

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS GOAL-SETTING MEETING

June 11, 2024, 9 AM

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

Elected Official: Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall

Staff: Laurel Byer, Gary Stockhoff, Public Works; Jesse Ott, Adam Stebbins, Natural Areas, Parks and Events; Toby Lewis, Bailey Payne, Community Development; Cory Grogan, Public Information Officer; Sean McGuire, Sustainability; Marriah De La Vega, Maura Kwiatkowski, Amanda Makepeace, Board of Commissioners

Guests: Lisa Scherf, City of Corvallis; Andrew Brown

1. Call to Order and Introductions

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

2. Review and Approve Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

3. Discussion Topics

3.1 Benton Area Transit Update – Gary Stockhoff, Public Works Director; Lisa Scherf, City of Corvallis

Stockhoff reported on previous Benton Area Transit (BAT) budget issues that were resolved in the last few years by the efforts of Scherf, former City staff Brad Dillingham, funding sources from the State, and a transit tax. Stockhoff indicated there will likely be a request in the upcoming legislative session for an increase in the transit tax.

Several weeks ago, Stockhoff, Croney, and Crager met with Dial-A-Bus (DAB) staff and discussed a number of issues, including:

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased to 3.7% for 2024-2025, and per the terms of the contract, there will be an amendment to reflect the CPI change
- The return to Easy Rides dispatch software in March 2024
- DAB obtained its own subscription to Easy Rides, and the software was removed from Benton County servers, resolving IT security risk issues
- The County's receipt of a \$31,000 invoice for work associated with the previous software, Via, which is not payable per contract terms
- Discussion of the new lease draft for the Sunset Building space
- The lease rate of \$3,700 per month was calculated based on 42% of DAB revenue from non-BAT (Benton Area Transit) sources, with the local school district being DAB's largest revenue source
- Discussion around County preliminary calculation of \$40 per Sunset Building parking space used
- Benton County has been absorbing some costs of the DAB model by providing computers and IT support
- Prior lease payments have been irregular
- Variable fuel costs made it challenging for DAB to structure monthly payments
- Benton County began deducting fuel and lease payments directly from program funds
- Community relations between DAB and Benton County were addressed
- County and DAB staff will meet next on June 12

An analysis was completed to determine the cost of Benton County operating the transit system internally, and the analysis indicates it is feasible. Stockhoff stressed the need to look to the future and how to interoperate with the other parts of the County transit system. The State is preparing for its two-year budget, and Stockhoff acknowledged an increase in the State Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) tax would be helpful. It is also important that the City role previously filled by Dillingham be filled.

Malone asked if the 42% figure represented the Corvallis School District's portion of DAB; Stockhoff indicated yes.

Crager noted that assistance was provided to DAB to help build a costing model to better understand the County's cost versus other costs.

Malone recalled that an analysis completed several years ago indicated Benton County was subsidizing DAB at a rate of approximately \$100,000 per year.

Stockhoff noted that Scherf brought to the County's attention the extra costs, such as third-party trips and services outside established hours, which have now been eliminated and the service model brought into line. DAB was advised that those services should not have been offered. Stockhoff and Scherf will meet with DAB staff to discuss operating hours, routes, timing, and ridership.

Sherf indicated that the service model was returned to County control in January 2020. There had previously been a lack of alignment between DAB's desire to provide community services and the constraints on County resources.

Wyse recognized that change is challenging and there may be strong emotions around necessary changes. Wyse appreciated the open acknowledgment and discussion about negative comments about Benton County. Wyse expressed hope that a positive working relationship could be re-established.

Augerot referenced the legacy of DAB as a volunteer enterprise. When the County first invited DAB to serve as the contractor for paratransit services, DAB began billing the County for services it chose to provide. The community had become accustomed to the services that a nonprofit, unencumbered by Federal and State regulations, could provide. The change in funding sources altered the model and demonstrated that it was unsustainable in its previous form.

McEneny noted the County is in the early stages of reviewing the transit services other counties provide, whether in-house or contracted, and asked Scherf to discuss the model used by the City of Corvallis.

