: Nancy Wyse, Chair; Pat Malone, Commissioner; Gabe Shepherd, Commissioner; Vance Croney, County Counsel; Rachel McEneny, County Administrator; Rick Crager, Assistant County Administrator

Elected Officials: Ryan Joslin, District Attorney; Jef Van Arsdall, Sheriff

Staff: Andy Chuinard, April Holland, Rocío Muñoz, Health Services; Maura Kwiatkowski, Board Staff; Sean McGuire, Sustainability; Erika Milo, Board Recorder; Bailey Payne, Petra Schuetz, James Wright, Community Development; Anne Thwaites, Public Information Officer

Guests: Ryann Gleason, Zack Reeves, CFM Advocates; Ken Eklund, Debbie Palmer, Residents; John Harris, Horsepower Productions; Jan Napack, Corvallis City Councilor

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Wyse called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and introductions were made.

2. Review and Approve Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

3. Announcements

No announcements were made.

4. Comments from the Public*

Jan Napack, Corvallis City Councilor. Napack reported living approximately three quarters of a mile from the Kalapuya Building. Napack indicated the observations provided in writing were from January 3, 2025. The first page shows how the water flows from north to south across the old reservoir road and makes a sharp left turn. It does not go under the railroad as Napack believed it should. The volume and swiftness of the water was rather amazing. Napack hoped that information and the other illustrations on the back side of the first page show that what the channel should be

doing is flowing underneath the railroad ballast and then crossing underneath 53rd some distance south of the trestle. Perhaps the engineers could identify a solution to rectify or improve the situation. Napack reported having heard quite a few comments from residents about the situation. Dunaway Creek has a long history. The upper reach was plowed and tiled long ago. There was a shake mill and a log pond. The log pond was cleaned out, and the upper reaches of the creek were revitalized. There are beavers as well. Napack reported last using the road during a medical emergency a long time ago. Napack expressed concern about such a situation recurring for others and would appreciate any opportunity to improve the situation.

Debbie Palmer, Resident: Palmer indicated County Solid Waste Coordinator Bailey Payne's upcoming landfill history presentation mentions improved air quality via landfill gas collection as part of the 1976 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Palmer's remarks would speak to Republic Services and its methane leaks at the dump. In 2022 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made an announced air quality inspection and found so many methane exceedances and violations they ran out of marking flags. One of the leaks was so high it maxed out EPA monitoring equipment explosive levels.

Two years later, in 2024, the EPA made an unannounced inspection and found no improvement; in that case, over 40 exceedance and violations significantly higher than the EPA maximum threshold, including one more than 200 times over the limit. The limit is 500 parts per 1 million by volume. That leak was over 100,000 parts per 1 million. In the inspections, the EPA only walks a fraction of the total surface of the dump. If the landfill is leaking like that all over, there is no reason to think it is magically sealed tight everywhere. But where it was inspected, one begins to see how the graphic Valley Neighbors for Environmental Quality and Safety (VNEQS) presented to the Board last October showing the high figure of climate damaging methane the landfill spews into the atmosphere is not an exaggeration. What is Republic's solution for the methane leaks – install more gas collection wells? Numerous public complaints of landfill gas odor clearly demonstrate that is not working. Methane may be odorless, but it is inextricably mixed with the stinky stuff. The more stink, the more methane is escaping.

Republic Services repeatedly dismisses complaints; in effect, saying individuals all must be lying because Republic does not detect any odor, and everything is operating as it should. Palmer believed it was important for the Board to realize how regularly Republic Services gaslights; a deliberate act to sow confusion and doubt, including denying things that happen or reframing them to fit a chosen narrative. Republic denies the odor; and when confronted about anything else, sticks to the corporate narrative – Coffin Butte Landfill is highly engineered with multiple safety measures in place and meets or exceeds all regulatory requirements. Clearly, what Republic is doing is not working.

The landfill is a ticking environmental and fiscal timebomb. Palmer quoted from The Story of Stuff: "We aren't paying landfill companies to dispose of our trash; we're paying them to turn it into future public health hazards that we'll end up footing the bill for."

{Exhibit 1: Napack Document}

5. Work Session

5.1 State Legislative Calendar – Rick Crager, Assistant County Administrator; Ryann Gleason, Zack Reeves, CFM Advocates

Crager reminded the Board of the beginning of the 2025 legislative session and introduced Ryann Gleason and Zack Reeves from CFM Advocates.

