

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting
July 2, 2025
Upper Conference Room, Bartholomew Building
Heppner, Oregon

Present In Person Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Gus Peterson, Matthew Jensen, Valerie Ballard, Justin Nelson, Sue Gibbs, Erin Anderson, Corey Sweeney, Rory Rowlette, Sandi Pointer; non-staff: Kimberly Lindsay, KC Anderson

Present Via Zoom Tami Ewing, Deona Siex, Sabrina Bailey-Cave, Rose Kylo, Yvonne Morter, Mike Gorman, Mindy Wilson, Steven Davis, Amanda Kenderick; non-staff: Griffin Beach, Kelly Doherty, Kevin Payne, Andrea Di Salvo

Call to Order

9:02 a.m.

Public Comment

No comments

Consideration and Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Department Reports

Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) Quarterly Update

Kimberly Lindsay, Community Counseling Solutions Executive Director
Negotiations between the State of Oregon and Oregon counties continue for the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Financing Community Mental Health, Addiction Treatment, Recovery, and Problem Gambling Services. Last year, counties via Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) requested OHA revisit and modify the agreement as it hasn't had substantial changes in a long time. A work group consisting of county commissioners and county counsels have been working with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and concerns were raised due to wording that counties would provide services with the removal of "based upon the ability of funds". The State will extend the contract with counties as it currently is for the next six months.

Federal issues to consider: If Medicaid has funding cuts as proposed in House Bill 1 (HB 1), also known as the Big Beautiful Bill, the cuts would be significant. Medicaid covers 60% of Coordinated Care Organizations with the State matching 40%, and major changes will need to be made.

One item agreed to in the contract cuts some funding not considered core services such as school based mental health services, gambling, and others as they are not considered safety net services. Kimberly Lindsay, Executive Director of CCS said she disagrees with the reasoning and counties will lose some control over providers.

The youth facility in Boardman is now complete and has an administrator in place. The 13-bed program provides subacute and psychiatric residential treatment services to children ages 12 and under.

District Attorney Quarterly Report

The District Attorney Quarterly report was presented by Justin Nelson

Fair Office Report

Sue Gibbs, Fair Manager; KC Anderson, Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Queen

Sue Gibbs, Fair Manager, introduced KC Anderson, Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Queen who provided an update on her activities as Rodeo Queen. Ms. Anderson recently won Grand Showman at the Morrow County 4H Fair.

Ms. Gibbs then reviewed her written report before the Board.

Public Works Report

The written Public Works monthly report was submitted by Eric Imes

County Administrator's Report

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator, reviewed his written report

Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes: June 4, 2025
- b. CIS Insurance Renewal
- c. Out of State Travel Request

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Business Items

County Credit Card Request

Kevin Ince, Finance Director

As Executive Assistant to the Board of Commissioners and Administrator, Valerie Ballard often needs to secure meeting spaces, travel accommodations, and event supplies.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve issuing a credit card to Board of Commissioners Executive Assistant, Valerie Ballard. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval

Interim Human Resources Director Out of Class Request

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

With the departure of Human Resources (HR) Director, Lindsay Grogan, Mindy Wilson, Payroll & Benefits Coordinator, will be interim HR Director and working out of class. Policy states employees working out of class receive an adjustment to their pay of either 5% increase to their

current salary, or step 1 of their temporary grade. This request is for Ms. Wilson to work out of class in step 1 of grade 30.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to designate Mindy Wilson to work out of class in step 1 of grade 30. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Second Reading of Ordinance ORD-2025-02

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

This is the second reading of Ordinance ORD-2025-02 and adoption of final findings for ACM-155-25, AZM-156-25, ACM-157-25, AZM-158-25 Threemile Canyon Farms, applicant and owner.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to continue the Land Use Hearing to July 16, 2025, Board of Commissioners meeting in Irrigon. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Consideration of Resolution R-2025-8 Drought Declaration

Commissioner Peterson declared a potential conflict of interest. He spoke with the Oregon Ethics Commission as a drought declaration could result in the Oregon Department of Agriculture providing emergency funding to eligible farmers. While this scenario is unlikely, as a farmer, he could benefit. There is no conflict of interest currently, only the potential for one in the future.

The Board reviewed a letter submitted by Kevin Payne, District Manager of Morrow Soil & Water Conservation District, in support of the emergency declaration.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve Resolution 2025-08, a resolution declaring a state of drought emergency in Morrow County. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Correspondence

None

Commissioner Reports

Brief reports on Commissioner activity were provided.

Executive Session

10:27 a.m.

The Board met in Executive Session a.

Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a) – To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.

And

Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) – To consider deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

Recess

10:30 a.m.

Resume

10:36 a.m.

Return to Open Session

11:15 a.m.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve out of step hire for Patrol Sargeant at Grade 26, Step 8. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve out of step hire for Weed Control Operator at Grade 14, up to a step 13. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Adjourn

11:16 a.m.