

**MINUTES OF THE GOAL-SETTING MEETING
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 8, 2024**

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

Excused: Vance Croney, County Counsel

**Elected
Official:** Jef Van Arsdall, Sheriff

Staff: Marriah De La Vega, Maura Kwiatkowski, Board Staff; Erika Milo, Board Recorder; Sean McGuire, Sustainability; Gary Stockhoff, Public Works; Anne Thwaites, Public Information Officer

Guests: Bernie Cummings, Resident; Corum Ketchum, Billy McGregor, Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; Alex Powers, Albany Democrat-Herald; Gabe Shepherd, Corvallis City Council; Jacqueline Disney, Ashley Bogue Brown, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments

1. Call to Order

Chair Augerot called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM, and introductions were made.

2. Review and Approve Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

3. Consent Calendar

3.1 Ratification of Order No. D2024-053: Appointment of Charlene Carroll and David Livesay to the Disposal Site Advisory Committee

3.2 Approval of the April 11, 2023 Goal-setting Minutes

3.3 Approval of the September 12, 2023 Goal-setting Minutes

Augerot noted two scrivener errors in the April 11, 2023 minutes and will review with the Recorder.

MOTION: Wyse moved to approve the June 18, 2024 Consent Calendar with corrections to Item 3.2, which Augerot will discuss with the Recorder. Malone seconded the motion, which carried 3-0.

4. Discussion Topics

4.1 Presentation Regarding a Merger of the Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) and the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) – Gary Stockhoff, Public Works; Billy McGregor, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments

McGregor provided an overview of the Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO), which was designated by the Oregon Governor on February 6, 2013. An MPO is required by the federal government when a city/urbanized area reaches a population of 50,000 or more to accomplish 3C (Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive) planning. The boundary extends across the “urbanized area,” which is where the population density is 1,000 people or more per square mile. AAMPO membership includes the Cities of Albany, Jefferson, Millersburg, and Tangent, as well as Linn and Benton Counties, and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

The Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) was formed in 2003, 10 years prior to AAMPO. CAMPO membership consists of Adair Village, Corvallis, Philomath, Benton County, and ODOT.

MPOs are responsible for the following work products:

- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan
- Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Legally, the two MPOs can merge, and such mergers are encouraged at the Federal level. The merger process is the same as for the formation of a new MPO. A merger can be undone through same process.

In 2020, the AAMPO and CAMPO Policy Boards directed staff to pursue greater coordination, including shared work products, shared agenda items and joint meetings, and collaboration on regional topics. At that time, concerns related to merging the two MPOs included financial impacts and Policy Board representation.

In 2023, the two Policy Boards requested a cost/benefit analysis of a potential merger and provided stronger direction to collaborate where feasible. The cost/benefit analysis included case study work of other merged MPOs nationally, an informal feasibility study (September 2023 memorandum), and responses to the 2020 concerns of financial impacts and Policy Board representation. The responses to concerns included:

Concern	Response
1. Financial Impacts a. Staff Funding b. State Highway Funds c. Transit Funding 2. Policy Board Representation	1. Financial impacts are manageable a. Approximate 7% decrease in combined funding b. No impact (population based) c. No impact (based on urbanized area, not MPO boundary) 2. Board representation will not be dominated by one interest group (large vs small, rural vs urban, counties vs cities); one vote each

On October 4, it was announced that MPOs can expect to lose the State match of federal funds, which could be as significant as an additional 10 percent loss by Fiscal Year 2027. Also, if the MPOs merge, they would lose the equivalent of one additional complexity point, which would result in a \$30,000 decrease. This loss is an unavoidable downside of merging.

Benefits of merging include 1) efficiency savings by having required documents and reporting by staff; 2) anticipated additional coverage by staff; 3) more effective meetings with comprehensive regional membership; 4) potential to meet quorum more frequently; 5) a higher level of regional collaboration with easier project processes for projects across both regions – especially along Highways 20 and 34; and 6) a more straightforward process for public participation.

Staff was tasked by the AAMPO Policy Board with engaging with the various jurisdictional bodies to solicit feedback and report back to the Policy Board for decision making.

Augerot noted a loss of funding is always a concern but is aware of duplicative efforts and planning documents. Augerot expressed support for a merger but asked whether complexity of operations would increase.

