



Board of Commissioners

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GOAL-SETTING MEETING MINUTES BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 9 AM

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

Elected Officials: Jefri Van Arsdall, Sheriff; John Haroldson, District Attorney

Staff: Don Rogers, Undersheriff; Ryan Joslin, Assistant District Attorney; Darren Nichols, Community Development; Gary Stockhoff, Public Works; Jesse Ott, Natural Areas, Parks, and Events; Debbie Sessions, Financial Services; James Morales, Records and Elections; Tami Tracy; Assessment; Matt Wetherell, Juvenile Services; Sean McGuire, Jennifer Brown, Sustainability; Michael Gardner-Brown, Sydney Hundelt, Climate Action Interns; Adam Loerts, Linda McGil, Information Technology; Cory Grogan, Public Information Officer; Lacey Mollel, Community Health Centers; April Holland, Health Services; Paul Wallsinger, Facilities Management; Maura Kwiatkowski, Marriah De La Vega, Amanda Makepeace, Board of Commissioners Office

Guests: Sherry Chen Jackson, Philip Jacobs; UPD Consulting

1. Opening

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Announcements

Chair Augerot called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. There were no announcements.

2. Review and Approve Agenda

The following item was added to the agenda, after item 3.5:

Consideration of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Membership Dues

3. Discussion Topics

3.1 *Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Assessment Process Overview – Sean McGuire, Sustainability; Sherry Chen, Philip Jacobs, UPD Consulting

McEneny explained the previous Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Coordinator transferred to Health Services due to its public health focus. McEneny tasked McGuire with working with county staff and consultants to assess the EDI role's significance to the county. McGuire consulted equity offices in King County and Portland, leading to an evaluation and the engagement of UPD Consulting through a Request for Proposals process.

Sherry Chen Jackson introduced UPD Consulting, a Black-owned firm with 17 years of public sector experience in equity, change management, and implementation. UPD focuses on performance management and continuous improvement.

Philip Jacobs outlined the project timeline, highlighting the challenges, barriers, and opportunities within the EDI role. UPD will identify focus areas, hold a working session with leadership to operationalize EDI, analyze the role's challenges, and create a work plan. Leadership buy-in is crucial for EDI success, and UPD will ensure leaders are informed and involved. They will conduct a RACI (responsible, accountable, consulted and informed) study and provide guidance on a revamped EDI Coordinator role.

McGuire mentioned Sarah Siddiqui, the previous EDI Coordinator, had arranged for the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) to conduct an organization-wide assessment as well. The goal is to ensure the revamped EDI Coordinator role participates in this process.

Augerot expressed satisfaction with the fast-track process to recalibrate the EDI Coordinator role and anticipated learning more during the four-week assessment.

McGuire described the process as building step-by-step from one strong foundation to another.

Augerot noted her upcoming interview with UPD Consulting to get more questions answered.

Crager inquired if UPD's review of the EDI Coordinator role would consider best practices for the county's size.

Chen-Jackson responded the review would be based on county priorities and emphasized shared responsibility for EDI work across the organization, noting a 60% turnover rate in EDI positions nationwide over the past two years.

McGuire confirmed shared organizational responsibility was also emphasized by King County, Washington.

(Exhibit 1: 240409 UPD Consulting EDI Project Timeline)

3.2 *Impact Projections of County Growth and Future Needs – Sean McGuire, Sydney Hundelt, Michael Gardner-Brown; Sustainability

Hundelt worked with McGuire and Gardner-Brown over the last two years as a climate action intern for Benton County (BC) and built up a robust greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

Gardner-Brown started with BC in November 2019 working on the greenhouse gas inventory. and in the last couple of years worked in an advisory capacity helping to develop the inventory.

McGuire noted government work is focused on the betterment of constituencies, which can include sustainability, equity, environment, the economy, and livability. McGuire noted it is possible to have conflict between those principles and practices in government, explaining these conflicts are expanding in unprecedented growth over the past year. McGuire was here today to share conversations with the projected numbers in the next five years, and today's focus was on greenhouse gas emission as a proxy lens through which to view expected changes.

Wyse said the county cannot focus efforts on one area, efforts have to be spread out.

McGuire noted the county is adding greenhouse gas emissions tonnage via the new building projects with a combined 130,000 square feet of space. Today's presentation is because Hundelt got to stay an extra year in a very competitive role helping to develop the scenario builder and the calculator. When speaking with Facilities about adding square footage, providing the projected electrical usage can be used to identify what is in the near future. There will be increased emission sources both in volume and utilities and the focus is to reduce those greenhouse gas emissions.

McGuire discussed his presentation and shared an equation, which starts with usage, and includes reduce and reuse; another part of the equation is generation, which is primarily solar now but may include wind in the future or off-sets currently coming from two companies now. All generation is attached to electricity, specifically Pacific Power BC buys into energy programs and assigns buildings to subscribe to future solar projects. Sequestration is the final part of the equation; last year Natural Areas, Parks, and Events acquired about 70 acres of land in Beazell Forest and stated there will be no logging, which can be used to reduce sequestration. He noted much has happened since 2010 as the number of full-time employees (FTEs) has increased significantly with 230 more people than in the last decade. After the purchase of the Sunset and Kalapuya Buildings, the recent purchase of the 4185 SW Research Way Children & Family Services Building, addition to the Avery Building, some remodeling work, the current construction on the Crisis Center, and the upcoming work for the courthouse, Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and county jail, all those factors change the baseline of 2010 numbers. McGuire discussed the scope of the work. Usually, the numbers are focused on electricity and natural gas specifics. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) breaks data into three categories. Scope 1 is primarily natural gas and Fleet; all within BC's domain. Scope 2 is what is being used but purchased externally, primarily electricity. Scopes 1 and 2 are what is being used and being

generated either on-site or what BC owns. Scope 3 is the remainder: commuting, travel, and waste.