Scherf indicated the City's transit system is a contracted service provided by MTR Western. It is a very healthy partnership with open communication and collaborative resolutions to issues. Scherf did conduct an exercise to model the structure required to move contracted services in-house and shared it with Stockhoff. Sherf advised that for fixed route city buses, drivers are Amalgamated Trans Union and are paid more than DAB drivers. Scherf suggested the current County contractor may misunderstand its role to provide the services the County has requested under the terms of the contract.

Augerot noted DAB has operated less as a typical transit service and more as a transportation social service. The difference in service understanding between DAB and the County is a source of friction, and the County is now enforcing the contract's expected services. If other services are needed or wanted by the community, those services need to be provided in a different way.

Stockhoff indicated that CDL (Commercial Driver's License) holders may not be willing to work for lower wages, and a decline in volunteerism is impacting the available labor pool. The County must look at attracting CDL holders at a more competitive wage, and there must be accountability from DAB and fiscal responsibility from the County. ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) has been pleased with the progress made between DAB and the County in the past few years.

Scherf explained that state and federal agencies understand that the contractor represents the County and stands in for the County for operating purposes; however, what the contractor does or does not do reflects on Benton County.

Crager reported never having experienced a similar situation where a contract was treated like a grant. Federal and State funds are to be used for very specific purposes and are applied against contracts for an expected outcome.

Stockhoff advised the current three-year contract expires June 30, 2026, which provides sufficient time to consider moving to in-house services. There are also options to extend the contract or renegotiate a new contract.

Crager cautioned that the June 30, 2026 contract expiration would not provide sufficient time to plan for a move to in-house services. It is a significant undertaking and would need to begin as soon as possible.

Augerot said there are consulting firms that specialize in transit issues to provide an outside analysis.

Scherf noted that a close analysis of the DAB rides indicated more rides were City paratransit than previously realized, and the service cost was adjusted for the City by the County. Regarding the apprehension over the transition to the new dispatch system, most riders (who essentially are Corvallis clients) who contacted the County were unhappy because rides were previously available early in the morning on a certain day that does not include paratransit services. Scherf acknowledged the County has borne the brunt of criticism for the City's portion of the program. The current vacancies are an opportunity to explore restructuring, including having the City running its part of the program via its own contractor. These explorations have delayed recruitment for the open positions. Last week, Scherf presented her managers with an analysis of the City's paratransit program. Scherf felt progress has been made with DAB, program branding, and community visibility. The City and County will meet in Fall 2024 with the new STIF Advisory Committee to develop a plan and solicit projects.

Sherf was scheduled to meet later on June 11 with the DAB Operations Supervisor and a Lincoln County representative about the Coast to Valley service and how it might be modified to better meet schedules. For the 99W pilot project, new vehicles were delivered after three years of waiting so Sherf will connect with her Yamhill County counterpart.

Malone asked about the timeline and potential start of the 99W pilot program service.

Scherf replied that the vehicles are available, but there are no drivers, so services are still being cut due to recruitment issues. Corvallis Transit System (CTS) boosted wages

to hire CDL holders to fill routes. Sherf expressed doubt about DAB's ability to recruit drivers.

Augerot welcomed the exploration of changing the model; whether CTS takes over paratransit services or there is a change in the BAT component. Augerot recognized that not everyone's needs will be met but hoped DAB could benefit from the new social determinants of health-related social needs funding from the coordinated care organization. Augerot believed there might be opportunity for collaboration with the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (COG) due to their funding sources and their ability to cross county lines, which Benton County lacks. Augerot hoped Corvallis and the County will bring forth a revised intergovernmental agreement that includes the legislative changes reflected in a restructuring.

Stockhoff reported on eight electric vehicles to replace six existing gas or diesel-fueled vehicles in a range of classes. These vehicles will be upfitted with ramps compliant with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) regulations. The Federal Transit Administration has been helpful in enabling the County to meet its deadline to use the funds. PBS Engineering and Environmental was retained to complete the National Environmental Policy Act survey, which is required when breaking ground on a project.

Stockhoff noted an electric charging station is on track for installation at the Sunset Building, which would make an excellent base of operations if the County chose to move services in-house.

Augerot asked about next steps in terms of analysis. Stockhoff will begin the process of identifying a consultant to assist.

