

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

June 1, 2016

The Malheur County Court met with Judge Dan Joyce presiding with Commissioner Don Hodge and Commissioner Larry Wilson present.

Also present were OSU (Oregon State University) extension agents Stuart Reitz and Bill Buhrig; and Larry Meyer from the Argus Observer.

SUBDIVISION PLAT

Surveyor/Engineer Tom Edwards met with the Court and presented a subdivision plat for their consideration. Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Sage Ridge Place Subdivision Plat, in the City of Ontario. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # [2016-1846](#)

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Court Minutes of May 18, 2016 as written. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VOLUNTEERS RESOLUTION

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Resolution R16-13: A Resolution Extending Malheur County's Workers' Compensation Coverage to Volunteers of Malheur County for the 2016-2017 policy year. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # [2016-1848](#)

AOC QUESTIONNAIRE

The Court received a courthouse replacement questionnaire from AOC (Association of Oregon Counties). The questionnaire asks if the County has an interest in applying for State funding assistance during the next 12 years to replace the courthouse. Responding "yes" means that the courthouse has significant structural defects and that the county is or might be willing and able to raise matching funds. The Court responded "no" to the questionnaire as the courthouse does not meet the replacement requirements.

Pat Caldwell of the Malheur Enterprise joined the meeting.

MAP AGREEMENT

Road Supervisor Richard Moulton met with the Court and presented an agreement for their consideration. Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Malheur County Allocation Certification Agreement Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP) 2016-2017 with the Oregon State Marine Board. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The MAP allocation amount is \$8,812.50 to be used to maintain improved marine facilities at Beulah Reservoir, Bully Creek Reservoir, and Malheur Reservoir. A copy will be returned for recording.

UPDATED COUNTY POLICY 107 - USE OF COUNTY VEHICLES

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve updates to County Policy 107 - Use of County Vehicles. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # [2016-1849](#)

TREASURE VALLEY PARAMEDICS (TVP)

Information was received from ASD (Ambulance Service District) Director Bob Dickinson concerning the recent rate increase proposal from TVP. The recommendation of the ASD Advisory Board was to proceed with the rate increase proposal. The Court will schedule a public hearing to further consider the rate increase proposal.

GLYPHOSATE TOLERANT CREEPING BENTGRASS

Dan Andersen from Malheur Farm Bureau met with the Court and discussed glyphosate tolerant creeping bentgrass (GTCB). Mr. Andersen expressed concerns that it appears the County Weed Board is working with the Center for Biodiversity to possibly file a lawsuit against APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services) and Scotts Co. regarding GTCB. Farm Bureau is not opposed to the work of the Weed Board but cannot support working with the Center for Biodiversity. Mr. Andersen said that Center for Biodiversity has filed lawsuits across the U.S. and basically wants to do away with all genetically modified crops.

County Counsel Stephanie Williams joined the meeting.

Farm Bureau is working through ODA (Oregon Department of Agriculture) and efforts include trying to obtain a Section 18, which would allow the use of chemicals to control GTCB around water. (Currently there are no chemicals approved for use around water.)

Scotts has entered into a 10-year agreement with USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) for the management of GTCB; Malheur County was not involved in negotiating the terms of the agreement.

Mr. Andersen has voiced Farm Bureau's concerns to both County Weed Inspector Gary Page and Weed Board Chairman Jerry Erstrom. Mr. Andersen said that classifying GTCB as a noxious weed will be considered by the State Weed Board at some point in the future.

It was noted that the County Court has not taken any formal action to work with the Center for Biodiversity. Mr. Erstrom has previously expressed concerns to the Court that if GTCB is found in some commodities it could hurt exports; and that deregulating GTCB could have a huge financial impact on landowners and the county.

It was discussed that glufosinate has been effective in managing GTCB but does not have an aquatic label and that the best suggestion may be to pursue obtaining a Section 18 to allow the use of glufosinate.

Scotts has said that all of the seed stocks of GTCB have been destroyed and that they do not plan to produce GTCB any longer. Scotts also says there are less than 424 plants within 82,182 acres surveyed. It was discussed that there are concerns that if GTCB is deregulated it would limit

Scotts responsibility to manage GTCB which could pose a significant financial burden to landowners and the county.

Mr. Andersen reiterated that Farm Bureau supports the County Weed Board but cannot support efforts that include the Center for Biodiversity.

Malheur Farm Bureau President Jeana Hall joined the meeting.

The Court members indicated they would follow-up with Mr. Erstrom and Mr. Page.

Mr. Andersen also encouraged the Court members to research Initiative Petition 28 which would create a gross receipts tax of 2.5% on corporations with over \$25 million in gross receipts.

SCOTTS CO. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Williams briefly discussed with the Court members correspondence they received from Scotts Co. dated May 11, 2016. The Court did not make a decision on responding to the correspondence and requested Ms. Williams further visit with OSU (Oregon State University) Extension staff about GTCB and Scotts correspondence. There are still questions as to how much GTCB is actually in the county and where it is located.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Court was adjourned.