Gardner-Brown noted Scope 3 as being related to BC's value chain, the upstream and downstream purchasing decisions. Some companies track the products they sell. With construction, new facilities fall under purchased goods and services; during construction periods those emissions are going to be much higher. The embedded carbon conundrum, shared in an email from a commissioner, will be addressed in an upcoming slide as it raises the number even more.

McGuire said moving forward, information will be presented via the scopes, not the sources. Financial Services are now tracking travel reimbursement and miles from commuting, which is part of Fleet. BC is now adding this number to natural gas refrigerants, electricity, and water; the new categories will be commuting and travel.

McGuire is focusing exclusively on Scopes 1 and 2 to move each number downward. Hundelt brought down each emission per square foot of the existing facilities and then projected it out for the new facilities. There are ongoing discussions about selling the Board of Commissioners (BOC) annex of the courthouse, but the lack of a facilities plan is hindering it.

Wallsinger confirmed there is no formal, written facilities plan. However, Stockhoff, Crager and Wallsinger are working to create one moving forward.

McGuire noted the county is not expecting another 150 FTEs in the next few years. McGuire used 35 FTEs for the calculation.

Crager said the commissioners are aware of the budget challenges. New FTEs would have a corresponding uptick with operational costs, especially around the crisis center and jail. It is a flat line budget in terms of growth, though there will be increased operations costs.

McGuire confirmed with the addition of square footage from Facilities, adjustments can be made to the greenhouse gas emissions numbers.

Wyse mentioned the slide presentation bullet point about the sale of the former BOC offices downtown and the courthouse annex but was unsure if this was the plan.

Crager replied the sale is a key assumption, but the final decision rests with the Board. For the purposes of having a number with which to work for the presentation, this assumption was made.

McGuire said every slide is bringing up additional questions, moving forward, and who is making those decisions. In speaking with Wallsinger, some facilities will not be using natural gas, which is a significant impact. The calculations included electrification of the fleet vehicles, an assumptive input value of eight sedans and four buses. McGuire showed a slide discussing the impact of 20 sedans in Fleet. He assured Commissioner Wyse while these are assumptions, they are not decisions. Regarding the goal of offsetting 90 percent of electricity usage: BC will never get to 100 percent offset due to Consumers Power, but perhaps BC can engage Pacific Power again.

Wyse inquired if the electricity offset was just for electricity, such as for Blue Sky.

McGuire confirmed and added the offset was also for the community solar program. The Utility Usage Impact slide: the extra five facilities will add about 1,300 tons of greenhouse gases, mostly from natural gas from the bigger facilities. He noted the decrease of natural gas usage due to the crisis center and EOC will remove 16 tons of greenhouse gases; the potential sale of the downtown BOC offices and Annex would decrease emissions by 73 tons. The fleet electrification is a two-step plan; assuming eight sedans and four buses, it reduces fuel needs and removes 224 tons of emissions, though electrifying them would add in 131 tons, for a total tonnage reduction of 93. If BC can use Pacific Power, it could be 220 or 225 tons, which is not insignificant.

Malone inquired if there are potential savings if BC gets to a 90 percent offset.

McGuire confirmed. Currently, BC is looking at facilities within the Pacific Power grid. The Fairgrounds is using the Consumers Power grid.

Malone asked McGuire to revisit the difference between Pacific Power and Consumers Power.

McGuire replied that Consumers Power is demonstrably cleaner. In 2022 for all BC facilities, Consumers Power was only 50 tons; all BC electricity was 1,300 tons. The saving from the solar panels at the Fairgrounds was only two tons; most of Consumer's power is coming from non-coal sources.

Augerot commented Consumers Power is mostly originating from the Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River. Pacific Power buys coal-generated electricity from other states. Declines in power generation from the Columbia are being projected due to changes in feeder streams and snowpack amounts.

McGuire noted today's purpose is a discussion about electrifying the BC fleet, as well as discussions based on the county's Budget Enterprise software report.

Crager noted this as a research phase with discussions to be as efficient as possible, both with internal and external fleet. Crager has heard local government and businesses are moving toward more of a contracted fleet opportunity; hence the reason for the engagement with Budget Enterprise software for discussions about efficiency and an analysis of these efficiency opportunities. The challenge with electrifying a fleet is the value received in terms of the emissions savings, but there is also a cost piece which must be considered. Many local governments are moving to a hybrid approach, but the maintenance and turnover of those vehicles should be factored in. These are still early discussions; McEneny has been a great champion due to previous experience as city manager in Albany, New York.

McGuire noted there are grants available for this approach. BC is now purchasing 25 percent of its electricity from Blue Sky electric with a cost of \$20,000 per year if moved to 100 percent. BC needs to be fiscally sustainable and reach greenhouse gas

emissions reduction goals. McGuire discussed scenario impacts with the addition of five new facilities, reduction of the aging downtown facilities, less natural gas use, addition of sequestration and solar, electrifying sedans and buses, and 90% of electricity usage from renewable sources, resulting in a 2,000-ton reduction of greenhouse gases by 2030.

Crager said the 2030 target area is an opportunity to get close to the goal of 1,824 tons; by increasing the number of electric sedans and buses, the goal might be fully realized.

Wyse asked McGuire about information on how much the county has saved, which is a good message to share with the community.

McGuire advised the updates for 2023 are being completed. Avery is down four percent in electricity, the Law Enforcement Building is down six percent; Sunset Building is down eight percent. More will be shared in May 2024.

Augerot noted it helps to look at emissions per square foot per FTE; those capture some of the gains.

McGuire discussed Scope 3; data quality and capture can be challenging. He felt the most accurate is the commuting information and explained the process to determine the numbers used to build the scenario. Purchases are made with budgetary considerations in mind, so BC offsets with a carbon neutral purchase. The main takeaway of Scope 3 is the impact BC had, although it may have been imperfect. BC will continue to capture data for calculation. Corvallis is also looking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and is using the same method to ensure consistency.