3.2 *Comments on Draft Documents: National Flood Insurance Program and Endangered Species Act Compliance – Toby Lewis; Community Development; Laurel Byer, Public Works; Jesse Ott, Natural Area, Parks, and Events

Lewis reported that in July 2023, the County entered into an agreement with FEMA to be a cooperating agency for reviewing draft documents for the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA recently released two draft documents to cooperating agencies for review and comment. The draft model ordinance is due June 11, and the environmental impact statement (EIS) is due June 17. Additional draft documents are expected to be released throughout summer 2024. Once all draft documents are finalized by FEMA, the drafts will be published for public review and comment and then finalized. The current expectation is that the public release of the draft documents will be sometime in late 2024 or 2025. After the 75-day public comment period, the documents will be published in final form, and then local governments will be expected to implement either regulations or follow

the final guidance on ensuring development in floodplains is not creating a loss of protected habitat. The current presentation's purpose is to finalize review for the draft EIS, which describes the regulatory context and the goal of guiding development away from the most sensitive habitat areas, reducing new developments, and strengthening systems of accountability to track and report on implementation of the requirements.

The key floodplain and habitat functions being protected are unoccupied space measured in volume to protect fish species, water quality via avoidance of creating any new impervious surface, and riparian vegetation, including trees with a six-inch diameter. The EIS identifies four alternatives for consideration:

1. No change (baseline)
2. Adopt no net loss regulations at the local level (documentation exceptions allowed); this is the current County practice
3. Adopt no net loss regulations at the local level (no documentation exceptions)
4. Habitat Assessments

Based on the document and conversations on June 10, the County is considering Alternative 4 as the preferred alternative, since it allows for site-specific consideration of impacts and tailored mitigation options. That type of review would allow for a much more tailored approach to each individual project. The second preferred alternative was Alternative 2, since it allows for use of an already-existing permit review. Alternative 2 opens four pathways for communities:

- Path A: Adopt Oregon model code language
- Path B: Document that existing local jurisdiction codes achieve no net loss metrics equal to or greater than the Oregon model code
- Path C: Develop a tailored method of no net loss implementation for all or part of the local jurisdiction
- Path D: Habitat Conservation Plan

The proposal is to add language to the no net loss requirements to the draft floodplain ordinance because it all applies to the standard floodplain areas. The goals of the no net loss standards are:

1. Avoid impacts to habitat
2. Minimize remaining effects
3. Replace, compensate, offset, or rectify residual adverse effects

From the draft model, the three categories of habitat protection standards:

1. Protecting Unoccupied Space
2. Not increasing Impervious Surfaces
3. Not removing Trees (or onsite replacement of removed trees)

The Riparian Buffer Zone refers to projects specifically and exclusively for habitat enhancement and restoration and are proposed to be exempt, but only if they are exclusively for those goals; extra items such as storage sheds for equipment would not qualify.

Lewis reported implementation considerations discussed on April 10:

- Potential for offsite mitigation
- Enforcement of multiyear installation and monitoring
- Functionality of stormwater detention and retention in flood hazard areas during an active flood
- Ability to implement improvements for travel routes for fire, life, and safety reasons, such as widening roads
- Accommodation of other environmental concerns around vegetation or beaver activity

Augerot asked if current exemptions for agriculture will remain or change. Lewis indicated that standard agricultural processes and ditch maintenance are exempt so long as there are no changes in how water flows. Newly added to the discussion were silviculture practices, such as fir trees.

Stebbins noted that discussions began in 2011 with the riparian ordinance and stormwater code implementation. The only wetland flood-related area is at Jackson Frazier Wetlands, which has undergone significant work. Stebbins wondered what details FEMA and similar agencies want to see within implementation but believed it is a viable pathway. Regarding the ESA, what would be the most efficient and effective pathway without an extensive monitoring documentation process? How would metrics be developed that provide a good focus balance between broad and fine?

Lewis indicated that FEMA is currently looking for feedback, and a decision will be made at a higher level for the State of Oregon. Depending on the decision, the County will be able to choose between four options. Lewis has spoken with Department of Land Conservation and Development staff who had comments on both documents.

