

**Board of Commissioners**

Office: (541) 766-6800

Fax: (541) 766-6893

4500 SW Research Way

Corvallis, OR 97333

co.benton.or.us

AGENDA

(Chair May Alter the Agenda)

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

INFORMATION SHARING MEETING

Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 9 AM

How to Participate in the Board of Commissioners Meeting			
In-Person	Zoom Video	Zoom Phone Audio	Facebook LiveStream
Kalapuya Building 4500 Research Way Corvallis, OR	Click for Zoom link	Dial 1(253) 215-8782	Click for Facebook LiveStream link
	Zoom Meeting ID: 826 9895 1908		
	Zoom Passcode: 969627		

1. Opening

- 1.1 Call to Order
- 1.2 Introductions
- 1.3 Announcements

2. Review and Approve Agenda

3. Comments from the Public

Time restrictions may be imposed on public comment, dependent on the business before the Board of Commissioners. Individual comment may be limited to three minutes.

4. Work Session

- 4.1 15 minutes – Benton Soil & Water Conservation District 2022 Annual Report – Michael Ahr, Benton Soil & Water Conservation District; Gary Stockhoff, Rich Spofford, Public Works
- 4.2 30 minutes – Early Learning Hub Projects Presentation – Kristi Collins, Bryan Steinhauser, Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties; Lynette Wynkoop, Family Connections

The Board of Commissioners may call an executive session when necessary pursuant to ORS 192.660. The Board is not required to provide advance notice of an executive session. However, every effort will be made to give notice of an executive session. If an executive session is the only item on the agenda for the Board meeting, notice shall be given as for all public meetings (ORS 192.640(2)) and the notice shall state the specific reason for the executive session as required by ORS 192.660.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to the Board of Commissioners Office, (541) 766-6800.

5. New Business

- 5.1 10 minutes – Discussion Regarding Appointment of Interim County Administrator –
Suzanne Hoffman, Interim County Administrator; Tracy Martineau, Human Resources

6. Information Sharing: (If time permits the following section will be heard)

6.1 Pat Malone, Chair

6.2 Nancy Wyse, Commissioner

7. Other

ORS 192.640(1)" . . . notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects."

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Livestream: <http://facebook.com/BentonCoGov>

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Present: **Pat Malone**, Chair; **Nancy Wyse**, Commissioner; **Vance Croney**, County Counsel; **Rick Crager**, Acting County Administrator

Excused: **Xanthippe Augerot**, Commissioner

Staff: **Shannon Bush**, **Darren Nichols**, Community Development; **Laurel Byer**, **Rich Spofford**, Public Works; **Cory Grogan**, Public Information Officer; **April Holland**, **Kailee Olson**, Health; **Amanda Makepeace**, BOC Staff; **Tracy Martineau**, Human Resources; **Erika Milo**, BOC Recorder; **Jef Van Arsdall**, Sheriff's Office; **Matt Wetherell**, Juvenile Department

Guests: **Michael Ahr**, Benton Soil & Water Conservation District; **Kristi Collins**, **Bryan Steinhauser**, Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties; **John Harris**, Horsepower Productions; **Alex Powers**, Mid-Valley Media

1. Opening:

1. Call to Order

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

2. Introductions

3. Announcements

No announcements were made.

2. Review and Approve Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

3. Comments from the Public

No comments were offered.

4. Work Session

4.1 Benton Soil & Water Conservation District (BSWCD) 2022 Annual Report –
Michael Ahr, Benton Soil & Water Conservation District; Gary Stockhoff, Rich Spofford, Public Works

Ahr discussed BSWCD projects including voluntary conservation work with landowners that benefits water quality and soil health, as well as communications, a newsletter, habitat restoration, oak restoration, invasive species removal, an annual native plant sale, youth education, a soil quality program, and the Willamette Mainstem Cooperative. The Oregon Department of Agriculture provides funds for agricultural water quality and land management.

Benton County's first IGA with BSWCD was in 2013. The County provides \$5,000 per year for invasive species services, including weed spotters on the road crew, volunteer weed pulls in special management areas, an internal and external Benton newsletter article, educational

resources, and the annual report and presentation to the Board of Commissioners. Newer invasive plants include knotweed, knapweeds, and oblong spurge. IGA-Related efforts include:

- Let's Pull Together annual weed pull event; 39 volunteers in May 2022.
- Working with the Benton Cooperative Weed Management Association.
- Paddle and Pull events on the Willamette River to eradicate yellow floating heart.
- Oblong spurge treatment and monitoring. Most sites are in the City of Corvallis, but presence on Vineyard Mountain is the most concerning.
- Providing a consultant and training to the road crew.
- Talking to landowners. There have been many poison hemlock calls in 2022-23, but the plant is so widespread that there are few resources for eradicating it.

Malone asked Spofford how the program is working for Benton County

Spofford replied the program is working well. Staff enjoy the weed talks.

Malone praised the research and education model. Malone asked if BSWCD was monitoring for the emerald ash borer.

Ahr confirmed. Community members questioned BSWCD selling Oregon ash starts at the plant sale. Corvallis does not want BSWCD to plant ash any more. The State is working on the infestation in Washington County. Ahr encouraged property owners not to cut down all ash trees, as ash replenishes well and it may take years before the insect appears in Benton County. When people see sick ash trees, check for insect exit holes. Wyse noted that people interested in volunteering can go to www.bentonswcd.org to contact staff and sign up for the newsletter.

MOTION: Wyse moved to accept the 2022 annual report from Benton Soil and Water Conservation District. Malone seconded the motion, which **carried 2-0**.

4.2 Early Learning Hub (ELH) Projects Presentation – Kristi Collins, Bryan Steinhauser, Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties

Steinhauser explained that ELH works with over 200 partners to increase family stability, improve Kindergarten readiness, expand childcare and early education opportunities, and ensure equitable service coordination. Programs include Pollywog referral service, coordinated enrollment for Preschool Promise (PP), Regional Data Book analysis, the Business Outreach Initiative (BOI), and Growing Care (GC). The Family Connections program is the childcare resource and referral agency for Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties.