Hundelt discussed the purchasing category of Scope 3 and explained looking to the EPA greenhouse gas protocol with its emissions factors for various categories of goods and services purchased, which can be used as coefficient factors for calculations.

McGuire discussed construction, which complicates calculations, because while some entities might calculate emissions, but they do not use it in their inventory. Buildings must be constructed, but it is a one-time event, compared to regular purchases; this conundrum will need to be addressed in the future.

Gardner-Brown noted the emissions would typically be captured in the purchasing side of Scope 3, but it is not typically considered when factoring in goal-setting or the baseline moving forward because it will be an artificial limit where emissions increase.

McGuire said it is a very complicated matter. There are coefficients to calculate currently used for transparency but not part of our goal and BC is not at the decision-making stage yet. Scope 3 dwarfs all other categories. The 4,000 tons of emissions number from Purchasing is an estimate based on Corvallis though Corvallis has 400 employees while BC has 600. Commuting is 1,200 tons; that number rose seven percent. Travel and waste numbers do not appear on the slide; McGuire stated they represent 25 tons of emissions combined. The amount from Travel comes directly from the budget; the coefficient is based on every \$1,000 of cost.

Augerot noted there might be an overestimate if a number is based on the budget as the full travel amount is not always used.

McGuire said in a conversation with Oregon State University (OSU), Travel was 12 percent of their 120,000 tons of emissions, which is a significant amount, though the pandemic changed travel habits.

Augerot asked. in terms of Scope 3 and construction, are some companies also looking at kind of the depreciation model and looking at depreciating carbon over time or are companies regarding it as a different type of investment, and not part of the carbon budget at all?

Gardner-Brown highlighted the complications in associating funds spent with specific points in time in the context of spend-based factors and technological efficiency in construction. Depreciation and asset evaluation impact carbon submissions analytically.

Augerot noted from an analytical standpoint the carbon was submitted at a specific point in time.

McGuire explained he continues to refine the numbers to make the best decision with the most accurate information.

Augerot would like to see discussions about values and how to embed them when the decisions are made regarding new facilities, materials, and what contractors to use.

McGuire said materials and processes need to be the first decision; today's purpose is to look at how previous decisions were made and planting the seed to address the goal of greenhouse gas emissions reduction by asking specific questions about Facilities and Fleet developed out of conversations with BC staff, such as who is ultimately making decisions, and are the decisions based on financial or emissions factors

McEneny acknowledged there are multiple factors, and a great deal of work goes into procurement but asked about the goals with purchasing materials and finding contractors.

McGuire noted Crager moved into new role recently which has been impactful; now moving to a more centralized process and an identified workflow which could lead to efficient decision-making and spoke about how the county will proceed with official plans, criteria, or goals.

Malone spoke about the Kalapuya remodel and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification at the gold level. He felt it important to start with values and then move to short-term costs versus long-term benefits and would like it to be the model going forward; Crager will determine how the county can afford it. The Kalapuya remodel is a good example of a healthy process.

Wyse asked to hear more about if the basis for the target goal was based on best practice or achievable for that time.

McGuire replied it is similar to the 1990 Kyoto Protocol; Corvallis was attempting to reduce 75 percent of 1990 use, though it was difficult to calculate. The goal is to get under 1.5 degrees of temperature increase.

Wyse noted it was based on methodology and the 1.5-degree reduction with the coordinated efforts of the majority of the developed world.

McGuire noted the City of Corvallis has not fully adopted this approach; and with officials being elected every two years, it is less of a priority. For the BOC, it is a high priority, and aggressive pursuit of emissions reductions is required.

Augerot noted BC's reduction goals are very standard for governments that have adopted goals, and the information comes directly from the international scientific community and guiding documents.

Wyse wondered about the county's intentions when this was adopted; was it considered an easy task or a large undertaking?

Malone noted BC is trying to meld being fiscally responsible with taking care of the climate. It is an important message to get out to the community as funds are being spent. Establishing goals and how they could be achieved is an ongoing message. The goals are driving budgets, not vice versa.

McGuire aligning the 2040 expenditures and making the fiscal case making sure we can identify what funds are spent per core value and focus area.

Crager noted McGuire's last slide appeared to be a summary and wondered what steps should be taken to achieve such an aggressive goal. Efficiency around facilities, electrification of Fleet vehicles or increased efficiency around the use of our fleet, and commute miles are frequently mentioned factors.

McGuire said he and Brown will get into the climate action plan, which begins with the inventory. The county needs far more aggressive moves with Fleet because reductions in facilities inventory can take us only so far.

Waller confirmed the most easily reduced factors have been completed, but to reduce further requires difficult decisions going forward, including compromises made for energy use versus employee environments.

McGuire asked the guiding questions of what information is being captured and what elements will be included, and how aggressive do the actions need to be without purchasing offsets, which leads to the topic of green scamming. The county can reach its goals, but it will need those big decisions.

Augerot expressed curiosity about unpacking the significant purchasing component and wondered if it is routine purchases month over month or some other factor contributing to the number.

McGuire indicated it will be explored in a meeting with Financial Services looking at the budget. The coefficients are known, and now it is a matter of alignment with the budget line, and then completing the analysis.

Crager said from a measurement standpoint, there needs to be clarification on Scope Three in order to compare the correct categories in order to reach this established goal. The first step is to get clarification on those key goals: facilities reductions, electrified fleet vehicles, and reduced commuter miles. Crager complimented Wallsinger on his work on the charts, noting a difference in reductions.

McGuire reiterated there is no decision-making at this point but wanted to acknowledge these issues and tradeoffs set the stage for decision-making moving forward. McGuire thanked Hundelt and Gardner-Brown for their work.

Malone appreciated this project started out fairly limited in scope by focusing on electricity and now has expanded to include the next emissions sources. He felt this was an excellent example of having a consistent goal and gradually expanding the scope.

