

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting
September 17, 2025
Don Adams Conference Room, Irrigon Government Center
Irrigon, Oregon

Present In Person Commissioner Gus Peterson, Matthew Jensen, Valerie Ballard, Eric Imes, Julia Finch, Kevin Ince, Justin Nelson, Latosha Hedman

Present Via Zoom Commission Chair David Sykes, John Bowles, Deona Siex, Sandi Pointer, Bobbi Childers, Sabrina Bailey-Cave, Raymi Cain, Pat Keeley, Vince Guerrero; non-staff: Andrea Di-Salvo, Griffin Beach, Aaron Palmquist, Karen Pettigrew

Absent Commissioner Jeff Wenholtz

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:00 a.m.

Via Zoom, Chair Sykes made an announcement that Commissioner Wenholtz had a planned absence that day and wouldn't be in attendance. Chair Sykes had a family emergency and was unable to attend in person and due to time constraints, the agenda has been revised.

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator, added that all but the Clean Water Consortium report in Department Reports would be skipped and items a, f, and h of the business items would be postponed as would the executive session and related items.

Public Comment

Justin Nelson, District Attorney, took a moment to introduce Latosha Hedman as the new legal assistant.

Consideration and Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Peterson motioned to accept the revised agenda as presented by Mr. Jensen. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: 2 in favor, 1 absent (Wenholtz), motion carried.

Department Reports

Clean Water Consortium Report

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator and Consortium Manager

As promised at the last West Glen community meeting, information and documents related to the Clean Water Consortium are available online on the Morrow County website (www.morrowcountyor.gov/bc/page/morrow-county-clean-water-consortium). The next West Glen community meeting is scheduled for October 15 at the SAGE Center and Mr. Jensen will be holding office hours at the Morrow County Public Health building in Boardman.

Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes: September 3, 2025
- b. OPC-Boardman Replat
- c. 5311 Grant Agreement for Morrow County Public Transit

- d. Sole Source Determination: Avidex Maintenance Agreement
- e. OHA IGA Amendment 2

Chair Sykes motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: 2 in favor, 1 absent (Wenholz), motion carried.

Business Items

Finley Buttes Landfill Rate Increase

Eric Imes, Public Works Director

The proposed 5% rate increase, approved and recommended by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, is specifically for customers without contracts with the landfill and does not include transfer stations.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve the price increase for Finley Buttes Landfill as presented. Chair Sykes seconded the motion. Vote: 2 in favor, 1 absent (Wenholz), motion carried.

Victim and Witness Support Program Funding Reductions

Justin Nelson, District Attorney

Due to Oregon's Sanctuary State designation, Morrow County is facing federal grant reductions, and the Victim and Witness Support Program now has a deficit of \$45,054. Options presented to the Board were to either cut the budget and reduce services or maintain appropriations and the budget at the current level, supplementing funding with uncommitted Strategic Investment Program (SIP) revenues from 2025.

Chair Sykes motioned to maintain the current budget and appropriations without modification for FY2026 and utilize surplus General Funds (SIP Revenue) to offset the reductions in grant funds and to direct staff to prepare and present the necessary budget adjustments. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: 2 in favor, 1 absent (Wenholz), motion carried.

Transit Advisory Committee Nominee

Steven Davis, Transit Manager; Patrick Keeley, Transit Supervisor

Jackie Alleman of Heppner works for the Morrow County Health District and has submitted a letter of interest to be a member of the Morrow County Public Transit Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve the nomination of Jackie Alleman to the Morrow County Public Transit Advisory Committee. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: 2 in favor, 1 absent (Wenholz), motion carried.

Community Corrections Biennial Plan

Gina Wilson, Parole and Probation Lieutenant

Morrow County receives funds from the Oregon Department of Corrections to operate Parole & Probations, and a part of the program includes a biennial plan. Beyond increases to funding, the plan is substantially the same as previous years and the 2025-27 Community Corrections

Biennial Plan was reviewed and unanimously endorsed by the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) on July 22.

Chair Sykes motioned to accept the proposed plan and sign the Intergovernmental Agreements. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: 2 in favor, 1 absent (Wenholz), motion carried.

Adoption of Capital Improvement Plan Advisory Committee Resolution

David Sykes, Board of Commissioners Chair

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will be a 5-year plan for capital projects in Morrow County. The Resolution presented establishes by laws for the advisory committee and creates a general outline of the greater project.

Chair Sykes motioned to approve the adoption of the Capital Improvement Plan Advisory Committee and adopt the Committee bylaws. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: 2 aye, 1 absent (Wenholz), motion carried.

Chair Sykes motioned to appoint Commissioner Gus Peterson to the CIP Advisory Committee. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: 2 in favor, 1 absent (Wenholz), motion carried.

Consideration of Resolution to Apply for Oregon Parks & Recreation Department Grant

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

The Parks Department would like to apply for a grant through Oregon Parks & Recreation Department for a County Opportunity Grant for a Park Master Plan. The last master plan was created in 2017, and a new Master Plan would take a comprehensive look at the three parks updating park related goals and aspirations. The grant award would be \$50,000 with a county match of \$12,500 with an application deadline due at the end of September.

Chair Sykes motioned to approve Resolution 2025-10 Authorizing the County of Morrow to apply to Oregon Parks and Recreation for a County Opportunity Grant and providing for Signers. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: 2 in favor, 1 absent (Wenholz), motion carried.

Adjourn

9:30 a.m.