A “childcare desert” exists when there are at least three children aged birth-to-five available for every regulated childcare slot. All 36 counties in Oregon are classified as deserts. Based on the 2020 Census number of children aged birth-to-five with working parents, Benton County is short 850 childcare slots, and Corvallis is short 380 slots. Omitting preschool, Benton is short 880 slots. Registered Family programs (in-home care for up to ten children): the City of Albany has 35, the City of Lebanon has nine, and Corvallis has eight. This is partly because Corvallis has more certified childcare centers than any other area in the County. This crisis means working families cannot find or cannot afford childcare. In Oregon, the yearly base childcare cost is \$13,000 per child. The average Oregon salary is \$62,680. Most childcare is paid for by families, not government or philanthropy.

The main reason supply does not meet demand is the for-profit business model. Operating costs are too high, but businesses cannot raise the cost of care and cannot cut operating costs without

compromising quality. The result is a very thin profit margin, which deters people from entering the field. Childcare provider pay is very low. Lack of childcare affects the business community through tardiness, poor work performance, recruitment and retention difficulties, and absenteeism. Lack of childcare is linked to a lack of overall economic stability in the area.

The most influential time to positively influence child behavior are those years which cross over with high quality childcare. GC is an aggressive, professional proactive recruitment campaign to find and license more childcare providers, which will start on July 31, 2023. BOI encourages Linn-Benton-Lincoln County employers to invest in employer-sponsored childcare, subsidize employee childcare costs, and make charitable contributions. GC is a collaboration between Family Connections and ELH with over a dozen community partners, which offers benefits for registered in-home family childcare providers such as start-up grants, formal business training, college scholarships in Early Childhood Education, and long-term coaching. Target audiences for marketing include unregulated license-exempt childcare providers, new parents wanting to earn more, stay-at-home parents, or professional retirees. Steinhauer concluded that Benton County can help by lobbying for childcare initiatives, networking, and providing funding.

Wyse shared that she had experienced childcare challenges, so she appreciated this work. Wyse asked about in-home care details.

Steinhauer replied that Registered Family Childcare (RFC) serves up to ten children per site and does not require the provider to have Early Childhood Education college credits.

Wyse mentioned that during a Linn-Benton Community College first baby class, the instructor said that in-home daycare is unsafe, which surprised Wyse. Wyse asked how much negative connotations affect the situation.

Steinhauer concurred that there are some negative attitudes about home-based care. However, center-based care is more costly and not always available, especially in rural areas. Unregulated license-exempt care (from a friend, relative, or neighbor) has no oversight or regulatory agency. With RFC, the provider must be licensed, everyone 18 years or older in the household must be registered, and the provider must pursue education to remain licensed, so quality will improve.

Wyse asked what someone should look for when seeking in-home care.

Collins recommended contacting Pollywog, which has information on all licensed centers, and knows which providers specialize in certain populations, so staff can recommend certain programs. Any provider should have an open-door policy and provide information on licensing violations upon request.

Malone asked if any help was forthcoming from the State legislature.

Collins replied that the legislature passed the Senate Bill 3005 infrastructure fund, the first investment ELH has seen that funds childcare capital improvement. But even with facilities expansion, the real need is for changes to the business model in order to encourage people to enter the field, raising professionalization and compensation.

Steinhauer noted there is another bill awaiting the Governor's signature which waives landlord permission for renters to establish a home-based childcare program.

Crager asked how the infrastructure funding will be issued.

Collins replied that is to be determined. A previous session awarded funds to a non-profit organization, which had greater flexibility to issue funds to programs. ELH staff hope this funding will address the need statewide, not just in centralized locations.

Crager asked how PP funding impacts Benton County.

Collins replied there are two PP programs in Benton County. PP is a publicly funded program that provides free pre-school for families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Corvallis has 18 slots, all full, with 30 children on the wait-list. This legislative session did not expand the number of slots, but instead focused on quality of programming, transportation, and provider professional development.

Crager shared that Benton County made a large investment in childcare with funds from the 2022 American Rescue Plan Act. Benton has also worked with Business Oregon to fund childcare assistance. The biggest needs were in the Cities of Philomath, Monroe, and other rural parts of the County. The County wants to facilitate opportunities for infrastructure and expand services.

Collins stated the GC program will be significant in reaching rural communities. Benton school district superintendents are powerful allies supporting early childhood learning in this region.

Steinhauser recently talked to Monroe leaders, who want to expand childcare, possibly through a childcare center in their community center. Steinhauser will inform Monroe of this funding opportunity.

Malone asked about the funding mechanism for the Community of Alsea program.

Collins replied that is also funded through PP. Alsea has a high-quality program.

Malone concurred with Crager about ensuring that all parts of the County have opportunities to utilize some of these resources.

Crager noted there is a need for infant-toddler care and asked if Collins saw opportunities or resources for that from County funding.

Collins agreed the need for infant-toddler care is great, and the funding is lacking. The home-based model covers all age groups. Center-based infant-toddler programs operate in the red, eating into the pre-school margin. Collins has worked with many programs to encourage opening infant-toddler classrooms, but one cannot break even operating a birth-to-age-two classroom. However, Kidco Head Start, which operates Benton's Federally funded Head Start and age zero-to-Kindergarten programs, has recognized PP as an expansion opportunity for preschool and is working hard to expand age zero-to-two classes. These classes are income-based, so this helps a limited population, but takes some burden off of families. A mind shift for public investment is also needed; infant-toddler care is often seen as a family and/or mother's problem, which does not always meet family need.

5. New Business

5.1 Discussion Regarding Appointment of Interim County Administrator –Tracy Martineau, Human Resources

Martineau reported that Hoffman's last day of work is August 31, 2023. Staff recommend appointing Chief Financial Officer Rick Crager as Interim County Administrator until a new County Administrator is hired. The County is unlikely to have a replacement by September 1, 2023, so this will avoid a leadership gap.

Crager expressed being honored and appreciating the Board's trust.