McGregor responded that ODOT indicated complexity would actually decrease by one. Other MPOs did speak on the region's behalf, especially Metro and Salem-Keizer,

knowing a larger region equates to a more complex process, but our region still loses the complexity point based on jurisdiction amounts.

Augerot asked whether it may be difficult to field as many staff.

McGregor indicated an internal budget review is in process, and more concrete information will be available in several months to a year. The process is purposely slow to provide sufficient time for each step. The goal is to retain two FTE, but with the staff administrative funding loss element of a merger, a reduction to 1.5 or 1.8 FTE may be necessary.

Malone noted that CAMPO was supportive, but AAMPO needed convincing. Also, regarding Jefferson, depending on who represents Jefferson, is there a concern about being left out of funding?

McGregor indicated Jefferson had not been especially vocal on the Policy Board. Outreach to all jurisdictions will occur and started with Benton County since CAMPO approved the merger. AAMPO would like more community feedback.

Malone noted that area planning includes both areas, and it would likely be more efficient to have one body representing the area that could potentially be more impactful. The proposed funding cuts, which would occur in 2027, will not resolve ODOT's serious budget issues. The gas tax is not keeping up; it has increased a total of 10 cents over five years, which does not cover inflation or make progress. Malone expressed hope the Legislature will address operation and maintenance budgets for ODOT.

Wyse asked how the idea of a merger originated.

McGregor responded that at the time of AAMPO formation, quite a few jurisdictions were to be included in the MPO. Several spoke against the formation of, or being involved in, the MPO. However, once an urbanized area is at a population of 50,000 or more, Federal rules require that an MPO be formed. When asked if they wanted to become a single MPO with Corvallis, the response was, no. At the time, there was no educational component, and people did not know much about MPOs or how funds were distributed. Over 10 years, people have become more comfortable and familiar with the processes. The 2020 merger conversation had potential for a positive conclusion, but the uncertainty in some communities regarding the potential loss of funding had a negative impact. McGregor believes the concept of merger is currently being more favorably received.

Wyse asked about the membership of the Policy Boards.

McGregor indicated the technical advisory committees are staff level participation, and the policy boards are elected officials; city councilors and county commissioners.

Wyse asked what will happen in the future if people want to pull apart the combined MPO.

McGregor indicated pulling apart the MPO would be less complicated than completing a merger. AAMPO is preparing to do its regional transportation plan (RTP) a year early; and with staff time, the AAMPO RTP took the majority of a year. The RTP contracted out in 2018 cost \$680,000. It is more affordable to conduct an RTP at the staff level, and it is more affordable to do one RTP than two.

Stockhoff expressed support for the merger and noted that people are now better informed. Having Benton County representation on both MPOs due to North Albany demonstrates the workability; many issues are pertinent to both areas. Collaboration will be helpful and may result in more funding coming to the area. One large region is more compelling, and all communities will still be represented.

Ketchum pointed out that if the merger occurs, it will be the fourth largest MPO in the State, and the region will have more influence in statewide discussions.

Augerot indicated there was consensus amongst the Benton County Board of Commissioners to support the merger and encouraged moving ahead.

Malone asked about thoughts on what AAMPO needs to support the merger.

McGregor responded that more competitive pull is a good start, it offers more advantages for grant funding opportunities, which is the primary benefit. Also, the representation piece not changing much is a positive. In 2013, a significant concern was self-representation; there was some hesitation over whether large cities would dictate to small cities. This was less of a concern in 2020.

4.2 National Institute of Corrections Technical Assistance Request* – Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall; Rachel McEneny, County Administrator; Rick Crager, Assistant County Administrator

McEneny reported that pursuing this technical assistance request originated at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference. The application must be submitted by an elected sheriff to the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). Benton County has been approved to receive technical assistance.

Crager noted the need to move forward from the Justice System Improvement Program (JSIP) bond failure. Areas identified for assistance include the effective use of data,

funding alternatives, best funding strategies, and matching opportunities to fund a new jail.

