

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

February 26, 2020

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 9:00 a.m. in the County Court Office of the Malheur County Courthouse with Commissioner Don Hodge and Commissioner Larry Wilson present. Staff present was Surveyor/Engineer Tom Edwards. Notice of the meeting was posted on the County website and Courthouse public bulletin board; and emailed to the Argus Observer, Malheur Enterprise, and those persons who have requested notice. The meeting was audio recorded. The agenda is recorded as instrument # [2020-771](#)

Public present was Harry Bettis.

OWYHEE WATERSHED COUNCIL AND JORDAN VALLEY COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA – UPDATE

Nicole Sullivan, Michaelann Seiders, Layla Rico, and Eric Morrison 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 in 2019 the Owyhee Watershed Council was awarded three (3) large grants and one (1) technical assistance grant:

- Springing into Action on Mahogany Mountain - a spring development project developing seven (7) different springs on Mahogany Mountain in partnership with NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service);
- Owyhee Weed Wars - large capacity grant funding for the CWMA to support private landowners in the area on noxious weed treatment, identification and management;
- In a Van Down by the River - a water improvement project in the Twilight Water Quality Improvement Area to facilitate the conversion of 27 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation with a pivot; and
- A Difficult Survey and Design - a technical assistance grant for survey and design for a large pipeline and livestock watering system in an existing wet meadow habitat area in Core Sage Grouse habitat.

In 2019 five (5) large grants were completed:

- Parsnip Peak Invasive Annuals - survey and treatment of Medusahead in the Parsnip Peak area;
- Border Line Water Quality Improvement - implementation of one (1) pivot system and pipeline conveyance to convert 57 acres from flood to sprinkler in the Big Bend area;
- Finishing Up Fletcher Water Quality Improvement - conversion of 57 acres from flood to sprinkler through the installation of three (3) pivot systems and conveyance pipe in the Fletcher Gulch Priority Area;
- Destination Desolation Water Quality Improvement - Phase I of a three (3) phase project to convert 374 acres to border irrigation through land leveling and pipeline installation (Phase I completed 86 acres in the Cow Lakes area); this project is also a part of the High Desert Regional Conservation Partnership Program with Trout Unlimited and NRCS;

- West Nile Mile Water Quality Improvement – conversion of 117 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation in the Arock area; this project was also part of the High Desert regional Conservation partnership Program with Trout Unlimited and NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service).

One large grant application was submitted in the October cycle and is pending a decision from OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board); this grant is for flood to sprinkler conversion on 88 acres northwest of Adrian.

Council Capacity funding was secured in the amount of \$122,900 for the 2019-2021 biennium; this funding is used for salary, utilities, and general operating costs.

The Council Action Plan was adopted in 2015 and an update to the Action Plan is due in 2020. See instrument # [2020-773](#) for the 2015 Action Plan. The Council recently completed a self-evaluation and prioritized additional planning efforts for the year including:

- Submittal of a Stakeholder Engagement Collaborative grant with Malheur Watershed Council;
- Updating of the mailing list;
- Development of a website and social media platforms; and
- Data entry of projects completed by the Council into a data base.

Ms. Rico gave an overview of the Small Grants Program. Last summer closed out the 2017-2019 biennium with a total of 10 small grants. Water quality improvement was the dominant theme of the projects; nine (9) water quality improvement projects were implemented to convert 87 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation; 8,680 feet of pipe was installed between the nine (9) projects. The tenth project focused on off stream watering in the Succor Creek area. The Owyhee Small Grants team was awarded \$100,000 in the 2019-2021 biennium to begin accepting and evaluation of project applications; three (3) project applications were received with two (2) being recommended for funding and those applications are currently awaiting secondary approval by OWEB.

Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois joined the meeting.

Ms. Seiders provided an update on Owyhee Field Day. Approximately 875 5th grade students attended the 2019 Owyhee Field Day (over the course of two days); and over 100 FFA (Future Farmers of America) students assisted as station leaders or group leaders. Students were from Malheur, Owyhee, Payette, and Canyon Counties; FFA students were from Adrian, Nyssa, Vale, Harper, Jordan Valley, Ontario and Fruitland chapters. The event had over 28 stations that covered many different topics; all participating students received a T-shirt and a lunch prepared by the Nyssa School Cafeteria - all possible by private donations from members and businesses in the community. The 2020 Owyhee Field Day will be April 29 & 30, 2020.

Sixteen (16) high school students from Nyssa and Adrian participated in the 2019 Hydrology Camp held at Reynolds Creek Agriculture Research Service Center; the 2020 Hydrology Camp will be March 18 & 19, 2020.

Mr. Edwards left the meeting.

Mr. Morrison provided an update on the Jordan Valley CWMA. Fifteen hundred (1500) acres of Medusahead were treated on the Parsnip Peak Project. Over 90 acres of Whitetop were treated in the Crowley area on Oregon State Lands. Landowners in the Arock and Danner areas have been treating a lot of Scotch Thistle acres; and the majority of the Perennial Pepperweed was treated in the Quinn area. Mr. Morrison received notification this week that two (2) of three (3) noxious weed grant applications were funded (totaling approximately \$67,000).

Those present answered questions from the Court members and the Court extended their appreciation for the presentation.

See instrument # [2020-772](#) for the written report.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Court Minutes of February 19, 2020 as written. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PROCLAMATION- OPPOSITION TO SB 1530 AND HB 4167

Commissioner Hodge moved to sign a proclamation opposing Senate Bill 1530 and House Bill 4167. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

MALHEUR COUNTY PROCLAMATION

Opposition to Senate Bill 1530 and House Bill 4167

WHEREAS, the Malheur County Court represents an estimated 32,030 people; and

WHEREAS, Malheur County provides a wide range of critically needed services to its residents including roads, parks, public health services, juvenile services, and public safety; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1530 and House Bill 4167 will directly impact the cost to Malheur County and the residents of Malheur County in significant increases in the cost to provide services through increased utility costs and increased costs in fuel related to providing those critically needed services; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1530's and House Bill 4167's impacts through increases in utility costs and fuel costs will further burden the residents of Malheur County who are already burdened by the increasing costs of living in our communities through higher rents, increasing costs to purchase a home, and additional tax burdens placed on them by the State of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, any benefits derived through Senate Bill 1530 or House Bill 4167, many of which are in dispute, do not justify the penalties and costs imposed by either Bill.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Malheur County Court proclaims that Malheur County is opposed to Senate Bill 1530 and House Bill 4167 of the 80th Oregon Legislative

Assembly, both of which will have punitive impacts on Malheur County and the citizens of Malheur County.

Dated this 26th day of February, 2020.

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT

The Court signed the proclamation.

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION – IGA AMENDMENT

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Amendment No. 1 to Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) #14286, Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Basic Services. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The amendment revises the formula for calculating the administrative costs and evaluation costs. (The original IGA is recorded as instrument #2019-3785) A copy of the amendment will be returned for recording.

FAIR ADVISORY BOARD

Commissioner Wilson moved to appoint Jennifer Hall to the Fair Board as an Advisory Member. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

QUITCLAIM DEED - CISNEROS

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Quitclaim Deed to Juvenal and Maria Cisneros for Ref. #4319. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. This is a buy-back as the property was foreclosed on by the County for non-payment of property taxes. See instrument # [2020-774](#)

COURT ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.