MOTION: Wyse moved to appoint Chief Financial Officer Rick Crager as Interim County Administrator effective September 1, 2023 and direct the Human Resources Director to move forward with the steps necessary to formalize the appointment. Malone seconded the motion, which **carried 2-0.**

6. Information Sharing

6.1 Pat Malone, Chair

Malone announced the following events which one or more Commissioners may attend:

- Sheriff's Baseball Game on August 4, 2023
- Monroe first responder celebration on September 9, 2023
- Annual Chili Cookoff at the Philomath Rodeo Grounds on September 10, 2023.
- Monroe logging festival and barbeque on September 29-30, 2023

6.2 Nancy Wyse, Commissioner

Wyse shared that she would attend the Local Officials Advisory Committee meeting today. The committee plans to give recommendations to the Land Conservation and Development Commission, which is formally starting the rule-making process for House Bill 2001 and appointing a work group for rule-making. Wyse will recommend including farm- and timber-related representation on the stakeholder list. The bill discusses cities looking at future development and planning; farmland and forest are in the third or fourth priority tiers.

Malone concurred with recommending those stakeholders, and asked about opportunities for input from the agriculture/woodland sector.

Wyse replied that is to be determined. Wyse is now a member of the Executive Committee of the Oregon Cascades West (OCW) Economic Development District.

7. Other

No other business was discussed.

8. Adjournment

Chair Malone adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m.



Pat Malone, Chair



Erika Milo, Recorder

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

WORK SESSIONS



Early
Learning **Hub**

of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

The Benton County Child Care Situation



Using Linn Benton Community College (LBCC) as its backbone organization, operating under the control of Oregon's Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), the Early Learning Hub (EL Hub) of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties brings together over 200 partners to increase family stability, improve kindergarten readiness, expand child care and early education opportunities, and ensure service coordination that is equitable as well as culturally and linguistically competent. Its programs include:

- Pollywog, a referral service assisting with aligning support from prenatal to preschool
- Coordinated enrollment for Preschool Promise, a publicly funded program providing free preschool for families within 200% of the federal poverty level
- Regional Data Book analysis
- Business Outreach Initiative
- Growing Care



Also using LBCC as its backbone and operating under DELC, Family Connections is the Child Care Resource and Referral agency for Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties, with responsibilities to promote the health, safety, and development of young children as part of Oregon's Early Learning System.

It is responsible for recruiting, training, and promoting retention of a high-quality, diverse early learning/child care workforce, and providing consultation for the creation and licensing of new certified child care centers.

Oregon's Child Care Crisis

- A “Child Care Desert” exists when there are at least 3x birth-to-five aged children or more for every available regulated childcare slot in existing child care programs.

Currently, all 36 counties of Oregon are classified as “deserts,” some worse than others ¹

Percent of children in Benton County with potential access to a regulated child care slot, by age ¹

0-2 year old	3-5 year old	Total children <6 years old
21%	45%	33%

- Based on 2020 Census information of children aged birth-to-five with working parents, cross-referencing the number of all regulated child care slots currently available as of mid-2022, Benton County suffers from a shortfall of 850 slots, while the city of Corvallis suffers from a shortfall of 380 slots ²
- Based on 2021 Corvallis Census data crossmatching all Corvallis regulated slots minus preschool, Corvallis suffers a shortfall of 880 slots ³
- Registered Family home-based child care program comparison ³

City	Population	# of Registered Family Programs
Corvallis	59,000	8
Albany	56,000	35
Lebanon	19,000	9



Impact of the Child Care Crisis on Working Families



Prohibitive Child Care Costs

- In Oregon, the standard cost for base-quality child care is \$13,000 per year, **per child**.⁴
- In comparison, the average annual tuition/fees for a four-year public university in Oregon is \$8,140.⁵
- In May 2022, it was reported by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics that the average Oregon salary was \$62,680.⁶
- Nationwide, 60% of child care is paid for by families, 39% by govt, but only 1% by philanthropy.⁷
- Oregon families fund 72% of child care costs.⁸



Lack of Availability

If there is such a high demand for child care, then why can't supply meet the demand?

For the most part, the for-profit child care industry utilizes a business model where the rising operating costs can't be placed on the consumer because it is already prohibitively expensive. Nor are there any simple means to cut operating costs (though we're working on fixing this).

So many child care providers are stuck using a business model **with razor-thin profit margins.**

This also acts as a deterrent for those contemplating careers in child care (though we are working on fixing this as well), and causes the closures of existing programs to fail after only a few unprofitable months.

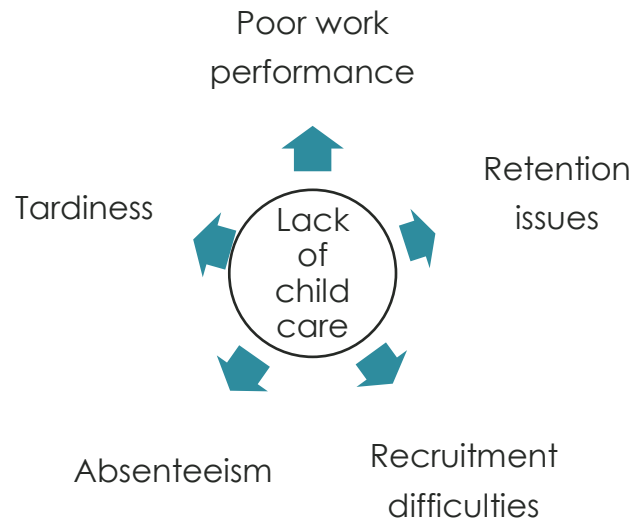
Compensation Comparison⁹

(Oregon minimum wage 2023: \$14.20)

