



Board of Commissioners

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**MINUTES OF THE GOAL-SETTING MEETING
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 10, 2025**

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

Elected

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

Staff:

Rachel Bulder, Marriah De La Vega, Board Staff; Carly Fredericks, Communications Coordinator; Cory Grogan, Anne Thwaites, Public Information Officer; Seren Lloyd, Information Technology

Guests:

Mark Lapinskas, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments; Kenzie Singiser, Oregon State University; Cecil Owens, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve; Colonel Paul Dyer, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Wyse convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and introductions were made.

2. Review and Approve Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

3. Announcements

No announcements were made.

4. Proclamation

- 4.1 Proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day in Benton County, Oregon, Proclamation No. P2025-028** – Mark Lapinskas, Benton County Lead Veterans Service Officer, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments

MOTION: Malone moved to adopt Proclamation No. P2025-028, proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day in Benton County, Oregon. Shepherd seconded the motion, which carried 3-0.

The National Anthem was sung by Kenzie Singiser.

Remarks were made by Cecil Owens, State Chair for the Employer Support of the Oregon Guard and Reserve Program.

Remarks were made by Colonel Paul Dyer from the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Owens presented the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award to County Administrator Rachel McEneny to recognize the County's support of Public Information Officer Cory Grogan's recent deployment.

Owens presented the Seven Seals Award to the Board of Commissioners and Sheriff Van Arsdall to recognize the County's support of currently serving National Guard and Reservists.

Owens invited the Commissioners to review and sign the Statement of Support Pledge.

Commissioners read the statement before entertaining a motion.

MOTION: Malone moved to approve the Statement of Support for the National Guard and Reserve for Benton County. Shepherd seconded the motion, which carried 3-0.

5. Approval of Goal-setting Meeting Minutes

5.1 Approval of the February 11, 2025 Board of Commissioners Goal-setting Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Shepherd moved to approve the February 11, 2025 Board of Commissioners Goal-setting meeting minutes. Malone seconded the motion, which carried 3-0.

6. Discussion Topics

***6.1 Communications and Website Improvement Updates – Anne Thwaites, Public Information Officer; Carly Fredericks, Communications Coordinator, Board of Commissioners Office; Seren Lloyd, Web Content Specialist, Information Technology**

Thwaites reviewed the types of content from the County public newsletter that receive the most attention; the newsletter is now available in Spanish. Thwaites discussed the demographics of the County's social media followers and the content posted by the County that is selected most frequently.

Fredericks mentioned the effectiveness of utilizing social media to engage the community with local events.

Thwaites shared the County's goal to achieve Americans with Disabilities Act compliance by April 2026. This is in response to a recent federal rule that all state and local governments need to be delivering accessible content in mobile applications and on websites. The compliance plan was provided to the Commissioners to review; compliance training will begin for County Web Publishers and Social Media Managers. Thwaites discussed department website audits, which has been an ongoing project to improve user experience, accessibility, and search engine optimization. Natural Areas, Parks, and Events (NAPE) was the first department to have been successfully republished.

Fredericks discussed user accessibility features, site design, and the user experience. Fredericks shared NAPE's updated landing page on the County website.

Wyse asked if the situation regarding too many web publishers has been resolved.

Lloyd confirmed it has been balanced to two web publishers per department who will receive additional training and support.

Malone asked if the Communications team has received any community feedback regarding website accessibility.

Fredericks discussed the types of feedback the community provides, such as confusing links on the County Newsletter.

Lloyd implemented a web form that allows for community feedback on the new department sites.

Shepherd asked what department will be audited next.

Fredericks confirmed the Board of Commissioners Office.

*Exhibit 1 County Communications and Website Update Presentation

7. County Administrator Updates – Rachel McEneny, County Administrator

- McEneny promoted an internal Food Drive and Noodles for Neighbors, a Countywide Food Drive event in collaboration with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Union; the Wellness and Benefits Committee; and Linn-Benton Food Share.

8. Assistant County Administrator Updates – Rick Crager, Assistant County Administrator

- Crager discussed the Alsea Health Clinic in relation to the Alsea Community Action Committee's (ACAC) proposal to reopen and operate the Alsea Health Clinic. Staff has looked into community partnerships and opportunities to return the building to the Alsea community. The Alsea Health Clinic building is considered a County asset; and if the County were to deed a property or relinquish an asset, the asset is required to be used for specific purposes such as childcare, housing, and social services. If that could not successfully happen, the asset would be returned to the County. Crager believed that ACAC's proposal was good in concept, but has many associated challenges and unknown funding variables that require more planning. Crager suggested an idea to provide Alsea with a no-cost lease that would enable Alsea to take possession of the property from a service standpoint. Over a period of time, if the services that are necessary for the Alsea Health Clinic to provide are successfully developed, the County can release the building to Alsea. ACAC expressed concern regarding Crager and Counsel's proposed plan but agreed to continue discussions with the County.

The Board discussed Crager's update and expressed concern about a community resource for Alsea being idle for a long period.

Wyse asked for more information regarding the risks associated with Benton County deeding ownership of the building to ACAC.

Crager provided an example of a similar situation with the City of Monroe. Crager will return with information regarding worst-case scenarios if the County were to deed the building to Alsea.

9. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Wyse:

- Will attend the HOPE Advisory Board meeting to work on the Board's bylaws.
- Will attend the Annual 4-H Awards Dinner.
- Will attend the Benton Community Foundation Philanthropic Awards.

- Will attend the Women of County Government meeting and the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Conference.
- Toured the Records Annex.
- Will attend the Local Officials Advisory Committee meeting.
- Will ride on the County float in the Corvallis Holiday Parade.
- Will continue to Co-chair the Transportation and Community Development Steering Committee.

Commissioner Malone:

- Will attend a Town Hall event.
- Attended an Oregon State University Football game.
- Discussed the Transportation Commission and Area Committee.
- Attended Tracy Martineau's retirement open house.

Commissioner Shepherd:

- Spoke with Representative Gomberg.
- Samaritan Health Services announced a new affiliation with an organization from Washington.
- Met with Bruce Butler, CEO of Intercommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization.
- Attended an online open house for elected officials.
- Will attend Samaritan's All Boards Retreat.
- Attended the Coordinated Homeless Response Office's presentation at the Corvallis City Council meeting.
- Corvallis City Council requested a joint work session with Benton County.
- Was appointed Co-chair of the Governance and Revenue Steering Committee for AOC.
- Provided a presentation on local government to students at Kings Valley Charter School.
- Visited the South Benton Resource Center.
- Spoke at the Albany Civic Academy.
- Discussed a request for Benton County's support of AOC's negotiations regarding the Oregon Health Authority's proposals.

The Board expressed support for the negotiations.

10. Other

No other business was discussed.

11. Adjournment

Chair Wyse adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.



Nancy Wyse, Chair



Rachel Bulder, Recorder

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