

Morrow County Parks Committee

Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2025

1:00pm-3:00pm

Committee Members and Staff Present:

Mike Gorman, Dean Robinson, Vince Guerrero, Greg Close, Tim Wright, Kirsti Cason, Cheryl Bates, & Raymi Cain

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

- Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Gorman.
 - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
 - Introductions made
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2. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes approved by committee
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3. Reports – Park Updates

Anson Wright Park

- Overall revenues increased compared to the 2024 season.
- Liz Morris was our park host for the year and did a great job keeping up with all the bathrooms and general upkeep of the sites.
- Anson wright park closed November 1, 2025 for the season.
- This year parks crew have put in a lot of time installing new water lines and power, they worked with Columbia Basin Electric and installed all new power and transformers for main power line. They added new water lines in the day area of the park, adding new frost-frees in the grass areas and all new water lines and valves. Crew dug up and replaced main water line valves from the sistren that were old and no longer working. Due to ditch work and new lines that were added, more rock was needed. Alot of clean up was done in the upper section of the roads and in the camp sites.
- Removal of old stumps and general cleanup around the park has been completed.

Cutsforth Park

- Overall revenues increased compared to 2024.
- Don Ashcroft finished out the 2025 season, and he did a great job in general maintenance and keeping the park clean and working with our guests.
- Cutsforth Park closed November 17, 2025 for the season.
- The pond was drained and all buildings' water lines blown out for the year.
- Main Roads within the Park were bladed and additional rock was added.
- Park Manager Greg Close has drawn plans to build a new cabin at one of the upper sites and hopes to have it completed by the end of June this year, weather and time has put this off until spring.
- New cabin will be a 16x16 structure and will include an in-unit heat and a/c, it will include an 8-foot covered patio.

OHV Park

- Reservations, cabin use, and return guests up from previous year.
 - Kathy Spears was camp host until October 31, 2025 and then host Liz Morris finished out the year at the OHV Park after Anson Wright closed for coverage until OHV Park closed for season.
 - The OHV Park closed November 17, 2025 for the season.
 - The Park crew continue to work on the trails and will continue to monitor the trail system.
 - More Jeep trails have been added with loop access for better flow of traffic. More trails like this will be added as time permits.
 - Parks Crew has been working hard on cleaning up any dead and diseased trees with a high priority to keep the forest healthy and thriving.
 - Trees that have been cut down have been relocated to the log deck site, stacked, and burned as weather allows.
 - Crew continues to clean areas with fallen trees and heavy brush to keep fire levels low.
 - Parks crews are continuing to process firewood on site for all three parks.
 - Crew is continuing to mill lumber to build small storage sheds, picnic tables, signposts, and any park needs.
 - Park Manager Greg Close reported that the Park signs are about 80% updated with new wood signs. Crew will continue to work to get all signs updated.
 - ATV youth training permitting courses were taught on site by the Morrow County Sheriff's Department. Schedule for next year's courses will be posted in the spring of 2026.
 - Two new log cabin style warming huts were added to the park on trails #21 and #72.
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4. New Business

TLT Tax

- Still in discussion and information being gathered. Updates will be presented to the Committee as they come in.

County and connecting Park roads to be ATV accessible

- Discussion and planning have been ongoing to open Forest Service and County roads to be ATV accessible, and to include accessibility between Morrow County Parks.
- The County Administrative Assistant Vince Guerrero and the Director of Public Work Eric Imes have been working together to continue to move forward with making this happen and keeping Parks Committee informed of any updates.

Capital Improvements

- Discussion of possible future plans to build a lodge at the OHV Park, new cabins at Cutsforth Park, and a bathroom/shower building at Anson Wright.
- The amenities discussed for the OHV Park lodge included a mudroom, an open lobby-style area, kitchenettes in the guest rooms, an outdoor area with a gazebo, a guest laundry room, and a small store that would have basic items guests might need.

Future Grant Possibilities

- Presentation for All-Terrain Vehicle Grant will be held on January 13th and 14th, 2026. County Manager Greg Close will present for the purchase of a Morooka. The state has allowed the OHV Park to borrow their Morooka, and it has been a crucial piece of equipment to maintain, update, and repair trails.
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5. Updates

Parks Master Plan

- The presentation for the County Opportunity Grant was held on Monday, December 8th, 2025. County Assistant Administrator Vince Guerrero and Parks Manager Greg Close delivered the presentation.
- They reported that the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department scored Morrow County 3rd out of 9 presenters.
- Currently waiting to hear whether the grant will be approved and the funds awarded to the County.
- Any updates will be presented to the Committee, and all revisions to the new Parks Master Plan will need Committee approval.

Park Logos & Branding

- The Committee discussed creating new logos for the Parks, both a unified logo for the entire parks system and individual logos for each park. They also considered whether to hire an outside professional designer. At this time, the Committee would like to see pricing and what is included with pricing before planning to seek outside help.
- Because the initial vote resulted in a tie between the Parks logo, OHV Park logo, and Anson Wright Park logo, the Committee held a revote. The results will be emailed once all votes have been counted.

Youth Elk Hunt

- Park Manager Greg Close reported that there was a total of 7 applicants approved for this year's Youth Elk Hunt.
- 3 out of the 7 youth hunters were able to harvest spikes.
- One of the hunters was a disabled youth, and the Parks crew made accommodations to ensure they could participate safely.

Updating Credit Card Processor

- Information has been compiled and submitted to the County Finance Director, County Treasurer, and County Administrator regarding the benefits of upgrading to a ResNexus in-house credit card processing system.
 - Discussions with Tyler Technologies, the County's upcoming ERP system, indicated that our current reservation system, ResNexus, significantly exceeds Tyler Tech's capabilities.
 - ResNexus is not compatible with Tyler Tech, meaning the County would need to maintain, update, troubleshoot, and manage all aspects of credit card processing independently making integration with Tyler Tech not a viable option.
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6. Future Special Events

- The Dark Skies event is still in development as a future special event. Additional updates will be provided as they become available.
 - Mike Ripley from Mudslinger visited the OHV Park to review trail options and course layouts. He expressed enthusiasm about including the OHV Park in the Mudslinger events calendar for 2027. Further communication and planning are scheduled for 2026.
 - Other event ideas
 - Biking
 - Concerts
 - Youth camps
 - Movie Nights
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7. Announcements

- Park reservations are scheduled to open on January 1, 2026.
- Parks opening day is scheduled for Friday May 8th, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm

Next meeting planned to be held Tuesday March 17, 2026, from 1:00pm-3:00pm