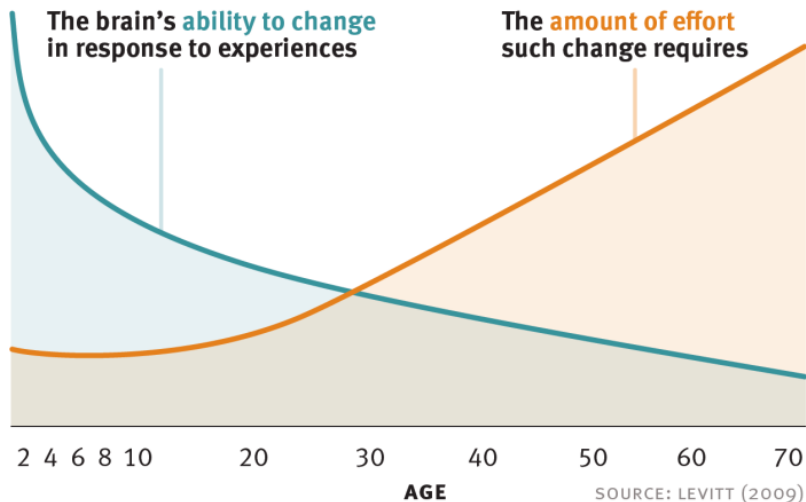
Title	Position	Min. Age	Education	Accreditation	Experience	Avg Wage/Salary
Certified Child Care Center	Director	21	Assoc Degree (AA)	None	1 year of management/ supervision of adults	\$49,500-62,500/yr
Certified Child Care Center	Head Teacher	18	AA or BA	20-30 credit hours/ 10 credits in ECE	1 year teaching experience	\$37,400/yr (\$18/hr)
Certified Child Care Center	Teacher	18	AA or BA	20-30 credit hours/ 10 credits in ECE	6 months teaching	\$33,900/yr (\$16.30/hr)
Certified Child Care Center	Teacher's Aid	15-18	N/A	2 hours of ECE training	Up to 4 months	\$29-33,000/yr (\$14-16/hr)
Lebanon Police Dept	Sworn LEO	21	High School Degree	Graduate police academy	None	\$49-62,000/Yr
Greater Albany Public Schools	Kindergarten teacher	21	BA	Teaching certification	4 months student teaching	\$48-\$70,00/Yr
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers, Albany	Cook	17	None	None	None	\$33k/yr (\$16/hr) + sharing tips
Target Distribution Center, Albany	Warehouse Worker	18	None	None	None	\$21.25/hr



The Effects of the Child Care Crisis on the Business Community



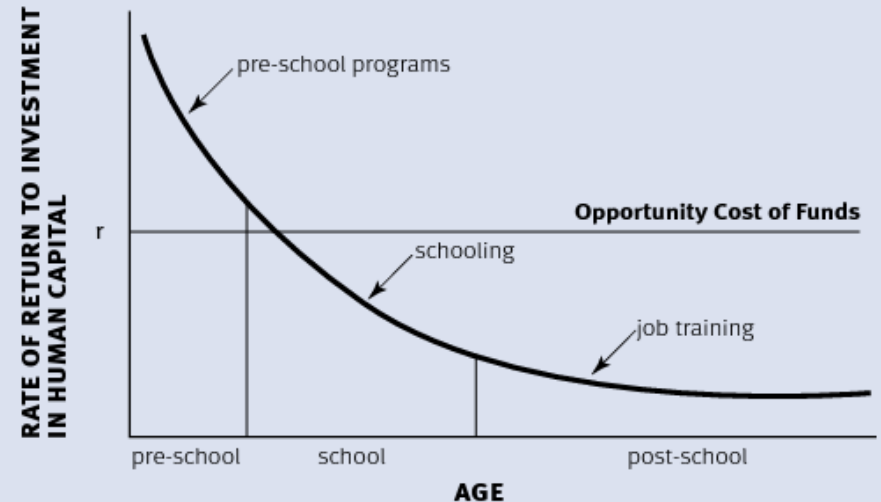
The Biological ROI: Child Brain Development



Center on the Developing Child HARVARD UNIVERSITY

www.developingchild.harvard.edu

Return on Investment Over Time



Rates of return to investment in human capital as function of age when the investment was initiated. The data were derived from a life cycle model of dynamic human capital accumulation with multiple periods and credit constraints. Investments were initially set to be equal across all ages. 'r' represents the cost of the funds. Data are from Cunha et al (2005).

Source: Knudsen, et al.¹³



Some Solutions to the Child Care Crisis

- Business Outreach Initiative: Convince employers, especially private business leaders, to invest in child care
- Growing Care: An aggressive, professional, proactive recruitment campaign to find and license more home-based child care providers



Business Outreach Initiative

Meet with Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties employers to encourage them to:

- Help with the lack of child care availability by investing in Employer-Sponsored Child Care, either creating an on-site child care center or partnering with existing child care programs for Priority Access-Waitlist
- Help with the cost of child care by subsidizing employee child care costs
- Contribute charitably to tackle the Child Care Crisis through ways like workforce incentivization, business development, and rebuilding the ECE pipeline
- Fill out surveys by management and employees so data can be used to better understand the ongoing Child Care Crisis and how it applies to the business community of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties

Growing Care

- Collaboration effort between Family Connections and the Early Learning Hub, with over a dozen community partners involved
- Background: Registered Family child care providers have no Early Childhood Education (ECE) college credit requirements and they already possess their own residence to use as a suitable location, making it the simplest and cheapest program to create with the largest manpower pool of potential providers
- Benefits
 - ❑ Start-up Grants
 - ❑ Formal Business Training
 - ❑ College Scholarships in ECE
 - ❑ Long-term Coaching/Mentoring
- Recruitment Target Audiences
 - Existing unregulated, licensed except child care providers
 - New parents wanting to earn more income
 - Stay-at-home parents whose children recently started K-12 education
 - Professional retirees wanting to earn more income
 - Anyone with a suitable resident, who loves children, and wants to work from home



How can Benton County Board of Commissioners help?

- Lobbying: Support and promote child care initiatives
- Influence: Help to promote child care within the county, and help with networking to continue expanding partnerships
- Spreading the word: You know what we do now, you know the people of Benton. if child care comes up in conversation, tell them about us and what we're doing
- Funding: Even if its change in the couch cushions, every bit helps



Questions/Comments/Concerns?