Crager and Van Arsdall met with the assistance team last week; it was an engaging and productive conversation. The County provided the team with the 2019 assessment plan and the debrief report from the JSIP bond measure. The team appreciated receiving the draft Willamette Criminal Justice Council (WCJC) bylaws. The assistance team is expected to provide a recommended scope of services the week of October 14, which will be brought to the Board for approval. There is no cost to the County associated with the technical assistance effort beyond staff resources.

Van Arsdall continues to think about the message received from the voters and believes voters needed to be updated every step of the way. Van Arsdall expressed cautious optimism regarding the technical assistance effort.

Augerot noted there is great community support for a new jail; unfortunately, the County overloaded the bond measure. It will continue to be critically important to engage with the community on this issue. The technical assistance process will take County representatives through a stage-by-stage engagement process with the community and partners. NIC also offers technical assistance for actual implementation of a new jail at no cost. Augerot expressed optimism regarding the potential associated with the technical assistance process.

Wyse asked about the scope of the work. Crager indicated that work is currently happening; County staff is providing historical information and thoughts about desired objectives. NIC's job is to analyze the information and respond with recommendations for technical assistance services, including a review of existing operations.

McEneny was interested in hearing from the Commissioners about increasing the capacity of support for the WCJC. Augerot indicated there is interest in developing an intergovernmental agreement that would provide for dues collection from the various WCJC member organizations, although dues would likely only cover support services.

Wyse did not envision supporting another bond measure in the next five years. The need for a new jail, however, must be addressed. Wyse shared Van Arsdall's cautious approach and requested a copy of the application. Augerot suggested the Commissioners also explore the NIC website.

Crager indicated that once the scope of work is developed, it will be shared immediately with Van Arsdall and the Commissioners. There may be other models to resolve the jail issue, and a holistic strategy is needed that includes engagement from the public. The technical assistance will help explore best practices in other communities as well.

Augerot agreed that NIC can help the County better tell the story. This is the process needed if the County decides to present another bond measure in the future.

Wyse expressed concern about rebuilding trust with the community after the bond measure failure. Crager agreed rebuilding trust is necessary, and it will take time and effort to do so. A new strategy is needed to secure funding for a new jail; whether that be going back to the voters with a new bond measure or identifying other funding strategies.

Augerot noted this is the first phase of an available three levels of technical assistance. There will be opportunities along the way to decide whether to continue through the other levels.

Van Arsdall reiterated a cautious approach to the effort and assured the Commissioners the Sheriff's Office would not move forward or make decisions without engaging the Board.

Wyse referenced the phased approach but is concerned about momentum driving the process. Crager appreciated the need to be cost conscious; this is a chance to evaluate the best strategy and make decisions in a thoughtful way about moving forward. No charge technical assistance, but there is a staff resource component. Regular communication with the Board will be critical.

Crager will provide the Commissioners with a copy of the County's application to NIC, web links, and point out components of the website that may be of interest to the Commissioners.

Augerot appreciated the opportunity for a thoughtful discussion of past and present efforts to secure funding for a new jail facility.

{Exhibit 1: New Jail Planning Information Sheet}

{Exhibit 2: Planning of New Institutions Program Description}

{Exhibit 3: Jail and Justice System Assessment Description Description}

{Exhibit 4: Technical Assistance Submission to NIC}

Chair Augerot recessed the meeting at 10:32 AM and reconvened at 10:40 AM.

4.3 Sustainable Materials Management Plan Task Force Update* – Sean McGuire, Sustainability

McGuire advised that the SMMP Task Force kickoff meeting is scheduled for October 21 in Salem. McGuire and Payne completed outreach with 40 individuals representing various stakeholders, including from all 12 northwestern counties. The task force will

include solid waste coordinators, managers, and experts from six to eight counties, including the Portland Metro and Oregon State University (OSU). Several Commissioners from northwestern Oregon counties are also members. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is working on their capacity, and the agency has committed their experts on environment and food. McGuire will be meeting with an Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) representative to identify which AOC staff will participate, as will a state legislative official Kathryn. Consultant RRS has been very effective thus far.

Benton County attendees will include the three Commissioners, McEneny, Crager, Wyse, McGuire, among others. RRS and CFM Advocates will also attend, as will Sydney Tamplin, representing the County's Environment and Natural Resources Advisory Committee (ENRAC). Tamplin is a graduate student in environmental services and waste. McGuire indicated that approximately 40 individuals are expected to attend the kickoff meeting.

