

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

February 13, 2019

County Court met with Judge Dan Joyce presiding with Commissioner Don Hodge and Commissioner Larry Wilson present. Staff present was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois.

OWYHEE WATERSHED COUNCIL AND JORDAN VALLEY COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGMENT AREA - UPDATE

Nicole Sullivan, Eric Morrison, Layla Rico, and Lou Wettstein met with the Court and provided an annual update on the Owyhee Watershed Council (OWC) and the Jordan Valley Cooperative Weed Management Area (JV CWMA). Ms. Sullivan explained that over the last year the Council has had 12 grants (7 Large Grants; 5 Small Grants) that focused on water quality improvement; total treatment acres last year was 590; total feet of pipe installed was 52,966; 16 pivots, 2 wheel lines, 33 big gun sprinklers, and 7 different runs of hand lines were installed. There were 9 flood to sprinkler conversion projects; two ditch piping projects; and one pressurized lateral project. 213 acres have been converted in the Twilight Water Quality Improvement Area; one project is in the process of being closed out and an application for another project in the Twilight area will be made this spring. The Blackjack area is mostly wrapped up - one additional landowner is interested in a project in that area. The High Desert Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is another high priority area; one project was recently implemented on Jordan Creek (flood to sprinkler conversion). There has been a lot of landowner interest in the Big Bend project area. Additional projects are taking place that are not in priority areas, typically through the Small Grants funding. Various other grant projects are open or currently under implementation. Most of the focus for upland projects has been on the RCPP; there is a potential stream bank project being looked at as well as a spring development project. Mr. Morrison continues to treat Medusahead in the Parsnip Peak area. There are seven local projects in the RCPP (13 projects total as it covers areas in Nevada, Idaho, and Oregon.)

Mr. Morrison updated the Court on the Jordan Valley CWMA. The Parsnip Peak Medusahead treatment project sprayed 1378 acres in November; this was the second year of treatment. Over 1000 acres of Perennial pepperweed, Scotch thistle, and Russian knapweed were treated. Leafy spurge, Russian knapweed and Diffuse spotted knapweed are the worst weeds the CWMA is dealing with. Additionally, over 700 acres of Whitetop was treated. 45 individuals attended the Winter Weed Seminar; 124 recertification credits were obtained. The Jordan Valley office is a great resource for landowners for information and also has equipment available for use by the landowners.

Mr. Wettstein expressed appreciation for the support of the County Court.

FAIRGROUNDS – UPDATE

Fairgrounds Manager Lynelle Christiani met with the Court and provided a monthly update. Also present was Advisory Board Member Josh Kreger. Projects the Board is working on for 2019 include: fan for the Red Barn; PA system for the entire facility; outdoor lighting throughout the facility; underground sprinklers by the food court; rectify the water problem in the southwest corner of the facility; and design and installation of new entry gates. The local FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapters have been asked to work on the entry gates project; Ms. Christiani is meeting with the advisors and writing grants for the project. Ms. Christiani has been asked to

speak to the House of Representatives in March regarding the need for the legislature to fund capital projects for fairgrounds throughout the state. Ms. Christiani is meeting with the Ontario City Manager and Mayor tomorrow to discuss creating a walkway around the fairgrounds and incorporating it into the City's beautification plan. The rodeo and Red Barn Award sponsorship letters have been sent out (approximately 400-500 letters). V&C grants will be submitted for funds for the Fair entertainment and other items. The cost to have the carnival at the Fair this year will be \$4500.

The Caretaker hiring process is ongoing; questions about health insurance for the position were asked. Ms. DuBois explained the position offers employee only health insurance. This is a decision that was made by the Fair Board many years ago for financial reasons and confirmed by the current board when this job vacancy was posted.

The Commercial Building is booked for weekend events for approximately 2/3 of the calendar year; and Girvin Hall is starting to fill up.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Court Minutes of January 30, 2019. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

IGA WITH OSU - FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Oregon State University's Extension Service (OSU). Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The agreement authorizes one County employee to have access to security classes or data determined by OSU to be necessary to complete financial transactions in OSU's Banner FIS, OSCAR and TRES and other such systems as OSU may use in the future. It was noted that in the insurance provisions of the IGA, the County's Crime Insurance only covers the County employees, directors, officers, and agents, not OSU employees, officers, members, and agents. A copy of the IGA will be returned for recording.

AMENDMENTS - IGA #153131

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Eighth Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2017-2019 Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Mental Health, Substance Use Disorders, and Problem Gambling Services Agreement #153131; and moved to approve Ninth Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2017-2019 Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Mental Health, Substance Use Disorders, and Problem Gambling Services Agreement #153131. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Copies will be returned for recording. The original IGA is recorded as instrument #[2017-2514](#). Eighth Amendment recorded as instrument #2019-0712 and Ninth Amendment recorded as instrument #2019-0713.

PAYROLL DIRECT DEPOSIT POLICY

Commissioner Hodge noted he wanted to ensure there was a policy concerning direct deposit. Ms. DuBois confirmed there is an internal policy.

ASD ADVISORY BOARD

Commissioner Wilson moved to appoint Tim Rines to the ASD (Ambulance Service District) Advisory Board as a Lay Person Representative. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CROSSING PERMITS

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Crossing Permit #04-19 to Idaho Power Company to upgrade an overhead bank of transformers on Railroad Avenue #874; Crossing Permit #05-19 to Idaho Power Company to install a transformer on an existing pole on Noble Road #910; and Crossing Permit #06-19 to David Moody to bury a water line and power line across Willow Creek Road #502. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Original permits will be kept on file at the Road Department.

INSURANCE AGENT OF RECORD

It was explained that the current contract with Field-Waldo Insurance Agencies for Insurance Agent of Record expires June 2019. It was discussed if the County should extend the contract or put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for insurance agent of record. After discussion, consensus was to extend the current contract.

County Counsel Stephanie Williams joined the meeting.

HB 2456

City of Ontario Mayor Riley Hill joined the meeting telephonically. Planner Eric Evans joined the meeting. Mayor Hill discussed House Bill 2456. A hearing was held on the bill February 7, 2019. The bill as introduced would allow for certain lands within the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region to be rezoned from exclusive farm use to residential uses.

WILDLIFE SERVICES

Tom McElroy met with the Court and introduced Scott Phillips; Mr. Phillips is the new Wildlife Services employee working in Malheur County.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.