Byer expressed concerns; no new impervious surfaces is a significant change, especially with regard to roads that need to be widened in floodplains for safety. There are questions about applicability and interpretation.

Ott reported not seeing anything that would keep Natural Areas, Parks, and Events (NAPE) from doing its work; however, a great deal of NAPE's work that interfaces with bridges and access could be somewhat affected.

Lewis indicated FEMA is trying to work with the agencies and jurisdictions that will be responsible for implementation. FEMA must develop the draft documents and preliminary information so the information can be publicly released. As a cooperating agency, the County has access to those documents as they are being developed. The County will provide feedback on implementation to help inform the final documents.

Augerot noted the ESA has no provision for a cost/benefit analysis. The ESA is about protecting habitat.

Stebbins explained that the County provides immense value to property owners through the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP); landowners will not seek consultation since the County has the ability to mitigate.

Lewis noted that if Alternative 2 or 3 is chosen, the HCP is certainly an option. Stebbins indicated it is a significant upfront investment, but property owners have a high-level benefit.

[Exhibit 1: June 11, 2024 Memorandum from Floodplain Administrator Toby Lewis to the Board of Commissioners]

Chair Augerot recessed the meeting at 10:21 AM and reconvened at 10:27 AM.

3.3 Streamlining Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes – Maura Kwiatkowski, Board of Commissioners Office

McEneny provided background on the meeting minutes process. Preparation of minutes is a significant investment of time and staff resources, and research indicates the current approach is above and beyond the State's statutory requirements for public meetings.

Kwiatkowski originally presented on this topic in August 2022. The goal is to share meeting information and the business of the Board in a timely, accessible manner for the Commissioners and the general public while complying with State statutes. State statute requires that public meeting minutes include attendance, actions taken by the Board, results of votes, the substance of any discussion, and any documents discussed (the meeting packet and any exhibits).

The Attorney General's Office provides guidance for when meeting minutes should be available, which is generally three weeks. Consistent barriers to timely production of Board of Commissioners meeting minutes are the amount of labor involved relative to the number of resources available. Generally, three hours of staff time are required to prepare minutes for each hour of meeting time. Kwiatkowski reviewed neighboring jurisdictions and found many cities are producing narrative minutes similar to the

County's, while other counties are utilizing a more moderate narrative or summary style minutes. The proposal to streamlined minutes format would meet the minimum statutory requirements. Kwiatkowski believes a solid and statutorily compliant report would be produced within a much smaller timeframe.

The meeting recorder is also currently producing a Meeting Summary within 24 hours of the meeting, as well as providing links to audio and video recordings, resulting in very comprehensive information being available to the public within a short period of time. Two years ago, when this topic was first discussed, County Counsel Croney prepared a clarification that audio and video files are not part of the permanent record; they are for convenience and reference.

Kwiatkowski noted that a major component of transparency is sharing as much information as possible, but the challenges with narrative style minutes are the level of the resources required and that the relevancy of the information declines over time in the eyes of the public. Streamlined minutes provide a faster turnaround with information being available when it is most relevant. The implementation of the CivicPlus Board Meeting Management Platform will also streamline processes and improve quality considerably.

Augerot was supportive of shifting to a streamlined form of minutes and agreed staff time could be used more effectively. Augerot asked about the ability to retain meeting audio and video permanently.

McEneny indicated Information Technology staff are working on an archive solution. The County has a contract with YouTube that provides permanent archival services and also offers closed captioning.

Placing hyperlinks within an agenda pointing to a specific timestamp in the audio and video will save the public a great deal of time. Augerot liked the idea of timestamps for individual agenda items.

Malone was supportive of being more efficient. It is obvious staff cannot take on other tasks and produce meeting minutes in a timely manner. Malone believed people like summaries to working through pages of information to locate a specific item within a three-hour meeting.

Wyse expressed a preference for detailed minutes. Wyse also suggested the topic should perhaps be deferred until a new Commissioner takes office in January 2025. Wyse wondered if it is worth implementing this change now only to have it changed back with a new Commissioner.

