



## Board of Commissioners

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### **GOAL-SETTING MEETING MINUTES BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS August 12, 2025**

**Present:** Nancy Wyse, Chair; Pat Malone, Vice Chair; Gabe Shepherd, Commissioner; Rachel McEneny, County Administrator; Vance Croney, County Counsel

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

**Staff:** Rachel Bulder, Recorder; Marriah De La Vega; Erika Milo, Board Staff; Carly Fredericks, Communications Coordinator; Sean McGuire, Sustainability; Bailey Payne; Gary Stockhoff, Community Development; Lacey Mollel; Christine Mosbaugh, Community Health Centers; April Holland, Health Services; Gabrielle Fecteau, Procurement

**Guests:** Christopher Jacobs, Corvallis-Benton Economic Development Office

#### **1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Chair Wyse called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

#### **2. Review and Approve Agenda**

No changes were made to the agenda.

#### **3. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

#### **4. Work Session**

##### **4.1 Naming Process for the New Courthouse, Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and Campus – Gary Stockhoff, Public Works Director**

Stockhoff reported that the final permit for the EOC project had been received from the City of Corvallis. Construction on the New Courthouse is progressing, and an updated project dashboard will be provided to the Board soon. Stockhoff requested direction from the Board regarding naming conventions for the New Courthouse, the EOC, and the overall campus. Stockhoff noted the presence of a monument sign at the corner of Highway 20 and Carson Drive and asked whether the Board preferred to name the facilities or retain functional titles.

Malone asked how many naming opportunities were available for the site.

Stockhoff suggested the District Attorney's office as a separate annex or facility and offered to work with the Public Information Officer regarding naming options for the site.

Malone asked if there were any naming constraints for the New Courthouse.

The County owns the facility, and the Oregon Judicial Department is a tenant of the building. Stockhoff does not know if there is a naming obligation specifically for the Court.

Malone asked if there is a time limit for naming the New Courthouse.

Stockhoff said no. The only time limit will be associated with the Public Defender's space in the building, which will be rent-free until the bonds are remunerated.

Malone mentioned that approximately one month prior, there were concerns regarding a loss of funding on a portion of the project. Malone asked if progress had been made regarding the concerns.

Stockhoff confirmed the status of the updated version of the Master Funding Agreement, which was amended from the version signed a year prior. The Phase 1 Agreement is related to the project and construction that needed to be complete for the County to begin invoicing the State. Both documents are with the State for approval. Once the County can send the invoices that Otak has prepared, it will receive payment from the State. Delays are partly due to the expenditure of bond funds over a certain amount of time.

Shepherd stated that although there is opportunity in naming the building, regardless of the decision, the public will likely continue to refer to the building as the "New Courthouse" versus the "Old Courthouse." Shepherd suggested there was an opportunity for a commemorative plaque.

Stockhoff confirmed there will be plaque on display in the New Courthouse for the Swick House. Additionally, the McFadden family had requested a plaque to honor the first judge in Benton County.

The Board continued to discuss naming preferences; whether a building should be named after someone who is deceased, living, currently serving the public, or retired from public service or names after places, such as rivers or other natural features.

McEneny referenced Policy No. A109 that the Board adopted on October 15, 2024, which outlines a public engagement process for naming County facilities. McEneny requested the Board direct the County Administrator to begin the naming process.

The Board agreed.

Wyse suggested a practical approach to naming the New Courthouse but understood the opportunity for recognition through the naming process. Wyse mentioned naming the EOC as well because it is a public-facing building.

Shepherd believed the EOC's name should not be long, due to the function of the building. It could be referenced when a person is in an emergency, and having to say a long name in that scenario is not ideal.

Stockhoff stated the naming process for the EOC could be limited to the two or three training rooms the building will have. Stockhoff agreed that the "EOC" is already a short and ideal name.

Malone suggested naming something after Attorney General Dan Rayfield; although Rayfield is politically active, his contributions to Benton County should be recognized. Malone asked Stockhoff whether there was a timeframe for receiving naming suggestions.

Stockhoff said there is time for the naming process.

Malone asked when construction will begin on the EOC.

Stockhoff believes some foundation work has begun.

Malone asked if the project was on schedule and within its budget.

Stockhoff confirmed.

#### **4.2 Review of Benton County Talks Trash (BCTT) Recommendations – Sean McGuire, Sustainability Coordinator, Board of Commissioners**

Wyse stated the Board scheduled time to discuss how it preferred to administer the recommendations from BCTT. Wyse acknowledged that one of the recommendations from BCTT was the Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP), which staff successfully created. The status of Coffin Butte Landfill's (CBL's) Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application was mentioned. Wyse stated that the agenda item in the meeting packet had SMMP documents but did not contain BCTT documents.