Bryan Steinhauser, Business Liaison

The Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties
Linn Benton Community College
6500 Pacific Blvd SW, LM-132
Albany OR 97321

(541) 917-4914

steinhb@linnbenton.edu

Sources

1. *"2020 Oregon's Childcare Deserts,"* Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, OSU, 2020
2. *ACS 5-Years Estimates from 2020 (Tables B23008, C16002),* Office of Child Care, June 29, 2022, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, Geographic Information Systems
3. *EL Hub-Family Connections Internal Analysis using data from Fildchildcare.org and Census.gov*
4. *"The True Cost of High-Quality Child Care Across the United States,"* Jun 2021, Center for American Progress
5. *"2023 Tuition Comparison Between Oregon Colleges"* accessed June 23, 2023, www.collegetuitioncompare.com
6. *Bureau of Labor Statistics website*
7. *"Financing Child Care in the United States,"* Mitchell, Stoney, & Dichter, 2001
8. *"OSU presentation to the Oregon Legislature,"* M. Pratt, Feb 2019
9. *EL Hub-Family Connections informal study, August 2022*



BOC Agenda Checklist Master

Agenda Placement and Contacts

Suggested Agenda Date 04/25/23

View [Agenda Tracker](#)

Suggested Placement * Work Session

Department * Public Works

Contact Name * Gary Stockhoff

Phone Extension * 6010

Meeting Attendee Name * Gary Stockhoff and Michael Ahr

Agenda Item Details



Item Title * Benton Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Report for 2022

Item Involves * Check all that apply

- ☐ Appointments
- ☐ Budget
- ☐ Contract/Agreement
- ☐ Discussion and Action
- ☐ Discussion Only
- ☐ Document Recording
- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Notice of Intent
- ☐ Order/Resolution
- ☐ Ordinance/Public Hearing 1st Reading
- ☐ Ordinance/Public Hearing 2nd Reading
- ☐ Proclamation
- ☐ Project/Committee Update
- ☐ Public Comment
- ☒ Special Report
- ☐ Other

Estimated Time * 15 min

Special Report Options *

- ☒ Oral
- ☒ Written

**Board/Committee
Involvement*** ☐ Yes
☒ No

Advertisement* ☐ Yes
☒ No

Item Issues and Description

Identified Salient Issues *	The Benton Soil and Water Conservation District (BSWCD) and Benton County Public Works (BCPW) have a common interest in the conservation of Benton County's natural resources. The Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between BSWCD and BCPW promotes this work cooperatively and efficiently in a cost-effective manner on a county-wide basis. This is achieved through collaboration on shared areas of work; leveraging resources to accomplish projects; offering each other technical assistance; and sharing information and opportunities for conservation work.	
	Areas of work include, but are not limited to:	
	• Groundwater quantity and quality • Threats from invasive species • Riparian & wetland protection and restoration • Soil erosion • Water conservation and improving water quality • Wildlife habitat improvements, including fish passage BSWCD and BCPW have a long-standing partnership to address natural resource issues in Benton County. For 60 years, BSWCD has developed and maintained programs for technical assistance and education and outreach on natural resource issues for Benton County residents. In the past, BSWCD and BCPW partnered on the Benton Fish Passage Improvement Program (BFPiP) that has contributed to the improvement of fish passage in Benton County. Recently, the shift has been towards management, identification, and assistance with noxious weeds; threatened and endangered plants; and stormwater. The Road Department Vegetation Program receives education from a BSWCD representative during bi-monthly "Weed Talk" meetings, where they share with the crew what weeds are in season and what they should be looking for. Per the IGA with BSWCD, the annual report has been prepared, see attachment A.	
Options *	N/A	
Fiscal Impact *	☒ Yes ☐ No	
Fiscal Impact Description *	Per the IGA, the Road fund allocates \$5000 annually to the BSWCD for these services. Current IGA expires June 30,2023.	

2040 Thriving Communities Initiative

Mandated Service? * ☐ Yes ☒ No

2040 Thriving Communities Initiative

Describe how this agenda checklist advances the core values or focus areas of 2040, or supports a strategy of a departmental goal.

To review the initiative, visit the website [HERE](#).

Values and Focus Areas

Check boxes that reflect each applicable value or focus area and explain how they will be advanced.

Core Values *

Select all that apply.

- ☒ Vibrant, Livable Communities
- ☒ Supportive People Resources
- ☐ High Quality Environment and Access
- ☐ Diverse Economy that Fits
- ☐ Community Resilience
- ☐ Equity for Everyone
- ☐ Health in All Actions
- ☐ N/A

Explain Core Values Selections *

BSWCD Partners with BCPW to provide much needed and up-to-date weed information and education to the Road Division crew to make our community livable, use the resources available to us, and improve water quality.

Focus Areas and Vision *

Select all that apply.

- ☒ Community Safety
- ☐ Emergency Preparedness
- ☐ Outdoor Recreation
- ☐ Prosperous Economy
- ☒ Environment and Natural Resources
- ☐ Mobility and Transportation
- ☐ Housing and Growth
- ☐ Arts, Entertainment, Culture, and History
- ☐ Food and Agriculture
- ☐ Lifelong Learning and Education
- ☐ N/A

Explain Focus Areas and Vision Selection *

BSWCD Partners with BCPW to provide much needed and up-to-date weed information and education to the Road Division crew to make our community livable, use the resources available to us, and improve water quality.

Recommendations and Motions

Item Recommendations and Motions

Staff
Recommendations* Staff recommends acceptance of the report. BCPW is pleased with the partnership and the bi-monthly communications with their assigned staff to the county.

Work Session
Motions* I move to ...
...accept the 2022 Annual Report from Benton Soil and Water Conservation District.

Attachments, Comments, and Submission

Item Comments and Attachments

Attachments

Upload any attachments to be included in the agenda, preferably as PDF files. If more than one attachment / exhibit, please indicate "1", "2", "3" or "A", "B", "C" on the documents.