Gardner-Brown commented this process is thought of as iterative, continually refining the data as a basis for decision-making and acknowledged the lack of granularity in Scope Three around the accounting and suppliers, which affects the decision process. From a consulting point of view, this is a strong and meaningful inventory.

Malone recognized the effort shows commitment and better data will continue to be collected.

(Exhibit 2: #BOC-GHGImpactsOfGrowth-04-09-24-UpdatedFinal)

Chair Augerot announced a meeting break at 10:20 AM; the meeting resumed at 10:27 AM.

3.3 Options for Board Hybrid Meeting Security – Maura Kwiatkowski, Board of Commissioners; Linda McGirl, Information Technology

Kwiatkowski discussed the March 19 Zoom meeting disruption, noting similar disruptions in other county meetings. Today's discussion is around the steps taken to improve meeting security and further opportunities for consideration while maintaining accessibility for the public. A slide showed tools implemented to enhance security. Kwiatkowski thanked Information Technology (IT) for the recommendations to combat scraping the Internet for open public links, to livestream disruptive video to multiple sites. The Zoom link will now be published an hour prior to the meeting, which does not affect accessibility. The Agenda link now leads to the meeting event page, which is one extra click and will not affect accessibility. A meeting co-host has been added to admit

participants and allow for monitoring and possible muting of audio and video. The meeting livestreaming will move from Facebook to YouTube on May 7, eliminating the need for county staff to use personal login information and avoid intermingling business and personal use of Facebook. Zoom Meeting is interactive and collaborative; an option is to use Zoom Webinar, which is used in a number of regional areas which would provide a consistent experience. It does require advance registration and specific designation levels for meeting participants. Today she is looking for Board input as to the level of security desired to enable participation while also minimizing disruptions.

McGill said the waiting room option was enabled with a confirming splash page with the county logo. The meeting cohost can review the list of names in the waiting room and admit participants. Zoom Meetings now offers advance registration. Option One is to keep the current level of security with a posted link and an individual clicks into the waiting room without registering. IT highly encourages the use of waiting rooms across all county meetings. Option Two is Zoom Meeting registration, which is slightly more work for staff. It would not affect how the meeting runs; it is simply an extra step for individuals who wish to attend. Differing levels of meeting access are possible per individual, such as host, co-host, panelists, and attendees. Attendees were never meant to interact with the meeting via shared video though they would be able to use the chat feature in the meeting. Individuals presenting on an agenda item would be designated a panelist and could speak and share video. Hosts and co-hosts have the ability to mute or remove attendees. There are additional security features in Zoom or in Zoom with registration that could be used for all county meetings or on a case-by-case basis.

McEneny expressed a concern about the interaction aspect and the ability of participants to be able to chat Board members.

McGill indicated there are additional chat restrictions available to the host and co-host to limit ability of attendees to chat between themselves or to the Commissioners. She recommended formalizing a signup process enabling individuals to speak. Moving to a registration process with a free-form field containing instructions on how to offer comments might be an approach; McGill will look into the matter further.

Augerot does not want to make this a cumbersome process for participants but recognized they need a different level of access to be able to speak.

Wyse asked if a person can be upgraded from an attendee to a panelist by the host if they wish to speak.

McGill was unsure about Zoom's current capabilities but is aware of other meeting software that does offer this feature.

Loerts said if the Board wishes to go with the webinar concept, a key step is to limit the amount of work for Board staff. If panelists are identified before the meeting, it will be much less distraction for staff. Implementing a second co-host will take some of the burden away from the Board Recorder to monitor attendees. With a standard Zoom meeting with registrations, there are a few more options, and participants can be allowed to share video and audio if it has been enabled by the co-host.

Kwiatkowski noted almost all regional municipalities have a request for public comment form online using a valid email address. An opportunity to leave their comment in the registration form is offered, as well as options to sign up to make comments during the meeting, in-person or virtually. If the virtual option is selected, no matter whether the county uses Zoom with registration or Webinar, those authorized participants are identified. There would be an additional benefit of better capturing public comments.

Loerts said IT researched meeting management software that includes a feature allowing participants to identify themselves if they want to make a public comment, which should streamline the integration of meeting management software with virtual meeting software.

Augerot had a question about steps and procedures as there is other software scheduled to integrate with the existing software.

Wyse asked about individuals who might register with the belief they do not wish to make a public comment during a meeting and then later change their mind. She wants to ensure protections and security are enabled while also providing an opportunity to comment.

McGill said no matter if the Board chooses meeting or webinar format, there is always the chat option directly to the hosts.

Kwiatkowski confirmed there will be a staff member monitoring the meeting attendees and chat, almost like a facilitator.

Augerot noted Wyse monitors the chat from the dais, and it is challenging as individuals do directly chat the commissioners.

Wyse said the chat feature is helpful when there are audio issues.

Kwiatkowski explained a protocol would be needed in the case of an individual who chatted the host or cohost to say they would like to express their opinion on this topic; as well as a protocol to release the chat to the Chair.

Loerts indicated that without these protections in place, attendees up until this point have been able to chat each other and it should be a matter of public record, but it is not recorded, exposing the county to risk.

Wyse wishes to avoid provocative comments between attendees.

Augerot asked in terms of an enhanced Zoom meeting with waiting room and registration versus the Zoom webinar, the biggest difference is the ability in webinar to designate levels of access in advance of the meeting. McGill and Loerts confirmed this.

Augerot has attended meetings where the webinar was in use and has seen the flexibility around a cohost who can shift an attendee to panelist status in the moment.

She has no strong feeling about Zoom meeting versus Zoom webinar. If the Board decides to use the enhanced features of Zoom meeting, Augerot felt the issue was how much of a burden it would place on staff. Kwiatkowski said the biggest change would be the requirement for registration. Augerot wondered about being able to register after the meeting starts and still getting access. It is an important feature; people should not have to know the day before they want to comment. McGirl confirmed registration is possible after the meeting begins.