Augerot understood the rationale but acknowledged there are four staff spending time on Board minutes, which is not the most productive use of their time. Board governance staff are also assuming responsibility for the oversight of boards, commissions, and committees, as well as leading the implementation of the new meeting management platform. Given the additional responsibilities, Board minutes will be produced even later than they are currently. Augerot did not believe that detailed narrative minutes provide that much more information than the summarized minutes, given meeting audio and video are available and could be timestamp-referenced to minutes moving forward.

Wyse liked the idea of linking agenda items to timestamps in the audio and video and agreed with the goals of streamlining meeting minutes. However, Wyse felt the narrative style is an investment in the future that could save countless hours of time later if community members want to know the rationale for the decisions that were made. It is worth noting Corvallis and Albany have the narrative style, so the majority of Benton County residents are accustomed to seeing detailed minutes.

Wyse referred to previous instances where a decision was made in the past and cited a specific example of a Budget Committee determining the salary of a second-term Commissioner; the minutes were streamlined, and the meeting was not recorded. The Budget Committee had to be reconvened with a different group of members. The Board of Commissioners makes major decisions about health, the landfill, and the Justice System Improvement Program. Some in the community said the County was not transparent enough in the process and not forthcoming with all the bond details. Wyse expressed concern about building back trust after the bond measure failure and the recent anger over the updated media relations policy, which led people to accuse the County of not being transparent. Wyse was concerned that streamlining minutes would lead to similar claims.

Also, from an equity standpoint, many people cannot attend the Board's daytime meetings in person, and it takes time to navigate recordings. The minutes provide a service. Broadband is an issue in many parts of the County, and downloading audio or video files is more challenging than downloading a text document. Wyse's position was that the detailed minutes are a core function of good governance. Wyse acknowledged that the narrative style is time-consuming, and insufficient staff resources are available to complete them. The County needs to consider whether additional resources should be added.

Augerot suggested that defining the issue in terms of trust and transparency is only partly realistic. The streamlined minutes example provided by staff does not eliminate any of the actual decision-making rationale; it simply eliminated the back-and-forth in term of questions Commissioners asked. Augerot felt that is pertinent when looking at why a decision was made, but the recordings exist for reference. They are accessible to the public, and they are time-stamped for ease in locating a specific portion of a video or

audio recording. Augerot agreed errors have been made in the past; part of that is due to the lack of searchability for the archive of minutes that exists now. Technology now exists to better search for information, leaving the County in a better position to revisit documented decisions. Augerot was not comfortable couching the issue in terms of trust and transparency and is focused on good governance with quicker access to information. Meeting minutes are just one tool for good governance, and staff time should be used judiciously.

Wyse understood the reason why staff would want streamlined minutes but expressed concern over eroding public trust in the Board.

Malone noted the issue had been delayed since August 2022 and explained it is not permanent; the proposal can be modified. The examples mentioned were from a time when the tools that exist now were not available. Malone believes part of a Commissioner's job is to make the best decision and explain that to the community. The proposal to streamline the minutes is a good one, and there is nothing more precious than time – time which could be allocated to other important projects.

Wyse noted that in August 2022, she requested more information on other alternatives such as contracted minute-takers. Wyse was not convinced streamlining is the only way to address the issue before a decision is made.

Augerot pointed out that meeting minutes have been a problem since she joined the Board. At that time, Board minutes were three years in arrears. Good progress has been made since then, but staff are falling behind again. Augerot referenced a prior Request for Proposals for contracted minute-takers where the respondents were not of the caliber desired, so a 0.5 FTE was created. The Board has 20 more meetings per year than Corvallis or Albany and it is an intense investment of time.

Wyse noted that needs change, and the minutes are a permanent record. People may not be looking at them now, but they could be important in 10 or 20 years.

Kwiatkowski explained that in August 2022, considerable outreach was made to the professional recorders association. Staff obtained a list of transcriptionist members, and outreach was completed to approximately 20 individuals to identify an individual or firm interested in this work, but the outcome was unsuccessful. The City of Corvallis contracts with community members via social media advertising aimed at students and retirees. Kwiatkowski has not pursued this avenue since it then becomes a function that must be managed carefully to ensure meeting coverage. There was no interest in either verbatim or detailed narrative style of minutes when the outreach was done; but the level of interest may have changed since 2022.