Reeves confirmed January 21 was the first day of the 2025 State legislative session. Democrats have supermajorities in both the House and Senate.

Gleason pointed to interesting dynamics in the House. There is new leadership as well as the return of skilled leadership on the Republican side. Representative Christine Drazen, the Republican leader in the House prior to running against Tina Kotek for the Governor's seat in 2022, has returned to the Legislature as the House Republican leader. There is freshman leadership on the Democratic side, and a bit more skilled leadership on the Republican side of the House.

Reeves indicated the Senate is similar; familiar faces and some new ones. Kate Lieber is a Ways and Means Co-chair. This will be Lieber's first session as Budget Chair in a long session where legislators are tasked with crafting a biennial budget. Senate President Rob Wagner is entering his second long session as Senate President. There was some upheaval in leadership with Senator Casey Jama as the newly elected Senate Majority Leader. Senator Daniel Bonham on the Republican side is the new Senate Minority Leader and is one of several Republican Senators who are term limited from running again due to walkouts in previous legislative sessions. Republicans on the Senate side will be looking at new faces in many roles due to significant turnover because several of the members are unable to run again due to walkouts and the 2022 ballot measure addressing walkouts. With the Benton delegation, Senator Sara Gelser Blouin has been in the Legislature for several terms now. Representative Sarah Finger McDonald's first term has begun with some key committee assignments that may be helpful for Benton County in the transition from former House Speaker Dan Rayfield, who is now Oregon's Attorney General.

Gleason reported a revenue forecast came out in December 2024 showing an estimated \$2.27 billion in additional revenue. Carl Riccadonna, the new State Economist, predicted a kicker and indicated the root cause of the many kickers over the years may have been identified and more reliable forecasts should be available in the future. There are a number of investments the Legislature can make in water, housing, and transportation, and CFM will be advocating for those.

At the Federal level, there are a number of funding sources expiring, including the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. It is not yet clear how Federal funding changes will impact Oregon; a great deal was built into the budget with one-time funding. It will be interesting to see the Legislature's decision-making process relative to

cuts or program reductions, including how General Funds will be allocated to build up those programs moving forward. There will be two more forecasts before the legislative session ends, including one in February and the most important one in May. In 2023, the Legislature saw a massive boost and was able to spend about \$1 billion additional monies in that long session.

Regarding themes for the current session, Reeves indicated priorities will be similar to those of recent sessions. Housing and homelessness continue to be a crisis in the State, and the Governor recently extended the Homelessness State of Emergency. Funding is expected to continue for both temporary shelter to address homelessness and for providing avenues for new housing opportunities statewide. The Governor and Housing Policy Advisor Matthew Tschabold have been working for the last several years to provide opportunities for increased housing. A comprehensive housing bill is expected from the Governor, which will be the top or near top priority. The bill has not yet been introduced, but early versions of it have been reviewed. It will be a fairly comprehensive policy package with some budget requests associated with it. A temporary shelter work group led by Representative Pam Marsh out of Ashland has worked through the interim to provide some avenues forward to address shelter needs statewide.

Gleason noted behavioral health remains a top priority for Governor Kotek and the Legislature. In the 2024 session, House Bill 4022 was passed; however, funding for the bill and all the programs that were set up to support those efforts were not funded in perpetuity. The Legislature will need to consider how to structure funding for deflection and other vital programs that relate to behavioral health. More investments in public defense will also be needed. Nothing was done for youth behavioral health efforts, which was a frustration for a number of legislators and local governments. There is also a cliff relative to education; the Legislature will need to make a massive investment in the State School Fund to avoid significant cuts across the State. A preview of the issue was illuminated in the Portland Public Schools strike just over a year ago. Additionally, the Medicaid tax needs to be renegotiated in the Hospital Provider Tax. All of these conversations will occur over the next six months.

Regarding water issues, Representatives Gomberg, Helm, and Owens have all done excellent work to make water a priority in the state. CFM will be closely tracking a water package. Representative Helm has expressed optimism due to more funding opportunities being available. A water caucus survey was distributed, and CFM is working with some Benton County cities to ensure they complete the survey to be included on the funding list.