Loerts said the issue is the meeting link was being made publicly available well in advance of the meeting time. With Zoom registration, the link would take them to a form instead, which provides built-in security. It is not foolproof; if an individual really wanted to disrupt a meeting, they can go through the motions of filling out the form and providing an email address. Having the co-host and lobby is the key to managing if we move to the registration process. We could likely also extend the meeting registration window because it is more secure than having the direct Zoom link published. The registration link could be posted a few days before the meeting rather than the morning of the meeting.

Augerot felt it would be beneficial. She wondered about Board meetings versus all advisory committee meetings and the level of formality desired. Augerot mentioned an incident with an advisory committee that was not a Zoom bomb but rather an open microphone and an outburst from a member.

McGill reported webinars were implemented for the Benton County Talks Trash (BCTT) meetings. At the time, there was no registration option, so the choices were a meeting or webinar. Community Development decided to utilize the meeting option.

Loerts confirmed Zoom is primarily a public meeting platform, and all county meetings created from our Zoom platform could have some of these basic settings.

Augerot said a waiting room is always a good idea and was hopeful preregistration for advisory board and committee meetings would also be a good idea but noted it will be a change for people.

McGill said staff could, when setting up a Zoom webinar or meeting with registration, send invitations directly to people who would simply need to accept the invitation to register. With the advisory committee roster, the attendees are known; the staff who manage those meetings can issue invitations directly to attendees. The registration invitation would just need to be accepted.

Loerts noted a protocol was identified to shut down a meeting, which can be managed by the co-host who is also monitoring attendance and chat. The primary step is to stop the Zoom meeting by placing attendees in the waiting room and posting a message indicating the meeting will resume shortly. This prevents having to create a new meeting and sending out new registrations.

Augerot was thinking about the protocol for advisory boards and committees and realized training is needed for the support staff.

Wyse wondered if there would be a financial impact to these changes. McGirl replied two Zoom webinar certificates were purchased for different county projects, and one could be transferred to the BOC.

Kwiatkowski confirmed an additional staff person would be in the meeting, taking them away from other duties, but she felt the return on investment versus disrupting government for online constituents has value.

Loerts said John Harris from Horsepower Productions has a role distinct from the cohost; he acts as a producer, managing camera views, microphones, and the in-room experience, as well as monitoring the external YouTube Livestream.

Augerot asked about posting the completed videos to Facebook, though Facebook will no longer be the primary livestream platform

Kwiatkowski indicated a link will be placed on Facebook directing users to the YouTube livestreaming video. Regional partners are mostly using YouTube, which will provide a consistent experience to community members and increases accessibility. The county website event page will also get a YouTube livestream link, along with the agenda, meeting packet, and minutes summary.

Malone shared he felt the county was slow reacting; this has been going on for a year. BC needs to balance being open and secure. Physical attendees at a meeting share their address when they wish to speak for the record. It makes sense to do the same for online attendees, but he offered a caution temporary or spoofed email addresses can be created for free and are difficult to trace to an individual. Malone felt it made sense to require online attendees to register their information to make it equal to what is required of in-person attendees.

Augerot summarized the conversation with a shift to Zoom webinar for Board meetings, and the assumption it would be the same for the Planning Commission. McGirl said she would confirm the current state, but indicated some past meetings had been conducted via Webinar.

Augerot said with most of the other advisory committee meetings, the recommendation is a Zoom Meeting with waiting room and pre-registration.

Loerts confirmed and did want to say some of those meetings, typically the ones with a predefined group, are already using Teams. Augerot noted the Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE) Advisory Board is using Teams, as is the Mental Health, Addictions, and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (MHADDAC).

Loerts said the settings of Teams meetings align closely with the proposed Zoom changes, including the waiting room for attendees. Generally, only the attendees are receiving the link via invitation.

Wyse did not feel strongly about Zoom registration or webinars for advisory boards and committees.

Augerot explained the issues are not intentional disruptions but rather opinions being expressed via unmuted microphones which disrupt meetings unintentionally. She recommends offering training on monitoring and moderation when speaking with advisory boards and committees, which is now part of the role with virtual meetings.

Wyse said using the Historic Resources Commission (HRC) as an example, there are often problems with the meeting links sent at the last minute, with people finding it challenging to get into a meeting. Zoom would send a link directly, which would be helpful, versus staff trying to send out links directly. Augerot noted there are inconsistencies across advisory committees at the moment. Wyse felt some of it was human error.

Loerts noted one other distinction between Teams and Zoom is some advisory groups are using some of the collaborative features of Teams that are not available in Zoom, such as sharing documents.

Augerot felt it was both a training issue and one of familiarity; as of yet there has been no attempt to educate or bring people to consistently using one platform.

Kwiatkowski confirmed a move to the Zoom webinar for BOC meetings, which will require preregistration and definition of roles for staff. She then asked about the work of advisory boards and committees and the ease and availability of collaborative tools available on Teams. If there is a decision, will there be further discussion, or would the Board allow them to make platform decisions based on what works best for their objectives and group members.

McGill said when BC first began to transition from the GoToMeeting platform, she developed a best practices document with recommendations for platforms suitable for specific types of meetings. This could be shared with staff.

Augerot agreed and noted it would also be helpful to know which advisory boards and committees are using which platform and how they would be affected when decisions of this type are made.

Loerts explained the county web pages for advisory boards and committees could list the meeting platform used by a particular group.

Augerot agreed it would be helpful. She would also like to see consistency in the available post-meeting information.

Kwiatkowski explained as a related matter, three proposals were received for the Agenda and Meeting management platform software, and the committee will begin meeting soon to look at those. All three invited vendors offer unlimited boards, commissions, and committees on their platforms. If BC does move forward with a platform, there is a tremendous opportunity to streamline procedures and information.

No matter where a user clicks, Planning Commission or Natural Resources, all the components will be visible, similar to what is currently on the Board's webpages.