Wyse appreciated being heard in August 2022 and that research was done. Wyse reiterated core goals of improving public records, access, and transparency, which is the reason for her position.

MOTION: Malone moved to approve the transition to a streamlined minutes format for Board of Commissioners meetings. Augerot seconded. Augerot and Malone voted in favor; Wyse voted against. The motion carried 2-1.

3.4 2024 Summer Meeting Schedule – Rachel McEneny, County Administrator; Maura Kwiatkowski, Board of Commissioners Staff

Kwiatkowski presented the Board with suggested July 2024 Board meeting schedule modifications to accommodate Commissioners and Department Director leave schedules:

1. Reschedule the July 17 Administrative Services Departments Meeting to the week of July 8
2. Cancel the July 23 Quarterly Information Sharing Meeting
3. Reschedule the July 24 County Counsel Meeting to a date to be determined

The Board concurred, without motion, on the recommended meeting schedule changes.

3.5 Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP) Update – Rick Crager, Assistant County Administrator; Bailey Payne, Community Development; Sean McGuire, Sustainability

Crager reported that SMMP Task Force Chair Steve Chase stepped down from role. The SMMP is a significant undertaking, and it will be important to complete the process effectively. For this Board of Commissioners Office-sponsored initiative, McGuire will be the project manager, and Payne is the Benton County subject matter expert. Lindsey Goodman will provide administrative support. The draft contract with consultant RRS was approved by the Board in March and is close to being finalized. The contract contains three primary objectives: 1) facilities status and emerging regional opportunities; 2) analysis of benefits and consequences; and 3) innovation.

Crager noted the purpose of the task force needs to be fully defined. A prospectus was developed, and work is occurring to make it very clear. It will be important to have a manageable task force; potential membership could range from 40 to 70. McGuire and Payne will work with Marion and Polk Counties, as well as the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ is a critical partner, and conversations need to be had with the agency to ensure joint understanding. There has been discussion that the task force is a statewide table, but it is important to focus on this region. If there is a statewide task force, DEQ would take the lead. For Benton County, the goals are getting to the plan, building the task force to focus on the plan, and identifying how the

regional task force can facilitate change and create sustainable materials opportunities. The goal for a task force kickoff meeting is after Labor Day, and information from RRS will be needed in advance of that meeting. Information is critical for productive discussions.

Crager asked whether the Board had any concerns and noted there would be an actionable, measurable plan.

Augerot agreed the regional plan is primary, and the right partners need to be at the table. Legislative asks are secondary and will emerge through the process. Augerot looks forward to seeing the project plan.

McGuire is currently putting the plan together, and it will be presented to the Board at the July Goal-setting meeting.

Malone pointed out that a regional facility requires a regional plan. It will be important to define the goals and timetable and confirm the appropriate partners. The regional group will be a challenge, and the process is not yet ready to be statewide. Regarding the legislative approach, the need would be to identify who is interested in helping move the regional project forward, as well as championing legislation.

Crager indicated that the priority for McGuire and Payne is to follow up with contacts and ensure they understand the process is moving forward. It is also important to identify the regional subject matter experts, innovative businesses, and elected officials with political will.

Wyse expressed support for the work; appreciated hearing about actionable, measurable plans; and agreed it is prudent to begin with a regional plan.

3.6 County Administrator Updates – Rachel McEneny, County Administrator

- New leadership updates should be available at the July Goal-setting meeting
- Attended the Scenic Byway Management Plan Steering Committee in Philomath
- Participated in wrap-up meetings with EDI consultant. Opportunity for consultant to potentially assist in the future with recruitment of new EDI Coordinator.
- Attending Valley City Managers and County Administrators Luncheon
- Attended Community Health Centers Board of Directors meeting
- Attended Public Works barbeque with Malone
- Attended meeting with Corvallis City leadership
- Quarterly City Managers meeting
- Toured Crystal Lake Cemetery with Jesse Ott
- Toured Lincoln Health Center and attended a team meeting