Reeves reminded that in 2017, the Legislature passed House Bill 2017, which was an approximate \$5 billion investment in transportation infrastructure that was driven largely by a significant gas tax increase. With the increase in electric vehicles in the last 10 years and the increasing fuel efficiency of vehicles across the State, the gas tax is no longer a sustainable funding mechanism for transportation infrastructure. It would require a sizable gas tax increase in order to achieve numbers close to the last

transportation package. Consequently, the Legislature is looking at a more pared down package this round and working to develop a sustainable model for funding transportation in the future.

The gas tax is becoming increasingly less sustainable and is simply not an efficient way of funding transportation. Also, it does not capture all the users on the road, so there is an equity problem associated with it. Owners of electric vehicles are not contributing to maintaining any sort of transportation infrastructure in the State, so legislators will be looking at a more comprehensive method of funding transportation. However, these are very heavy lifts that require some difficult votes by legislators. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has a sizable budget gap in its own budget, and that needs to be filled for ODOT to continue operating across the State.

Gleason discussed Benton County's legislative priorities. The County has had a great deal of success in securing funding for a variety of priorities over the last several years; and to complete some of that work is prioritizing funding for the Jackson Frazier Boardwalk. The 2025 Capital Construction Project Request Form was issued today, and CFM will submit the County's updated version to the Capital Construction Committee.

The Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP) is not something that we will necessarily be in front of the Legislature. There will be a number of topics CFM is tracking that are relevant to the conversations taking place off to the side, and CFM and the County will want to keep key legislators apprised of how the SMMP is moving forward. CFM is also working with Adair Village on their wastewater treatment plan for which the County provided a letter of support. Over the last few years, State investments have been made in water projects that lead to increased housing. With Governor Kotek's top priority being increasing the number of housing units available in the State, the Executive Office is very focused on larger infrastructure projects. Representative Finger McDonald is the Vice Chair of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, so water is on the list of issues that committee addresses. Representative Gomberg has been playing a key role in the water conversations since they impact that district, which includes a portion of Benton County. There will also be a significant number of bills that impact county operations and essential services. CFM will be keeping a close eye on those bills as the legislative session progresses.

To conclude, Reeves noted that April 9 is the first chamber deadline (bills must be submitted), May 14 is the final economic forecast release date, May 23 is the second chamber deadline, and June 29 is the session adjournment date.

Crager indicated staff is working closely with the Sheriff on projects related to communications and improving the emergency network. Representative Gomberg has said specifically the Legislature will be looking at some form of a Public Safety package, where the Benton County project would fit well. Staff and the Sheriff are also looking very closely at community corrections, which has been a challenging area in the past in terms of adequate State funding. The Oregon State Sheriff's Association will play a significant role in advocating for community corrections funding.

Malone asked about the ODOT funding gap.

Reeves cited a budget gap of approximately \$200 million,. This is the amount needed for ODOT to continue operations and maintenance.

Malone pointed out the need to ensure legislators understand the importance of the 50/30/20 split between ODOT and cities.

Reeves indicated the Co-chairs of the Joint Transportation Committee have stated explicitly that no tweaks to the 50/30/20 will be considered. Assuming everyone continues to operate in good faith, the counties will still receive their share of any transportation-related revenues that are received.

Crager advised that Benton County will host the first 2025 Legislative Breakfast on February 1, and some agency heads and selected leaders from around the state may be added to the invitation list.

5.2 Coffin Butte Landfill and Regional Sustainable Materials Management Plan Task Force – Petra Schuetz, Bailey Payne, Community Development; Sean McGuire, Sustainability

McGuire reported that new Commissioner had previously been briefed on the Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP) Task Force.

Coffin Butte Landfill. Payne presented a history of the Coffin Butte Landfill (CBL).

Shepherd asked about the slide with the map of Oregon and the percentage that goes into CBL. To clarify, this is not the percentage from those counties because for some of those counties, 100 percent of their trash goes to CBL.

Payne responded, yes; and Benton County's waste is approximately 10% of the total waste received each year at CBL.

Shepherd asked about caps and whether there are some items that count toward the cap and others that do not. For example, fire debris, contaminated soils, asbestos, and rock. If everything is counted, the amount is well above the cap.