Augerot mentioned similar to the shift from livestreaming on Facebook to livestreaming on YouTube, the assumption is the corresponding shift to pre-registration would have some transition time for the public to become used to new procedures and reduce frustrations.

Kwiatkowski recommended allowing people time to adjust and develop messaging. This is more robust than simply moving to web streaming; she would like to engage the Public Information Officer (PIO) and IT Department to develop strategies for the change.

Augerot felt three episodes of meeting disruption was enough and thanked Kwiatkowski for her ideas and information.

MOTION: Malone motioned to approve the use of Zoom Webinar for Board of Commissioners meetings, seconded by Wyse, **which carried, 3-0.**

3.4 Discussion and Action Regarding Adoption of Resolution No. 2024-004 – Endorsement of the State-based Universal Health Care Act (House Resolution 6270) – Commissioner Xanthippe Augerot

Augerot indicated that last week a request was received from community member Mike Huntington discussing Healthcare for All Oregon, suggesting a resolution to support a House Resolution 6270 to go to Congress in the matter of endorsement of the state-based Universal Health Care Act of 2023. This particular resolution expresses support for the bill, which would provide an easier pathway for a state to adopt universal health healthcare legislation. Currently, Oregon is a leader in moving in that direction, and a universal healthcare approach received a good deal of support at the State Legislature. There is currently a commission working to set up a proposal for universal healthcare in Oregon; this resolution would be one more piece to facilitate the outcome. Augerot did not know where the other two Commissioners stand with respect to this movement and was looked forward to a discussion.

Augerot said the resolution does not have the effect of doing or implementing anything, nor does House Resolution 6270 actually implement anything. It simply facilitates the path for the State of Oregon to implement its own legislation.

MOTION: Malone motioned to adopt Resolution No. R2024-004 endorsing the State-based Universal Health Care Act (House Resolution 6270), seconded by Wyse, **which carried, 3-0.**

3.5 Sponsorship Request: Rotary Club of Philomath 2024 Salmon and Jazz Event – Board of Commissioners

Augerot indicated the County received a sponsorship request from the Rotary Club of Philomath for the 2024 Salmon and Jazz event. The County supported the 2023 event.

MOTION: Wyse motioned to approve sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Philomath's 2024 Salmon and Jazz Event in the amount of \$250, seconded by Malone, **which carried, 3-0.**

Addition to the Agenda, placed after Item 3.5: *Consideration of National Association of Counties (NACo) Membership Dues

Augerot noted the NACo dues are much more affordable than Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) dues. The amount this year is for \$1,712. Augerot sought Board approval to pay the 2024 dues.

Wyse supported the dues amount and believes NACo offers good value, especially the legislative conference and the opportunity to meet other delegates.

MOTION: Malone moved to approve payment of NACo dues for 2024 in the amount of \$1,712; Wyse seconded, **which carried 3-0.**

(Exhibit 3: NACo Invoice No. 202325854)

3.6 County Administrator Updates – Rachel McEneny, County Administrator

McEneny reported on recent activities:

- completed six weeks International County Management Association (ICMA) modernizing budgeting course toward ICMA certification
- attended Coastal and Valley City Managers and County Administrators meetings
- attended an AOC summit with discussion around Measure 110 reforms implementation
- a Crisis Center needs survey to review
- completing pay equity implementation
- participated in visit of Congresswoman Val Hoyle to the community
- met with Corvallis City Councilor Paul Schaefer for a tour of the Corvallis Museum
- attended a Rotary club luncheon
- participated in an extensive tour of the Boys and Girls Club
- ran in the 5K Corvallis run
- attended the Corvallis Arts Center open house

McEneny also shared upcoming activities:

- a briefing with UPD Consulting about Board preferences for the EDI position, emphasizing change management and performance management
- the Jails and Justice Center National Prison Group Debrief, working with the Sheriff and Crager to move forward with conversations for a new correctional facility
- a meeting with Christopher Jacobs from the Corvallis-Benton County Economic Development Office
- attending the House Bill 4123 summit on rural homelessness in Salem

- being interviewed by the Harvard Kennedy School by Grace Fisher for an alumni story
- a tour of the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center with Allison Hobgood
- Professional organizational activities include:
 - National Association of County Administrators
 - Linn-Benton Women's Leadership Group
 - HOPE Advisory Board Meeting

3.7 Commissioner Updates – Board of Commissioners

Crager explained the application opened today for the Criminal Justice Commission's (CJC) deflection program under House Bill 5204. Crager now has access as the point of contact and will attend a webinar on April 13, 2024. Crager will work with the Sheriff and District Attorney to determine how to respond to it and will keep the Board updated.

Augerot said the CJC posted the amounts of the allocation formula for the funds coming to BC for this purpose, and they are not large; half of the full allocation is approximately \$50,000, which is sufficient for planning but insufficient for much more than that. Augerot believes BC should be looking at the Federal funds abundantly available now for implementation programs, and BC heard the warning from attendees at NACo about programs that may fold because of 10% across-the-board cuts in appropriations to many Federal justice programs. Funds are currently available, but there is no guarantee of funding in the next fiscal year. She felt BC should look at this situation very closely.

Crager said the formula currently shows BC at \$231,000. Augerot estimated it to be \$100,000 a month, which is not a great deal. A staff person in Health Services explained BC has most of the components needed for a deflection program, though we do not have a system set up yet. BC needs to determine how to meld the resources available between the core team, Sheriff's Office, harm reduction team, other community partners, and law enforcement, especially the Corvallis Police Department and define how the program would work. McEneny suggested this is a future Goal-setting meeting topic, even if it is only a brief update.

Augerot explained the proposal for the first half of the funding is about a paragraph, perhaps two questions. It is not a lot because the intent was to get the funds to the counties so planning could begin.

Crager shared an update received today which indicated the Emergency Operations Center could be up to 7,000 square feet. The Sheriff is satisfied with 600 square feet more than was previously discussed.