2022 Annual Report IGA Benton SWCD_BCPW.pdf 1.74MB

Comments (optional)

If you have any questions, please call ext.6800

**Department
Approver**

GARY STOCKHOFF

1.

Department Approval

Comments

Signature

Gary Stockhoff

2.

Counsel Approval

Comments

Signature

Vance H. Chokey

3.

County Administrator Approval

Comments

Signature

Suzanne Hoffman

4.

BOC Final Approval

Comments

Signature

Aminda Makepeace



Annual Report 2022

Benton Soil and Water Conservation District and Benton County Public Works IGA

Requirements associated with our 2-year (2021-2023) Inter-Governmental Agreement with Benton County

Reporting: Give an annual presentation to the Board of Commissioners after submittal of the annual report on work completed that supports the Inter-Governmental Agreement.

Road Crew Program: Conduct a Weed Spotters Program for Road Crew and other appropriate Benton County Public Works (BCPW) staff once every other month. Focus will be on Early Detection and Rapid Response species.

SMA Weed Pull: Coordinate volunteer training and supervision (a minimum of four events per biennium) for weed removal in Special Management Areas.

Reporting

This annual report summarizes the accomplishments of the BSWCD staff in fulfillment of the IGA requirements. BSWCD staff will give a presentation to the Board of Commissioners about our IGA 2022 accomplishments in April 2023.

Road Crew Program

In 2022, we delivered 5 presentations to the BCPW road crew to increase their familiarity with high priority invasive species and best practices to manage them. In 2022, we covered:

- **Oblong spurge**
- **Weeds with abundant seeds (geranium, thistle)**
- **Hogweed and poison hemlock**
- **Knotweed**
- **Garlic mustard**

SMA Weed Pull–4/15/2022

On April 15, 2022, Michael Ahr (BSWCD) and Shea Steingass (BCPW) hosted 12 OSU students for a meadow knapweed volunteer pull at the SMA on West Hills Rd and 19th Street near Lupine Meadows. This group was able to dig all of the knapweed that we could find, and the plants were hauled away to Coffin Butte for disposal.

We are reducing the amount of this noxious weed and are helping exhaust the knapweed seed bank. This is a great way to remove an invasive species near high quality endangered butterfly habitat. At this event, Greenbelt Land Trust gave the volunteers a tour of Lupine Meadows after the knapweed digging!



Top photo: Students from Oregon State University digging meadow knapweed near West Hills Road. Bottom photo: To avoid the risk of re-sprouting, the weeds were bagged and hauled to the landfill. 520 lbs. of knapweed shown in truck.



Annual Report 2022

Benton Soil and Water Conservation District and Benton County Public Works IGA

Sharing Invasive Species Information

Resource conservationists discuss invasive weed management on nearly every site visit related to habitat, Oregon white oak restoration, and forestry.

The BSWCD website contains information on invasive species (search for "weed profiles"). This is a useful resource for the community.

This year, Benton SWCD received more comments than usual on poison hemlock. BSWCD staff shared concerns about hemlock with BCPW staff.



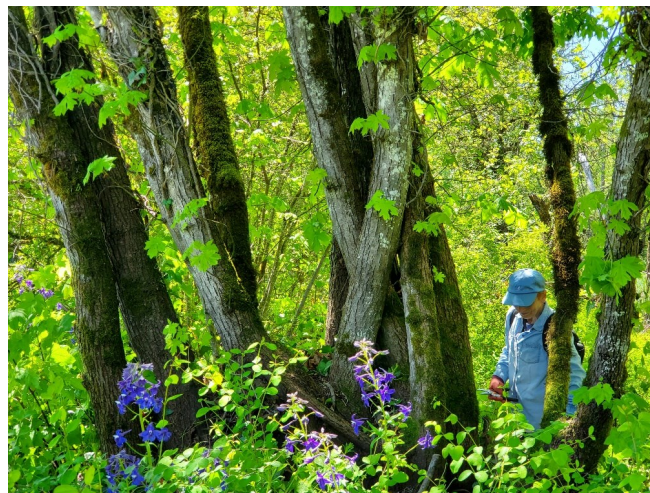
Poison hemlock along a walking trail in Benton County

PROGRAMS

BSWCD coordinates the Benton County Cooperative Weed Management Area and the Willamette Mainstem Cooperative. Activities from these programs often help BSWCD meet the requirements of the Benton County Public Works IGA.

Benton Co. Cooperative Weed Management Area

1. **Annual Let's Pull Together Event.** On May 21st, 39 volunteers gathered at 3 sites to pull invasive weeds. Sites included Marys River Park (Philomath), Witham Hill Natural Area (Corvallis), and Tadena Landing (North Albany).
2. **Oblong spurge.** Treated and monitored 28 oblong spurge sites. This is an ODA "A" list weed that we prioritize in Benton County. BSWCD hopes to receive funding for a seasonal employee to help with this in 2023.
3. **Invasive weed reporting.** Responded to dozens of online invasive weed reports from the public, often with recommendations for control.



Volunteer cutting ivy from a bigleaf maple at Marys River Park during Let's Pull Together Event, May 2022

Willamette Mainstem Cooperative

1. **Paddle and Pull Events.** BSWCD with Willamette Riverkeeper and State Parks staff led 2 volunteer events on the Willamette River to pull aquatic invasive weeds *Ludwigia* and parrotfeather. 18 volunteers participated.
2. **Yellow floating heart.** Surveyed 22 miles of the Willamette for this "A" list weed. We found 2 new sites this year, and currently treat 4 locations. Overall we've kept this weed from thriving along the Benton County stretch of the river.