Payne confirmed this was the case. Fill dirt, rock, and certain other materials do not count toward the cap.

Shepherd asked who decides what is in the franchise agreement.

Payne indicated Benton County determines the cap amount.

Malone noted the presentation wording changed from “dump” to “landfill.” Landfills have additional requirements, including a higher level of monitoring and the collection of leachate.

Schuetz provided the Board with an overview of the Conditional Use Permit application for the expansion of CBL. Scheutz pointed out that the CUP application process is completely separate from the franchise agreement.

The first step in the quasi-judicial process is the Completeness Review. In order to be deemed complete, County staff determines whether all the technical information and all the criteria are met and there has been an opportunity for state agency partners to review the application to ensure sufficient information has been submitted to make a decision.

If the application is deemed complete, a 150-day period discretionary process begins, which includes the appeal period. If the application is deemed incomplete, the applicant has 30 days to submittal additional information.

The County received the second round of information in November 2024, and supplementary information was requested and received in a timely manner (within the 150 days, in mid-January). The applicant has indicated they have submitted all the information they intend to provide.

Schuetz indicated all information had been submitted. Staff will conduct the technical review, prepare the staff report, set up the interested parties list, and develop communications regarding the extended public comment period. Tentative dates for the public hearings will be identified, likely for mid-March. A great deal of public comment is expected. The Planning Commission has several options when the matter comes before them for deliberation. Regardless of what the Planning Commission decides, the matter will likely go through an appeal process to the Board of Commissioners and on to an appeal process at the State’s Land Use Board of Appeals. If it is not appealed, the applicant has one year to meet the conditions of approval for the application before the process is completed.

In response to a question from Shepherd, Schuetz indicated the public hearings, scheduled for multiple days, will be held at the Kalapuya Building.

Malone noted the complexity of the issue being considered and asked how the 30-day turnaround timeframe was working.

Sustain Materials Management Plan. McGuire provided the Board with an update on the SMMP Task Force and reminded the Board that the issue dates back to 2021 when Republic Services asked for an expansion that was denied and went through the appeals process. Benton County Talks Trash (BCTT) was developed after that denial. BCTT was a group of community members, experts, and County staff, as well as an outside facilitator. A few of the objectives of BCTT were to develop the history and

issues and have the facilitator meet with members of the community. The facilitator found there were many misunderstandings and mistrust amongst the various stakeholders. BCTT was an effort to identify what could be agreed upon and to prepare written information to use as a starting point for moving forward.

The full BCTT Committee and five subcommittees met between September 2022 and April 2023 and issued its final report. The BCTT process, including the final report, is available at [Benton County Talks Trash - Community Development, Benton County, Oregon](#). Four of the five subcommittees were specific to CBL. The fifth subcommittee was specific to the SMMP, which was charged with looking at looking to the future. McGuire referenced Payne's slide that illustrated the amount of waste from various counties going to CBL. There are six counties for which close to 100 hundred percent of their trash goes to CBL: Benton, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, and Tillamook. When the view widened to examine the issue on a regional scale, it became clearer how the system is working as a whole, not just at CBL. CBL's estimated end of life is between 2037 and 2039, which means regional planning needs to begin now. Another issue is the lack of a transfer station, which would cost between \$30 and \$50 million to construct and one to five years of planning. These are decisions that if made today, where will the funding come from? Where would it be sited? Would it be a multi-county effort? These are the policy options staff and others are working to develop.

The SMMP Task Force is attempting to look forward regionally and long-term over the next 10 to 12 years. Payne previously discussed CBL's 1.1 million cap; if the expansion is approved, that cap goes away. One of many triggers is that Portland Metro has as a policy that if CBL expands, they will not send their trash there. So where does it go, and what is the impact? Nothing will occur in isolation; it is one large, interrelated system.

Over a period of about six weeks in Summer 2024, McGuire and Payne talked with over 40 solid waste managers in 12 counties and the Portland Metro. The State Department of Environment Quality (DEQ) was also involved at the start of the process. The Governor's Office is engaged, as are industry leaders and innovators. There are approximately 20 Task Force members, and the kickoff meeting was held October 21. Benton County is funding the Task Force, and that funding ends on June 30, 2025. McGuire referred to the two-page overview in the meeting packet containing the purpose, guiding principles, and desired outcomes for the SMMP Task Force.