Wyse attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting last week that included a conversation about a debrief on Celebrate Corvallis. If anyone has feedback on the event, please share it with the Board Chair or with Wyse directly. Wyse believed it was a good event. The organizers would like to know what could be done better and any concerns people might have such as how award recipients were chosen and what methodology was used to determine the recipients.

Wyse chaired the local Officials Advisory Committee (OAC) on April 8; it is advisory to the Land Conservation and the Development Commission (LCDC) and the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). Policy option packages for the 2025 budget were presented. They have \$40 million in funding requests they understand they will not receive. Wyse provided feedback about what is important to cities and counties; the committee also includes city councilors and mayors. One concerning piece called out by AOC and League of Oregon Counties (LOC) has to do with the Housing Accountability and Production Office (HAPO). The way HAPO is budgeting protects their FTEs so staff will be available to assist counties and cities, but it does not lock in funding. Funding is still dependent on the legislature from year to year, so it may mean considerable work with the legislature. The OAC will share this concern with the LCDC. If there is feedback on the issue, Wyse is happy to pass it along. Attendance is welcome at the next LCDC meeting as they are public meetings.

Wyse shared two events happening on the evening April 10: a Corvallis Chamber of Commerce forum for state and county candidates, which will be recorded and viewable afterward; and the Starker Lecture Series at Peavy Lodge.

Wyse also indicated OSU is hosting an Out of the Darkness campus walk on April 20 to raise awareness about suicide and prevention.

Malone pointed to Congresswoman Val Hoyle's visit on April 4 as a great opportunity to visit the BC projects she helped fund, such as the inadequate space at the Monroe Health Clinic that can now be addressed. Malone thanked Grogan for orchestrating the visit, which enabled the Commissioners to thank Hoyle and to connect with her staff, who are critical in sharing background and information about BC projects.

Malone spent time reviewing a summary from Crager and staff of the 2025 Congressionally-directed spending requests and current priorities. The Jackson Frazier boardwalk project may need \$800,000 to be completed; this is a project adjacent to the Greenbelt Land Trust and Owens Farm. Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center has acreage for trails on the other side of Route 99W; Malone has a follow-up meeting with Hoyle staffer Cheri Brubaker on April 11 to discuss. BC has several projects for which funding is being sought. Malone asked staff to compile a status report of current projects with estimated completion dates.

Crager noted status reports are objective and suggested an online dashboard as an easy, quick way to see the progression of BC's simultaneous projects. The information will become more refined over time and more accessible and transparent.

Malone reported attending a Town Hall for elected officials on April 7 with Senator Merkley and shared BC's current projects and asks for the next fiscal year. He will follow up with Merkley's staff. The meeting was also attended by opponents of the Republic Services landfill expansion, who presented information. Malone will reach out to Community Development about sharing BC's landfill information with Merkley's staff.

Malone attended a broadband meeting on April 4 at the new Alyrica headquarters in Philomath. Also in attendance were groups explaining available resources and how best

to access them. Rachael Maddock-Hughes, the rural broadband consultant for BC, also attended. Malone saw via AOC an opportunity to join a state broadband committee as a county commissioner. Augerot noted a resignation from the Tillamook Board of Commissioners freed up the position; David Yamamoto was an early and supportive proponent of broadband expansion.

Malone wondered if the investment of time would have value relative to the size of the group where a single voice may not have a large effect. Augerot felt Yamamoto was effective in terms of sharing county perspectives; the decision-making was shared with other counties and the state in terms of how broadband investments would be made. It is a question to pose to Maddock-Hughes.

Malone said applications are due by early May 2024, and he believed it was a gubernatorial appointment. Augerot replied sometimes it is an AOC appointment and sometimes it is state-wide notice of appointment.

Augerot attended the PRAX Open House on April 6 and noted many options for community participation in campus events and hosting various national and international groups. PRAX is focused on the intersection of arts, science, and technology, as well as a near-term significant emphasis on highlighting Native American traditions, art, and music interfacing with modern composing.

On April 2, Augerot attended a meeting of the Mental Health Addictions and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee (MHADDAC); Wyse also attended. Other attendees included several representatives from Moms Demand Action sharing a presentation on extreme risk protection order implementation. Not all states have red flag or extreme risk protection statutes allowing law enforcement to take guns away from people, though Oregon was an early adopter of the statute.

The action group wanted information regarding barriers, community awareness of the topic, and the frequency of use by law enforcement agencies. New opportunities to promote the statute to other communities in the county resulted from this discussion.

Augerot also participated in the Willamette Criminal Justice Council (WCJC) sequential intercept mapping workshop on March 20, which was hosted at Oregon State University and attended by approximately 45 to 50 people representing different aspects of the justice continuum from first encounter to reentry into the community. The mapping exercise is focused specifically on the intersection of the legal system with individuals with addictions or mental health diagnoses. The workshop was timely with regard to Measure 110 reform. Information was collected about how our system works the mapping; the information is returned as a draft document at the Lane Criminal Justice Council's Executive Committee. After some adjustments, it will be shared with the full committee. Augerot would like to see this topic on a Board agenda as it will help inform our Measure 110 deflection work because it is the context in which BC is operating. The group put forth perceived gaps in the system solicited from all participants in the workshop, ranked them into five top priorities, and developed an action plan to address those gaps, which will be included in the draft report. Augerot recommended a Goal-

setting meeting as a good venue for a discussion regarding work to deflect addiction or mental health issues away from the legal system.

Augerot and Van Arsdall spoke with Mike Jackson of the National Institute of Corrections based in Washington DC, which offers four training series from conceptualization to implementation through staffing and operations of a new correctional facility. This is another topic to include in a Goal-setting meeting, as well as discussion about when to initiate those trainings and process. Augerot noted these trainings can engage community members in the process, but there is an issue of timing and community interest with regard to a potential bond measure. Johnson has worked in corrections and been engaged with jail construction projects around the country in different-sized municipalities; he is aware of the kind of information communities need and want. The trainings and travel are zero cost.