McGuire had consulted Counsel regarding the appropriate extent of BCTT conversations with the Board, taking into consideration the potential for an appeal of the

CUP application denial. McGuire intended to discuss the SMMP portion of the process first as it relates to solid waste management.

McGuire provided an update that focused on the SMMP and the transition to a regional solid waste planning effort under House Bill (HB) 3794.

Key points included:

- Of the 8 findings and 27 recommendations from the SMMP task force, McGuire found that 4 findings and 13 recommendations were actionable.
- There was confusion on the differences between the SMMP and a solid waste management plan, which hindered implementation due to an unsuccessful separation of the two.
- The Request for Proposals (RFP) language contained inapplicable approaches since there was a lack of clarity in the initial task. However, once the task force begins to focus on solid waste, the findings will be more utilized.
- Recommendation 14 was ensuring public engagement during the RFP process, and the level of participation was unprecedented; all four applicants were interviewed by public members.
- The plans from the SMMP require involvement from entities larger than just Benton County; the County alone is too small to have an impact.

Wyse stated the update was not the conversation the Board expected to have, nor did it match the agenda item title. Wyse expressed interest in focusing future discussions on actionable steps and implementation strategies and will ask Counsel about appropriate timing to engage in a BCTT discussion.

McGuire shared that the County is preparing a final report and coordinating with State officials regarding the next steps under HB 3794. Representative Sarah Finger McDonald's staff and County staff have discussed methods regarding Governor Kotek's member selection and task force briefing.

Malone summarized the current situation. SMMP has qualified members to continue the discussion as it is transitioning from a County effort to a more regional effort. Malone expressed concern regarding how all the individuals and factors involved will merge. There are two levels involved with the process: technical and political. Malone discussed local efforts to minimize the impact of waste in Benton County.

#### **4.3 Community Health Centers and Health Services Update – Rachel McEneny, County Administrator; Lacey Mollel; Christine Mosbaugh, Community Health Centers Director; April Holland, Health Services Director**

Community Health Centers (CHC) and Health Services requested direction and instruction from the Board on developing a compliance and known roadmap that will align with the current terms and conditions of federal grant programs in preparation for a September 9 through 11 Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) operational site visit.

Mollet explained that the visit would be the first in-person HRSA review in several years and would focus on grant compliance, scope of services, and operational policies. CHC received guidance on terms and conditions regarding grant compliance in relation to federal compliance and Benton County's relationship with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a grant funder.

Mosbaugh stated that the site visit is expected within CHC operations and staff will ensure the use of the Operational Site Visit manual and maintain the given direction to continue operations within an environment that is changing.

McEneny discussed working with direct administrative staff to ensure the County is in compliance.

Commissioners expressed unanimous support for developing a compliance roadmap and emphasized the importance of continuing to provide care to the community, including vulnerable populations.

Chair Wyse recessed the meeting at 9:57 a.m. and reconvened at 10:05 a.m.

#### **4.4 Discussion Regarding the Process to Fill the Position 5 Planning Commission Vacancy – Nancy Wyse, Board Chair**

The Board discussed reopening recruitment for the Position 5 Planning Commission vacancy; the vacancy had not been filled because the Planning Commission was engaged in the Republic Services CUP application process.

- Commissioners agreed to a broad and open recruitment process using the standard outreach channels.
- Wyse requested staff does not schedule interviews until multiple applications are received.
- A tentative deadline for the end of September 2025 was set, with flexibility to extend if necessary.
- Commissioners emphasized the importance of geographic diversity and transparency in the selection process.
- Staff confirmed there are no geographic requirements in the bylaws for Planning Commission appointments.

### **5. Consent Calendar**

#### **5.1 Approval of the September 10, 2024 Board of Commissioners Goal-setting Meeting Minutes – No Presenter**

#### **5.2 Approval of the June 10, 2025 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes – No Presenter**

**MOTION:** Malone moved to approve the Consent Calendar, Shepherd seconded the motion, **which carried 3-0.**

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Approval of Personal Services Agreement with the Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network (RAIN), Contract No. 504575 – Rachel McEneny, County Administrator; Christopher Jacobs, Economic Development Office Manager**

Jacobs stated that Benton County has a longstanding relationship with both RAIN and the Linn-Benton Small Business Development Center (SBDC). RAIN has grown as an organization, including an expansion to Washington State. RAIN focuses on supporting economic development and entrepreneurship in rural communities and is an important partner of the Economic Development Office (EDO). Jacobs discussed RAIN's role in relation to the Innovation Hub, a grant funded project that was created by the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG). The Personal Services Agreement with RAIN is for the same amount of funding with no expansion in costs, but the scope of work has changed within the agreement to focus on advocacy and applicant outcomes.

Wyse noted the agreement amount had been approved in the 2025-27 biennial budget.