McGuire reaffirmed Payne's comment that 98% of all pollution comes from the generation of materials. A significant question to consider is how we can lean into reuse, which drives the conversation about sustainable materials. It has been very encouraging to have several DEQ experts engaged since the beginning of the SMMP process.

McGuire discussed some of the questions the Task Force's subcommittee will be considering. How many counties and jurisdictions would need to be involved to make change in a systemic way? What are the equity and environmental justice issues? Where would transfer stations be located? How do we look at long-term material

management? Once the SMMP Task Force has completed the initial work on June 30, the desired deliverables include 1) describing and providing context to current Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) in Northwest Oregon; 2) identifying success stories and case studies of SMM to emulate in the region; 3) capturing and aggregating current and potential resources and opportunities to support local governments' SMM activities; and 4) identifying key findings and recommendations to advance SMM actions, policies, and systems. As CFM Advocates discussed earlier, these could be legislative, budgetary, or simply how the jurisdictions can work together.

In response to a question from Shepherd regarding the Recycling Modernization Act (RMA), Payne confirmed the RMA is effective July 1, 2025 with a phased rollout.

Shepherd pointed out that the RMA will result in a significant difference in how Oregon treats its waste and asked how much a part of the RMA is the SMMP.

McGuire responded that it is all related, but separate.

Malone noted CBL is a regional landfill; but until recently, the regional partners were not very involved. Given the relatively short timeframe in which the SMMP Task Force will operate, it is important to create a sense of urgency regardless of whether the CBL expansion occurs. Malone expressed hope that part of what is achieved is to ensure all regional partners are involved in development of a plan for the future.

Wyse reminded the other Commissioners the SMMP was just one recommendation that resulted from BCTT; there are other recommendations to be addressed. Wyse indicated the Board should, at some point in the future, have a conversation about prioritizing the other recommendations. Examples included creating and sharing a plan for the enforcement of all franchise agreements, taking steps to acquire better information about methane emissions and monitoring, and enforcement of previous conditions of approval for reporting and tracking systems.

{Exhibit 2: SMMP Purpose, Principles, Outcomes}

{Exhibit 3: CB-CUP-SMMP Briefing}

Wyse recessed the meeting at 10:22 AM and reconvened at 10:32 AM.

5.3 County Facilities Update – Gary Stockhoff, Public Works

Crisis Center. Stockhoff reported the Crisis Center was well underway and on budget; there was a small cost addition resulting from the Oregon Health Authority's changes to security regulations. Making the Crisis Center operational will be the next priority. The Health Department has hired a contractor to assist with operationalizing, who has contacted Facilities Manager Wallsinger for assistance in certain areas.

Malone asked whether there were sufficient project contingency funds to cover the referenced addition; staff indicated funding was identified from a separate source.

Courthouse/District Attorney's Office. Stockhoff noted there was one permit still needed from the City of Corvallis to get the project started; the permit has several different components including a US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) permit, which is not only for wetlands and sensitive areas, but also for the Swick House. County staff and the design team met with the Corps to review the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the State Historic Preservation Office and the requirements and timing associated with the MOA. The County's general contractor, Hoffman, needs to solicit a demolition/deconstruction contractor to deconstruct the house and salvage/sell any historic materials. There are some project funds to help offset this cost. The soonest the house can be removed is estimated at June or July 2025.

The maps for the final plat are in the process of being signed by the City and will then need to be routed around the County for signatures. The next step is the recording of the final plat so the permit can be released. The system development charges are currently being calculated, and the \$124,000 public and private public improvement private contract fee has been paid. The last step for actually breaking ground, estimated at approximately February 7, will be a preconstruction meeting with City staff to review project timing.

The schedule shows completion in early 2027, including having the Courthouse fully operationalized. The contractor believes construction will be completed in 2026. Stockhoff believes the construction schedule will ultimately have the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) being completed around the same time as the Courthouse.

Emergency Operations Center. In contrast to the Courthouse and the complexities of the judicial process, operationalizing the EOC will be much less complex. Staff has worked with Emergency Manager Bryan Lee on radios audio/visual, etcetera, and there will be a significant training component associated with the new EOC. Construction cost has increased, and Stockhoff and Crager will be meeting with the project team soon to identify final cost. That information should be available at the next monthly project update.