Volunteers loading a bag of Ludwigia during a Paddle and Pull Event at Lower Kiger Island, July 2022

Monday, September 12, 2022

6:00-7:30 PM Board Meeting

Zoom Video Conference: <https://zoom.us/join>

Phone: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 844 6825 0202

Passcode: 640956

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA**

Goal	Item	Lead	Time	ACTION
	Call to Order, Introductions, Public Comments, Announcements, Additions to Agenda	<i>Johnson</i>	6:00	
	CONSENT AGENDA	<i>Johnson</i>	6:02	ACTION
5	Approve draft Minutes from July 11th Board Meeting (no minutes from August due to Board recess)			
5	Approve Financials (6/30/22 and 7/31/22)			
5	Approve Resolution #FY2022-2023-02 to add \$21,555 to ODA Capacity Funding – Operations. These are recaptured funds that OWEB has added to all SWCDs with Operating Capacity Grants			
5	Adopt Heat Illness Prevention Policy based on new OSHA rule (in packet)			
5	Adopt Wildfire Smoke Policy based on new OSHA rule (in packet)			
	REGULAR AGENDA			
1, 2, 3, 4	Introduce Sara Roberts, Communications and Community Engagement Coordinator (10 minutes)	<i>Ahr/Roberts</i>	6:03	
5	Approve Resolution #FY2022-2023-01 to extend Workers Compensation insurance coverage to BSWCD Volunteers (recommended by legal counsel)	<i>Ahr/Board</i>	6:13	
5	Year-end financial review for FY2021-2022 – 12 minutes (graphs in packet)	<i>Ahr</i>	6:18	
2	Native Bulb Sale Update (Sept. 24-25)	<i>Ahr</i>	6:30	
1	Update Benton County Activities in a Floodplain permit	<i>Schmitz</i>	6:40	
5	Decide on date of October Board meeting (October 10 is a holiday)	<i>Directors</i>	6:50	
1-5	Questions from Board about BSWCD staff activities and NRCS staff report	<i>Directors/ BSWCD & NRCS Staff</i>	6:55	
1-5	Other Board business?		7:20	
	Meeting Adjourned	<i>Johnson</i>	7:30	

Strategic Direction Goals 2022-2027

Goal #1: Ensure that the soil, water, and ecosystems of Benton County, including diverse habitats on wild, working, and urban lands, are protected, restored, and resilient.

Goal #2: Deliver engaging education and outreach opportunities that inspire residents throughout Benton County to protect and restore soil, water, and habitat.

Goal #3: Develop clear, consistent communications so people throughout Benton County can easily participate in Benton SWCD services and take action to steward our resources.

Goal #4: Enhance our strategic partnerships and revenue to increase Benton SWCD's impact.

Goal #5: Implement operations that support highly effective programs and services.

BSWCD Board and Outreach Events (subject to change)		
Date/Time	Event	Location
September 10, 4 – 8 pm	Invasive Species Cookoff	Common Fields, Corvallis https://appliedeco.org/get-involved/invasive-species-cookoff/
September 24, 10 am – 6 pm September 25, 10 am – 5 pm	BSWCD Native Bulb & Seed Sale	Corvallis Fall Festival https://www.corvallisfallfestival.org/
October, Date & Time TBD	BSWCD Monthly Board Meeting	TBD
Probable: October 25, 9 am – 1 pm	Willamette Riverkeeper Trash Clean-up sponsored locally by Benton SWCD	Crystal Lake Boat Ramp to Michael's Lading. This is an "on water" event. Web link to come...

Check our website calendar regularly for additional items that are still being finalized:

<https://bentonswcd.org/activities/calendar/>

Monday, July 11, 2022; 6:00-7:00 PM
Phone: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 844 6825 0202
Passcode: 640956



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance

Board Members Present: Nate Johnson, Bob Morris, Jerry Paul, Henry Storch, Eliza Mason, Faye Yoshihara (Emeritus)

Board Members Absent: Kerry Hastings, Graham Trask

Associate Directors Present: Marcella Henkels, Rana Foster, David Barron

Staff Present: Holly Crosson, Michael Ahr, Teresa Matteson, Donna Schmitz, Linda Lovett (minutes)

Others Present: Lexi Gardner (NRCS)

Call to Order

[Johnson] 6:01 pm

Introductions, Public Comments, Announcements, Additions/Changes to Agenda

Additions to agenda: Nate asked to discuss the board meeting length, whether to format staff reports to align with Strategic Plan goals, and whether to discuss staff reports as part of the regular agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- **Approve draft minutes from June 13, 2022 Budget Hearing and Board Meeting:** Discussion: none
- **Approve Financials for 5/31/22:** Discussion: none

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda: Bob/Eliza (vote 5/5)

REGULAR AGENDA

Approve final wording on 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goals

At the June meeting, Jerry suggested rewording the goals. The new language is in the packet. Eliza said she liked the new wording. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Approve revised wording of Strategic Plan Goals: Nate/Eliza (vote 5/5)

Questions about FY23 Work Plan

The plan was approved in June, but the board asked to add the percentage of time staff spend on goals and activities. Holly noted that this is a work in progress and that the percentages are approximate. If there are no percentages listed, that doesn't mean a staff member doesn't work on that thing. The annual and wellness leave numbers are inconsistent because of differences in staff accrual and use, but it is included to account for time that staff are not working.

There was no further discussion. The board will check in on the work plan quarterly.

Election Update

Linda reviewed upcoming deadlines for directors running in the November election. The Declaration of Candidacy and Petition for Nomination Signature Sheet need to be submitted to ODA between July 21 and August 30. Signatures need to be verified by Benton County Board of Elections before submitting to ODA, so allow plenty of time. All instructions are in the packet. See the Benton County Elections website for instructions on how to submit a candidate statement for the voter's pamphlet.

Details of informal gathering/catered dinner and wetland/riparian restoration tour at Faye Yoshihara and Kevin Kenaga's

The gathering is scheduled for August 8 from 5:30-7:00. There will be a catered dinner at the Soap Creek School House. Parking is available. Faye will give Linda contact info for Pupuseria Del Valle, a vendor at Common Fields. All documents referenced in these minutes are a part of the official record and can be distributed upon request.

Linda will get food preferences from directors and staff and coordinate payment with vendor. Staff will work out other details such as drinks, dessert, utensils, etc. Space is available to bring guests, but please RSVP so Linda knows how much food to order.

