

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting
July 16, 2025
Don Adams Conference Room, Irrigon Government Center
Irrigon, Oregon

Present In-Person Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Gus Peterson, Valerie Ballard, Matthew Jensen, Justin Nelson, Kevin Ince, Christy Kenny, Steven Davis, Robin Canaday, Tamra Mabbott, Stephen Wreccsics; non-staff: Don Russell

Present Via Zoom Sabrina Bailey-Cave, Raymi Cain, Sandi Pointer, Deona Siex, Tami Ewing, Vince Guerrero, Amanda Kendrick, non-staff: Katie Imes, Brenda Shockman, Sue Oliver, Isavel Gonzales, Aaron Palmquist, Mary Killion, Griffin Beach, Matt Dixon, Andrea Di Salvo, Steve Pfeiffer, Megan Lin

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:00 a.m.

Public Comment

No Comment

Consideration and Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Peterson motioned to adopt the agenda with the removal of the Sheriff's Office report. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Department Reports

The Public Health quarterly report was presented by Robin Canaday

The Emergency Management quarterly report was not provided

The Juvenile Department quarterly report was presented by Christy Kenny

The Planning Department report was presented by Tamera Mabbott with Stephen Wreccsics and Matt Kenny (via zoom) reviewing the GIS mapping tool they have been working on.

The Public Transit report was presented by Steven Davis

The Justice Court report was presented by Glen Diehl

The Accounts Payable report was provided by Kevin Ince

The Treasurer report was provided by Jaylene Papineau

The Administrator's report was presented by Matthew Jensen

Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes: June 18, 2025; July 2, 2025
- b. Oregon Department of Energy IGA 19-031 Amendment 4
- c. Payment Authorization: DLR Group
- d. Payment Authorization: Freightliner Northwest
- e. Payment Authorization: Umatilla County Sheriff's Office

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Adoption of ORD-2025-02 and Adoption of Final Findings

Tamera Mabbott, Planning Director

On June 18, the Board approved Threemile Canyon Farm's four-part plan and zone amendment application. This included approving application findings ACM-155-25, AZM-156-25, ACM-157-25 and AZM-158-25 and the initial approval of Ordinance ORD-2025-02. Per Oregon Statute 203.045, this is brought before the Board for final adoption of the ordinance and the final findings of fact. Minor changes were made: Changing the adoption date to July 18 and correcting the ordinance number to 2025-02.

Chair Sykes read the title as follows:

An ordinance amending the Morrow County Comprehensive Plan to (1) change the plan and zone map designations of a 1,298-acre parcel from agricultural and space age industrial to industrial and from exclusive farm use and space age industrial to general industrial, respectively (2) adopt a limited use overlay zone to limit use to a data center and farm uses, (3) change the comprehensive plan and zone designation of a 1,623 acre parcel from space age industrial to agriculture and from space age industrial to exclusive farm use respectively and (4) adopt exceptions to statewide planning goals 3, 11 & 14 to allow the establishment and operation of a data center use - county file numbers ACM-155-25, AZM-156-25, acm-157-25 and AZM-158-25

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve Final Findings for Threemile Canyon Farms rezone and plan amendments ACM-155-25, AZM-156-25, ACM-157-25 and AZM-158-25. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Wenholz motioned to adopt ORD-2025-02 for Threemile Canyon Farms rezone and plan amendments. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: unanimous approval.

Appointment to Planning Commission

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Commissioner Peterson motioned to appoint Norma Ayala to the Planning Commission to serve the remainder of the term held by Andrew Cemore. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Update on Strategic Plan

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator; Matt Dixon, Consultant

After distributing surveys to all residents in the County and hosting several meetings and public workshops, focus points for long range strategic planning were identified.

- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Healthy Governance
- Economic Development
- Parks and Recreation

- Health Services
- Competitive employment

The next steps include a retreat for department heads and elected officials where a draft plan will be developed, and a final plan will go before the Board for approval in late fall.

County Surveyor Contract

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

Morrow County contracts with Matt Kenny Land Surveying for surveyor services. The contract which expired July 1 has had the same rate over the last few years and the new contract includes a Consumer Price Index adjustment.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to appoint Kenny Land Surveying as the County Surveyor per ORS 204.005 and authorize the County Administrator to sign the contract. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Correspondence

Letter from Vietnam Veterans Memorial Oregon Capitol

Commissioner Reports

Brief reports on Commissioner activity were provided.

Adjourn

11:37 a.m.