Malone agreed that the program outcomes were more important than the number of applicants the program received.

**MOTION:** Shepherd moved to approve and authorize the County Administrator to sign Contract No. 504575 for the 2025-27 Biennium with the Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network in the amount of \$58,198 to help foster economic development activity in Benton County. Malone seconded the motion, **which carried 3-0.**

### **6.2 Approval of Personal Services Agreement with Linn-Benton Community College, Contract No. 504576 – Rachel McEneny, County Administrator; Christopher Jacobs, Economic Development Office Manager**

Jacobs discussed new leadership changes within the organization. EDO receives many referrals from SBDC and provides referrals to SBDC; both services work well together. Moving forward, both SBDC and RAIN plan to join Jacobs during EDO's quarterly updates at the Board of Commissioners meetings.

**MOTION:** Malone moved to approve and authorize the County Administrator to sign Contract No. 504576 for the 2025-27 Biennium with Linn-Benton Community College in the amount of \$40,542 to help foster economic development in Benton County. Shepherd seconded the motion, **which carried 3-0.**

**6.3 Approval of Board of Commissioners Letter to the US Department of Health and Human Services Commenting on the July 14, 2025 Federal Register Notice on Interpretation of “Federal Public Benefit” – Lacey Mollel, Director; Christine Mosbaugh, Engagement and Strategy Manager; Community Health Centers**

Mosbaugh stated the letter was based on a template provided by the National Association of Community Health Centers but included Benton County-specific information.

Shepherd requested an edit be made to the letter’s salutation; instead of “Dear” begin the letter with “To” or “Attention.”

Malone asked for more details regarding Section 330.

Mosbaugh stated the Section 330 grant is part of the Public Health Services Act. Section 330 is the portion that authorizes funding from the Federal government to the Community Health Centers (CHCs) movement, which provides CHCs with a base grant for operations and various reimbursement billing mechanisms and allows CHCs to provide care to everyone regardless of circumstance. Section 330 has been in effect since the 1970s and is used as a technical and mission guide to CHCs within the community.

**MOTION:** Malone moved to approve the Benton County Board of Commissioners signing and sending the letter with the discussed changes regarding comment on the July 14, 2025 Federal Register Notice on the Interpretation of “Federal Public Benefit” to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Shepherd seconded the motion, **which carried 3-0.**

**7. County Administrator Updates – Rachel McEneny, County Administrator**

- Hired Benton County’s new Chief Financial Officer; first day is scheduled for September 2.
- Attended the Crisis Center ribbon cutting event.
- Ongoing CUP hearings.
- Attended the District Attorney’s breakfast.
- Attended the Linn-Benton Knights games.
- Meets with Ryan Vogt of OCWCOG, monthly.
- Attended the Benton County versus Linn County Sheriffs’ softball game.
- Met with Jessica McDonald, Executive Director of the Greenbelt Land Trust.
- Attended a Rotary meeting. McEneny will give a presentation at next month’s Rotary meeting on the State of the County.
- Attended the Benton County Fair and the Fair Foundation Barbeque.
- Participated in a two-day Interest-based Bargaining Training with AFSCME representatives.

- Will schedule one-on-one meetings with Department Directors.
- Will meet with the City Manager of Albany.
- Will meet with the new City Manager of Monroe.
- Attended Joe Mardis's last day at Public Works.

## 8. Commissioner Updates

### \*Commissioner Shepherd:

- Attended the Jail tour in Clatsop County.
- Has toured various Community Services Consortium facilities.
- Serving on Corvallis's Downtown Strategic Revitalization Task Force.
- Attended the District Attorney's breakfast.
- Attended the Philomath Rodeo and Frolic.
- Attended the Philomath Community Services Fundraiser.
- Will attend the Special Legislative Session on August 29.
- Provided a summary of the 2025 Town Hall series.

\*Exhibit 1: Memo - 2025 Town Hall Series

### Commissioner Malone:

- Attended the ribbon cutting at Philomath Rodeo.
- Will attend the Public Safety Chili Cookoff on September 7.
- Attended Attorney General Dan Rayfield's Town Hall Event.
- Philomath recently upgraded Triangle Park.
- Attended the Benton County versus Linn County Sheriffs' softball game.
- Attended the Benton County Fair.
- Met with Marty Cahill, CEO of Samaritan Health Services.
- Attended the Jail tour in Clatsop County.

### Commissioner Wyse:

- Met with Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley's staff.
- Attended the Jail tour in Clatsop County.
- Attended National Night out in Adair Village.
- Will attend Love my Library Day.
- Will attend the Furniture Share dinner.
- Will attend the Timber tour on September 5.

## 9. Other

No other business was conducted.

## 10. Adjournment

Chair Wyse adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.



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Nancy Wyse, Chair



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Rachel Bulder, Recorder

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