Decide on board meeting agenda format

Holly sought feedback on the agenda format and on whether directors want staff reports to be organized by goals as well. Bob said he would like goals included in staff reports, but with just their numbers. Eliza liked the way Teresa did her staff report. Jerry would like to see staff reports connected to work plans as well, such as by listing the task under the goal, so that directors know that staff are working on what the board has approved. Bob noted that this is also a good way to evaluate whether staff are spending more time on one part of work plan than others. If so, the plan may need reevaluation. Eliza suggested that the tasks be assigned numbers or letters for easy reference. Holly said the reports need to provide a level of detail for the board to see that we're following the strategic direction, but not at the level of micromanaging. She suggested staff discuss and bring back an example that directors can react to. Directors agreed to that approach.

Additions to agenda

Length of board meetings: Meetings have been from 6:00-7:00pm as a pandemic accommodation, but Nate does not want to limit meetings to an hour if discussion is still going and the topic merits. Holly added that additional time would allow for more presentations or for staff to discuss highlights of staff reports. Directors agreed to resume 90-minute meetings, with staff report Q&A to be added as an agenda item.

Staff Report Q & A: There were questions about Grand Ronde native nursery tour (Donna), Oregon Agricultural Trust (Holly), and strip tillage event and what Teresa's new intern is doing. Lexie sent this link about strip tillage: https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/research/western-innovator-second-try-a-charm-for-reduced-tillage/article_6eef3526-f300-11ec-913c-1fcda8dece33.html

David mentioned that on July 23rd there will be a program to dedicate the Shipley family homestead at Newton and James St. in Philomath. See the City of Philomath website for details. Teresa also sent: <https://oregontic.com/news-press/historic-marker-dedication-on-july-23rd-shipley-family-homestead/>

Holly said she had received an email from Cliff Hall about the transfer of 155 acres of the Hall's Kings Valley property to the Kings Valley Community Trust. Cliff has asked KVCT to connect with BSWCD to do some joint events. Staff will brainstorm about how the District might collaborate with KVCT.

Meeting Adjourned

[Johnson] 7:29 pm

NEW BUSINESS

BOC Agenda Checklist Master

Agenda Placement and Contacts

Suggested Agenda Date 07/25/2023

View [Agenda Tracker](#)

Suggested Placement * BOC Tuesday Meeting

Department * Board of Commissioners

Contact Name * Suzanne Hoffman

Phone Extension * 5417666370

Meeting Attendee Name * Suzanne Hoffman, Tracy Martineau

Agenda Item Details



Item Title * Appointment of Interim County Administrator

Item Involves * Check all that apply

- ☒ Appointments
- ☐ Budget
- ☐ Contract/Agreement
- ☒ Discussion and Action
- ☐ Discussion Only
- ☐ Document Recording
- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Notice of Intent
- ☐ Order/Resolution
- ☐ Ordinance/Public Hearing 1st Reading
- ☐ Ordinance/Public Hearing 2nd Reading
- ☐ Proclamation
- ☐ Project/Committee Update
- ☐ Public Comment
- ☐ Special Report
- ☐ Other

Estimated Time * 10 minutes

Board/Committee Involvement * ☐ Yes ☒ No

Advertisement*

☐ Yes

☒ No

Item Issues and Description

Identified Salient
Issues *

The Board will need to appoint a new Interim County Administrator if the new County Administrator is not in place by September 1, 2023. The current Interim County Administrator's last day with Benton County is August 31, 2023. Making this decision now will allow transition activities to begin.

Options *

Appoint Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Rick Cragar as Interim County Administrator effective September 1, 2023.

Other.

Fiscal Impact *

☐ Yes

☒ No

2040 Thriving Communities Initiative

Mandated Service? * ☐ Yes ☒ No

2040 Thriving Communities Initiative

Describe how this agenda checklist advances the core values or focus areas of 2040, or supports a strategy of a departmental goal.

To review the initiative, visit the website [HERE](#).

Values and Focus Areas

Check boxes that reflect each applicable value or focus area and explain how they will be advanced.

Core Values *

Select all that apply.

- ☒ Vibrant, Livable Communities
- ☒ Supportive People Resources
- ☒ High Quality Environment and Access
- ☒ Diverse Economy that Fits
- ☒ Community Resilience
- ☒ Equity for Everyone
- ☒ Health in All Actions
- ☐ N/A

Explain Core Values Selections * All of the Core Values are supported by the role of Interim County Administrator

Focus Areas and Vision *

Select all that apply.

- ☒ Community Safety
- ☒ Emergency Preparedness
- ☒ Outdoor Recreation
- ☒ Prosperous Economy
- ☒ Environment and Natural Resources
- ☒ Mobility and Transportation
- ☒ Housing and Growth
- ☒ Arts, Entertainment, Culture, and History
- ☒ Food and Agriculture
- ☒ Lifelong Learning and Education
- ☐ N/A

Explain Focus Areas and Vision Selection * All of the Focus Areas are supported by the role of Interim County Administrator

Recommendations and Motions

Item Recommendations and Motions

Staff

Recommendations *

Approve appointment of CFO Rick Crager as Interim County Administrator effective September 1, 2023 and direct the Human Resources Director to move forward with the steps necessary to formalize the appointment.

Meeting Motions *

I move to ...

appoint CFO Rick Crager as Interim County Administrator effective September 1, 2023 and direct the Human Resources Director to move forward with the steps necessary to formalize the appointment.

Attachments, Comments, and Submission

Item Comments and Attachments

Attachments

Upload any attachments to be included in the agenda, preferably as PDF files. If more than one attachment / exhibit, please indicate "1", "2", "3" or "A", "B", "C" on the documents.

Comments (optional)

If you have any questions, please call ext.6800

Department
Approver

SUZANNE HOFFMAN

1.

Department Approval

Comments

Signature

Suzanne Hoffman

2.

HR Approval

Comments

Signature

Tracy Martineau

3.

County Administrator Approval

Comments

Signature

Amanda Makepeace

4.

BOC Final Approval

Comments

Signature

Amanda Makepeace