Malone appreciated the schedule overview and separating building construction from the internal infrastructure and encouraged Public Information Officer Thwaites to tell the story of these public service facilities.

Stockhoff noted the County continues to work with the Oregon Judicial Department to finalize the phase one agreement. The County has made a significant investment in the Courthouse project, and some of that investment will be reimbursed by the State.

McEneny asked if there were any concerns about the \$5 million funding received several years ago for the EOC.

Stockhoff indicated that funding is nearly expended – much for design work, an extension had been received, and the County is in good standing with FEMA.

McEneny asked about the status of the Historic Courthouse roof repair.

Stockhoff indicated the roof was put out to bid last year, and the cost was significant. A new roof is needed, but the existing roof does have some life left. Stockhoff will request an update from Wallsinger.

6. New Business

6.1 Appointment of Local Public Health Administrator, Resolution No. R2025-001 – April Holland, Sara Hartstein, Health Services

Holland advised the Board that Oregon Revised Statute 431 requires appointment of a local public health administrator. Hartstein has been serving in an interim role as the Public Health Division Director since March 2023, and Holland believes it is important to have Hartstein officially appointed as the Local Public Health Administrator. In terms of process, the Board of Commissioners appoints the Local Public Health Administrator. If the Board approves the appointment, notification of the appointment will be provided to the Oregon Health Authority, at which point the Administrator will officially become an agent of the Oregon Health Authority in terms of stewarding public health funds, plans, goals, policies, reporting, and staffing.

MOTION: Malone moved to approve Resolution No. R2025-001 appointing Sara Hartstein as the Local Public Health Administrator. Shepherd seconded the motion, which carried (3-0).

McEneny asked if Holland could provide a brief update on cold weather sheltering.

Holland reported severe weather overflow sheltering was activated over the past weekend. Health has contracted with a local organization to provide hotel and congregate sheltering when weather thresholds meet certain criteria. Holland anticipated sheltering will continue for some time due to ongoing cold overnight temperatures. On Monday night, 83 people received a warm place to sleep.

Holland also noted Health is able to partner with the City of Corvallis through a newer intergovernmental agreement for use of the Downtown Library meeting room space. Due to the ongoing cold weather, staff was concerned about the health effects of not having daytime warming due to the County holiday celebrated yesterday. Holland commended Library and City staff, as well as the County staff and volunteers who came together to provide a warm welcome space. Over 40 people used the space yesterday.

6.2 Adoption of Updated County Policy A102: Smoke-, Vape-, and Tobacco-Free Facilities and Grounds – Andy Chuinard, Rocío Muñoz; Health Services

Muñoz and Chuinard are part of the Healthy Communities Program, which is part of the Public Health Division of the Health Department. Muñoz provided an overview of the role of Healthy Communities, and Chuinard would discuss the policy revision. Healthy Communities believes spaces should be created and supported for all our communities to be just; to be healthy; and to be able to live, learn, work, and play in our communities. The program works due to the support of community members, community organizations, and leaders such as the Commissioners to collectively create those spaces that provide healthy options for the community. One of the programs Healthy Communities supports and leads in the County is the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program. Muñoz introduced Chuinard to discuss the proposed revisions to Policy A102: Smoke-, Vape-, and Tobacco-Free Facilities and Grounds.

Chuinard reminded that over 10 years ago, the Commissioners approved a policy establishing smoke-free properties in Benton County. That policy implementation was an opportunity to signal County values to the community as an organization. At that time, the County developed the communications and signs that are featured in parks, campgrounds, natural areas, the Fairgrounds, and other locations where Benton County conducts operations. Now, there is an opportunity in the current tobacco prevention funding cycle to update that policy. Health received feedback from the Fairgrounds that there were emerging tobacco products in addition to cannabis, that could be wrapped into Policy A102 to communicate to the public. Chuinard referred to the redline version of the proposed revisions and indicated the changes had been reviewed by Healthy Communities Program staff, the Health in All Actions Committee, and the Policy Oversight Committee. Muñoz also obtained feedback from the County's tobacco prevention counterparts in Lincoln, Linn, and Marion Counties. In addition, while the policy was being updated, meetings occurred with Facilities Manager Wallsinger; Natural Areas, Parks, and Events staff; and Fairgrounds staff to determine their needs relative to communications and updated properties signage.