Crager noted that generally 20 to 25 is a manageable group, and additional experts can be invited into the discussion as appropriate.

Augerot indicated the task force will also have subcommittees working on specific focus areas.

McGuire reported that in conversations with some counties, including Tillamook and Lincoln, representatives were unsure about regional collaboration, since they have their local haulers, and a regional approach has not been done previously.

Augerot asked whether staff had approached the League of Oregon Cities (LOC).

McGuire responded not as yet. LOC seems to be very specific to cities, and there has not been a collective discussion at the municipal level. The readiness or capacity does not seem present at this time.

Augerot pointed out that the cities have hauling franchises but not landfill franchises. However, LOC may determine later there are implications for cities.

McGuire does expect to hear from more areas, potentially including cities, after the task force kickoff meeting.

McGuire reviewed the draft kickoff agenda. Talking points will be provided for Commissioner Augerot and Marion County Commissioner Kevin Cameron. Liz Start, founder of Start Consulting Group LLC, will serve as the meeting facilitator. A significant portion of the meeting will be a discussion around developing a three- to five-year

regional action framework by June 30, 2025. State Senator Janeen Sollman has been invited to make closing remarks.

Crager reported a meeting was held with Sollman last week; participation will be challenging due to the long legislative session, but Sollman is the most senior and seasoned individual in the legislature regarding these issues. Sollman can be helpful and supportive on funding, policy changes, etc. There is also an invitation pending with Senator Patterson. There is no one confirmed from the House yet, but CFM is considering potential supporters there.

McGuire stated the major deliverable from RRS was a map of all landfills, transfer stations, material recovery facilities, etc. At present, the focus is on northwest Oregon; Lane County north to Clatsop County. Metro de-incentivizes expansion by not sending waste to any landfill that expands, which limits their options to, for example, Arlington. Marion has an incinerator, but it is now slowing down due to legal issues. Lincoln, Benton, Tillamook, and Linn Counties send 100% of their waste to Coffin Butte Landfill (CBL) and Marion County sends approximately two-thirds, which raises many questions when considering the end of life of CBL. It is important that counties understand the need to plan now for when CBL shuts down. There will not be another landfill except Lane County, which is more of a processing operation. CBL is not the only issue; it is a 13-county need to address materials management.

Crager referenced material recovery and noted there are some organic processors in the area, which is positive. However, there is no material recovery in Linn, Benton, Polk, or Tillamook Counties, so waste is transported across the state, which is a cost.

McGuire noted costs are currently reasonable because materials are not being transported across long distances, but that will change when CBL closes.

Augerot added that Riverbend is winding down, as is the Covanta incinerator.

Malone stated that many people, including many elected officials, do not know where their communities' waste goes.

Crager agreed and suggested community outreach and education is an important part of this process. As the Commissioners work with their colleagues, it would be helpful to explain it will cost their communities more if they do not plan. The map is an excellent tool for highlighting the issues.

{Exhibit 5: Updated SMMP Kickoff Meeting Draft Agenda}
{Exhibit 6: Updated SMMP Map of Oregon}
{Exhibit 7: Updated SMMP Update}

5. County Updates

5.1 County Administrator Updates – Rachel McEneny, County Administrator

McEneny

- CFO recruitment continues; two candidates scheduled for interview October 9.
- Attended AOC District 5 Meeting
- Met with Crager and Corvallis Community Development Director Bilotta regarding having Christopher Jacobs, of the Corvallis-Benton Economic Development Office, work one day a week in the County's Community Development Department.
- Met with Christopher Dale and Shauna Johnson of the Sheriff's Office to continue working through payroll issues. An outside contractor will conduct an audit of the payroll function.
- Met with Dan Crall about podcasts
- Met with Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments Director Ryan Vogt
- Dined with the Eklunds at their home, discussed various issues
- Attended Central Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
- Met with Charlie Mitchell, Dallas, Oregon Economic and Community Development Director
- Attended ICMA Annual Conference; taking online courses to become a certified County Administrator
- Attended National Association of City/County Administrators meeting
- Attending Benton County Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- Upcoming tour of the Crisis Center
- Working in Records and Elections Department on Election Day, November 5
- Working with AFSCME on new contract