- Met with Helen Higgins of the Boys And Girls Club
- Attended the Owens Farm open house
- Met with Rebecca Robinson, Associate Vice President of OSU's newly formed Economic Development and Industry Relations
- Working with ICMA regarding credentialling
- Planning to attend the ICMA Conference in Pennsylvania in September
- Attending classes with Martineau regarding engaging the workforce
- Working with a recruiter to begin the Chief Financial Officer search
- Discussions with Deanne Hammond in Public Works GIS about how parks are tracked and how GIS mapping can be used as a communication tool
- Upcoming Benton Alsea Workgroup meeting
- Upcoming tour of the Monroe Health Center
- Upcoming HOPE Executive Committee meeting

3.7 Commissioner Updates – Benton County Commissioners

Wyse

- Attended the Scenic Byway Management Plan Steering Committee in Philomath; serving as an Executive Committee member
- Attended the Historic Preservation celebration and presented the County's Courthouse Preservation Committee members with appreciation for service
- Briefed the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Governance, Revenue, and Economic Development Steering Committee on the Local Officials Advisory Committee
- Attending the upcoming Art Display Opening at the Alsea Library

Malone

- Attended the May 17 solid waste tour. Three stops, including materials recovery facility (MRF) in Brooks; impressive, three-year operation. Second stop: Garten Recycling, small MRF operated by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports people with disabilities in their effort to contribute to the community through employment, career, and retirement opportunities. Third stop was a nonprofit bike shop in Salem that refurbishes bikes that are given to low-income people for transportation.
- Participated in Kalapuya evacuation drill
- Attended Fair Board meeting
- Attended meeting at HP with McEneny. McEneny noted more active hiring than in previous years following previous long decline in employee numbers. McEneny noted that HP wants to do more in semiconductors. Malone is expecting news on the next round of CHIPS Act grants and the potential for 5,000 to 10,000 new jobs.

Malone would like to receive more news about jobs and economic development in the area. The housing situation is difficult for incoming workers. Augerot is impressed by HP's efforts to make facilities available to researchers in microfluidics and wrap around entrepreneurial support.

- Attended floodplain presentation at Kings Valley School regarding the Corps of Engineers floodplain maps revisions process. Map is now much more accurate.
- Attended Children and Families open house at their new building
- On July 16, the Joint Committee on Transportation is meeting in Albany as part of the 12-stop road trip to prepare the Committee for the 2025 legislative session. Listening tour in various communities regarding development of a transportation funding package. Some projects from the 2017 funding list still need to be completed, including the third section of safety improvements on Highway 20 toward Albany.

Augerot

- Attending the upcoming Art Display Opening at the Alsea Library
- Attended Children and Families open house
- Upcoming Youth Development Council, statewide meeting here in Corvallis Thursday
- Philomath Chamber luncheon
- Attending the June 13 IHN-CCO (InterCommunity Health Network-Community Care Organization) meeting
- Attending the Juneteenth celebration at Linn-Benton Community College
- Attended Community Services Consortium budget meeting on June 10; draft budget was approved. Month over month, this is the third year in the red. Union pay rates and stagnant state reimbursement rates, as well as Public Employees Retirement System costs, are significant factors. Organization is on the watch list, and payments could decrease. Wyse asked if the high cost of housing drives families out; Augerot confirmed.
- Attending Celebration of Life for former Benton County Commissioner Jay Dixon at Bonaventure.
- The Urban Renewal Agency will hold a substantive meeting in the next several months; there is now funding. Construction is ahead of schedule in South Corvallis.

4. Announcements

There were no announcements.

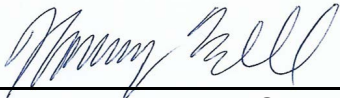
5. Other

No other business was conducted.

6. Executive Session

Chair Augerot recessed the regular Board Meeting at 12:16 PM and convened the Board in Executive Session at 12:23 PM under ORS 192.660[2][d], Labor Negotiations.

Chair Augerot adjourned the Executive Session at 12:41 PM, immediately reconvened the regular Board Meeting, and adjourned the regular Board meeting at 12:42 PM.



Nancy Wyse, 2025 Chair

Signature Not Available

Amanda Makepeace, Recorder



Maura Kwiatkowski, Transcriptionist

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