Shepherd asked about the enforcement mechanism for the policy, such as at campgrounds.

Chuinard indicated the policy is an internal and administrative one. There is no code establishing any punitive measures. The goal is to be as educational as possible and establish an expectation in the environment where Benton County occupies property or buildings. There would not be a fine of any kind. Health staff would develop educational materials for County staff to remind members of the public and guests that a property is a smoke- and vape-free property.

Malone asked how the County policy would fit with that of the City of Corvallis. Is there any confusion or contradiction?

Chuinard indicated it would be beneficial for County staff to update their City counterparts. Some County properties are within City limits, and alignment is desirable.

MOTION: Malone moved to adopt County Policy, A102, Smoke-, Vape-, and Tobacco-Free Facilities and Grounds, Version 3.0. Shepherd seconded the motion, which carried 3-0.

6.3 Oregon Department of Energy Grant Opportunity: Request for Approval of Notice of Intent – Bryan Lee, Hannah Shafer, Emergency Management

Lee advised the Board of Emergency Management's (EM's) desire to pursue a grant funding opportunity and introduced Hannah Shafer, EM's Hazard Mitigation and Recovery Coordinator.

Shafer indicated the grant opportunity was being provided by the Oregon Department of Energy. It is a new, State-funded program that provides grants to Oregon counties to develop a county energy resilience plan. For background, Shafer indicated that in January 2024, many counties across the State experienced major grid disruption due to a period of winter storms and ice storms. Impacts included downed trees and power lines, which left approximately 240,000 Oregonians without power. The requested funding would support a direct contract to conduct an assessment of rural Benton County communities. EM plans to focus on the Monroe and Philomath communities to perform an energy assessment and create actions to increase energy resilience in the event of another ice storm. The proposed assessment could potentially be an annex to the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Some of the actions would be 1) identifying and mapping existing public energy infrastructure in Philomath and Monroe, which would include transmission lines, distribution lines, substations, and energy storage systems to identify natural hazard risks to those infrastructures; 2) consultation with the communities to identify any social vulnerabilities; and 3) identification of other actions and resources needed to implement a county energy resilience plan, which would identifying future funding opportunities to keep the work moving forward.

Lee clarified that the funding actually came from the Federal level, originally passed down to the states and then down to the local counties. The grant is noncompetitive, and the amount is \$50,000. Any county interested in participating is able to apply. Whether or not the grant opportunity will be available in the future is unknown. Each year, the County has hazard mitigation grant funds available, as well as the BRIC (Building, Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) grant funding. The current Oregon Department of Energy opportunity could provide a basis and justification for applying for additional projects within those grant programs.

Malone pointed to the Alsea community as one that is somewhat physically isolated and expressed hope that if not in the current grant funding cycle, perhaps Alsea could be considered for a future funding cycle.

Lee indicated the idea is to use the Monroe and Philomath assessments as a basis for planning. Once a process is outlined for those two communities, in the future, EM could

pursue additional funding for further assessments or utilize a similar process for the other rural communities.

MOTION: Shepherd moved to approve the notice of intent for \$50,000 for the Oregon Department of Energy Grant opportunity. Malone seconded the motion, which carried 3-0.

7. Other

Shepherd indicated the Board was invited to attend the Corvallis Schools Foundation Breakfast on January 30. Could the start time of the Board's Department Head Meeting scheduled for that day be moved from 9 AM to 9:30 AM?

Wyse indicated a willingness to review the start time but noted it can be difficult to change the schedule because there are multiple departments involved.

Malone suggested there is room for improvement at coordinating Commissioners' calendars. It is helpful to know if one or more Commissioners plan to attend an event. This may be a good topic for a future Goal-setting Meeting.

8. Adjournment

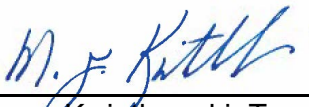
Chair Wyse adjourned the meeting at 11:07 AM.



Nancy Wyse, Chair



Erika Milo, Recorder



Maura Kwiatkowski, Transcriptionist

*NOTE: Items denoted with an asterisk do NOT have accompanying written materials in the meeting packet.