Wyse wondered about these resources being offered in previous years during jail replacement investigations and efforts.

Augerot said in her first term as a commissioner, someone mentioned the National Institute of Correctional Resources. At the time, Sheriff Jackson and Jail Commander Diana Rabago participated in a workshop in Colorado. The current model brings the workshops to the jurisdiction and can then focus on county-specific issues in context. Augerot felt the current programs have been continually refined since 2018 and would be excited to see BC could take advantage of these resources.

Augerot continues to attend Community Health Centers (CHC) Board of Directors meetings; a recent topic was the budget issue, which was presented to the Commissioners by Crager and the Financial Services team. Augerot has also been attending the local Government Advisory Committee meetings, which are Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Health and Human Services-based and focused primarily on public health, housing, and behavioral health contracts. Augerot has also agreed to participate in a six- to eight-month workgroup on behalf of Behavioral Health (BH) programs to look at streamlining BH funding; the ask came from AOC. She will work with Crager and Sands of BC BH to ensure good representation. Augerot indicated she will attend the House Bill 4123 Summit on April 15.

Augerot spoke with Bryan Steinhauser of the Early Learning Hub over clashing priorities of childcare facilities and BC's land use and code issues. The Hub and people focused on accelerating the availability of childcare face a barrier in terms BC's environmental health and code issues. A lesser issue about septic tanks was mentioned; there is a larger issue stemming from the Oregon Department of Transportation regarding safety features on roadways. Augerot mentioned it since commissioners may hear more about it, and it is likely not the final time BC will face this issue. At least one other local employer is considering onsite childcare and will likely face similar issues. BC should begin considering how to address these issues and be as collaborative as possible to solve them. It takes resources up front for a childcare business to invest in these safety improvements and upgrades; without revenue from new childcare slots, they are unable to even begin the work. Augerot wondered about a pathway for the county to help with a grant, payment plan, or somehow creatively address these issues.

Augerot shared there was a leadership change with the executive director of the Casa Latinos Unidos organization, which holds an ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) grant through the county. The slated presentation on microenterprises will have to be postponed; this change also affects its Stand By Me program with the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (COG) as Casa Latinos Unidos has been a major partner for them as well.

Augerot asked Commissioners about the scheduled April 18 meetings with the Juvenile Department, Sheriff's Department, and District Attorney (DA); the DA is not available. Since the last quarterly meeting was dropped and the current quarterly meeting has already been rescheduled once, Augerot asked what the other commissioners would prefer to do. Wyse and Malone both preferred to keep the meeting with the Sheriff and Juvenile Director and reschedule with the DA.

Malone also shared he was made aware of OSU and partners receiving a significant intermediate grant on microfluidics. He spoke with OSU Provost Edward Feser who mentioned the possibility of a large number of local jobs arising from the grant, which would have an effect on local housing. Augerot noted this is one of two technology hub centers at OSU; the other focuses on cross-laminated and mass timber.

Malone expressed concern this development was not discussed or shared informationally at the local level. He wondered about the effects on the housing and transportation infrastructure in BC.

Augerot said the microfluidics partnership with Hewlett-Packard (HP) will attract more people. HP has been applying for CHIPS (Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors) Act funding; a significant HP expansion will be the driver for those jobs. Augerot would like to resume direct conversations with HP colleagues but mentioned some leadership change. She also noted the lack of regular contact with the university's government relations team after the departure of Steve Clark from OSU, though President Jayathi Murthy is responsive to outreach. Paul Odenthal was named as an additional point of contact. Augerot would like to strengthen ties with the university and said the county needs to stay engaged with discussions around OSU and HP.

McEneny noted BC's Community Development Director is a representative on the employee housing component; those meetings are led by Odenthal and include the City of Corvallis, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, which is investing in building its own employee housing.

Augerot noted those conversations are ongoing, and the county needs to ensure HP remains engaged in that arena.

Wyse reported she is on the Executive Committee for the Cascades West Economic Development District and recalled approving a letter of support for OSU's microfluidics program in the past.

Augerot received an email noting the week of April 8 as Artificial Intelligence (AI) Week for OSU with a series of webinars, seminars, and panels focused on AI. The Chief Economic Officer (CEO) of Nvidia is speaking on April 12.

McEneny reported some of BC's IT team are attending the AI series for training and continuing education. It is a topic of discussion at NACo and within ICMA trainings.

Malone had some conversations with Representative Rayfield and felt it would be a good idea to name a building or otherwise recognize Rayfield's considerable efforts on behalf of BC. An obvious choice is the building at 4185 SW Research Way, which will be in operation fairly soon. Wyse agreed it was a good idea to recognize and honor Rayfield but felt a prominently displayed plaque would be more appropriate. Augerot reminded there is a county naming policy and noted at the state and federal level, geographic places are no longer named after people due to perceptions changing over time, though this is not mentioned in BC's naming policy. McEneny acknowledged Rayfield has been instrumental with the Crisis Center and other structures.

Augerot said there are unnamed buildings and is open to discussing the matter further. Rayfield has been a major supporter of BC and Augerot is happy to acknowledge that.

Malone would like to recognize the work Rayfield has done for Benton County. Malone also shared a conversation he had with DA Haroldson during a courthouse tour where the DA indicated he would like a plaque at the Historic Courthouse opposite the plaque for former Sheriff Diana Simpson.

Augerot and Wyse noted Haroldson was Oregon's first Latinx DA and the longest-serving DA in the state. The Historic Courthouse makes sense as the location of a plaque to honor Haroldson's service.

6. Other

No other business was discussed.

7. Adjournment

Chair Augerot adjourned the meeting at 12:20 PM.



Xanthippe Augerot, Chair



Amanda Makepeace, Recorder

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