

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
September 19, 2018

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

ADDITION OF PALMER AMARANTH TO NOXIOUS WEED LIST

Present for the hearing to consider the addition of Palmer amaranth to the County Noxious Weed List were Weed Inspector Gary Page and Jessica Norton. Judge Joyce opened the public hearing for consideration of the addition of Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) to the County Noxious Weed List. Notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer and Malheur Enterprise. Mr. Page explained that Palmer amaranth is an annual pigweed; it is not known to exist in the county yet. The recommendation of the Weed Board to add Palmer amaranth to the Class A noxious weed list is meant to be a proactive measure. Palmer amaranth would be many times as problematic as the common pigweeds already in the county; currently there are three known species in the county. Palmer amaranth has been present in the Midwest for many years and has recently expanded its area of influence and is moving west; it is expanding due largely to the excessive use of glyphosate tolerant crops. Palmer amaranth is a much more robust plant compared to the three types currently in the county; it will commonly reach heights of 6-8 feet, 3-4 feet wide, and one plant produces up to 250,000 seeds with a high viability percentage as well. Several sightings of the plant have been investigated in the county but so far have not turned out to be Palmer amaranth. Dr. Joel Felix at the Experiment Station has been instrumental in the investigations and is very concerned about the matter. The Weed Advisory Board has made recommendations to the Weed Control Department concerning public outreach and the Department will be making an effort to inform the public about the risks of Palmer amaranth and how to identify it. It appears very likely that Palmer amaranth will continue to move west and may make significant jumps across the landscape; it can spread through multiple channels including farm equipment movement and animal feed. Due to the destructive and disruptive nature of Palmer amaranth, the Weed Advisory Board recommends that the plant be added to the Class A Noxious Weed List. No public comments were received.

Judge Joyce closed the hearing.

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Resolution No. R18-21: Resolution Adding Palmer Amaranth to Malheur County's Noxious Weed List as a Class "A" weed, effective October 1, 2018. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument [#2018-3538](#)

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Court Minutes of September 5, 2018 as written. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed. (Commissioner Wilson was not present on September 5, 2018.)

QUITCLAIM DEEDS - KINCADE

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Quitclaim Deed to the Michael Kincade Revocable Trust of 2014 for Ref. # 5711; and Quitclaim Deed to the Michael Kincade Revocable Trust of 2014 for Ref. #5709. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The properties were bought at the 2015 County Land Sale. See instrument [#2018-3536](#) and [2018-3537](#)

CHECK REGISTER

The Court signed the Accounts Payable (AP) book for June 2018.

TOUR OF RELOAD FACILITIES

It was explained that staff had received a request to reimburse the City of Nyssa for travel expenses for their City Manager in conjunction with site visits of rail facilities he had participated in with Commissioner Wilson and Economic Development Director Greg Smith last June. Consensus of the Court was that the County would pay for Commissioner Wilson and Mr. Smith's expenses but had not agreed to pay for the City of Nyssa's expenses. Commissioner Wilson will visit further with Nyssa and Mr. Smith regarding the matter.

LETTER - BROADBAND

The Court signed a letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WT Docket No. 17-79; Streamlining Deployment of Small Cell Infrastructure by Improving Wireless Siting Policies, WT Docket No. 16-421. The Court urges the removal of regulatory barriers to the deployment of new wireless broadband services. See instrument #[2018-3539](#)

AMENDED VOLUNTEERS RESOLUTION

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Amended Resolution R18-20: A Resolution Extending Workers' Compensation Coverage to Volunteers of Malheur County Effective for the Policy Period July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #[2018-3540](#)

COURT ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.