Crager

- New Courthouse Project: Reached agreement yesterday with the State Historic Preservation Office and the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding conditions. Next step is to get the agreement signed.
- The Deflection Program Coordinator recruitment is now open
- The Community Development Director recruitment will be open by October 11
- A status report on the Health reorganization will be presented at the November Goal-setting meeting
- Transient Lodging Tax receipts increased 27% over Quarter 2 last year

5.2 Commissioner Updates – Board of Commissioners

Augerot

- Attended AOC legislative retreat and appreciated the roundtable discussion of deflection programs. Many other counties are already implementing.
- Had a productive conversation with Gelser Blouin; updated her on the work of OCWCOG and CSC to continue moving toward merging. Also discussed the status of the deflection program and SMMP launch. Important to make sure our representatives and senator receive invitations to those events.
- Attended the DevNW celebration for their land trust housing in south Corvallis
- Attended Samaritan all boards retreat, which included 10 boards, plus the IHNCCO Board, and Samaritan's Health Plans Board. Focused mainly on cost challenges occurring across hospitals and cutbacks being made.
- Attended the Corvallis Business Park open house; shared workspaces in two buildings where offices are being rented at reasonable rates. Corvallis Housing First is now located there, along with many other small businesses.
- Working on revised bylaws for WCJC
- Communicating with Nick Wallace about rural transportation for individuals in his situation; distant from Corvallis and difficult to serve. The Alsea population is in the same situation; perhaps a fixed-route shuttle can partially address the need.
- Attending the November 10 grand opening of the Benton Community Foundation's Leadership and Learning Center
- Attending the October 10 Pathfinder Clubhouse fundraiser
- Likely out of town on October 30 for a Josephine County site visit for the Youth Development Council
- Attending the October 10 Benton County Foundation retreat
- IHNCCO will choose the next Commissioner to serve on their Board. Meet eight to 10 times per year, an annual Board retreat, Augerot sits on several other subcommittees in that capacity.
- The mill site in Philomath has been acquired and is part of the mass timber companies operation

Wyse

- Attended Kings Valley History Day. The Historic Resources Commission and Natural Areas, Parks, and Event Department put a significant amount of effort into the event. Many good demonstrations.
- Attended the DevNW celebration for their land trust housing in south Corvallis
- Chair of Local Officials Advisory Committee; Committee recently received an update on Oregon housing needs assessment rule making.
- Will participate in Leadership Corvallis Welcome Q&A session this week.

- Serving on the Search Committee for the Corvallis Chamber of Commerce's new President/CEO
- Attending the Farm Bureau's annual meeting this week

Malone

- September 11 discussion with Senator Gelser-Blouin; part of the County's role is to communicate projects where the County would like support
- Attended September 12 Chamber of Commerce event
- Attended AOC meetings: Board of Directors and Legislative Committee
- Attended September 23 grand opening of the Alsea Career and Technical Education (CTE) facility
- At the Alsea CTE grand opening Malone talked with several attendees about the Jackson-Frazier Boardwalk project. The map shows the context, including housing, wetlands, and the Green Belt Land Trust-led effort for an overpass over Highway 99W to connect the wetlands with the Owens Farm trail system.
- Attended the October 2 Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CARDV) breakfast
- Received a call from an OSU Vice President regarding potential on-campus demonstrations about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict
- Attended the Fort Hoskins event; Jesse Ott did a great job organizing the event
- Attended Saturday town hall-type event at Timber Towne Coffee in Philomath with Christopher McMorran
- Toured the Benton Community Foundation's new office, which includes a dedicated community meeting room

{Exhibit 4: Jackson-Frazier Boardwalk Map}

6. Announcements

No announcements were made.

7. Other

No other business was discussed.

8. Executive Session Under ORS 192.660[2][d]

Chair Augerot recessed the regular Board Meeting at 12:06 PM and entered Executive Session at 12:19 PM.

Chair Augerot exited the Executive Session at 1:30 PM and immediately reconvened the regular Board Meeting.

9. Adjournment

Chair Augerot adjourned the Board meeting at 1:30 PM.



Pat Malone, 2026 Chair



Erika Milo, Recorder



Maura Kwiatkowski, Transcriptionist

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