

Morrow County Board of Commissioners
July 15, 2026
Don Adams Conference Room, Irrigon Government Center
Irrigon, Oregon

Present In Person Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Gus Peterson, Valerie Ballard, Vince Guerrero, Justin Nelson, Tamra Mabbott, Kevin Ince, Brian Snyder, Rory Rowlette, Teresa Gerrard, Sandi Pointer, Steven Davis; non-staff: Stacy Eckstrom, Don Matthews, Michelle Hanum, Chris Dennis

Present Via Zoom Latosha Hedeman, Steven Davis, Amanda Kendrick, Raymi Cain, Mike Gorman, Bobbi Childers, George Cress, Robin Canaday, Mindy Wilson; non-staff: Erika Morton, Andrea Di Salvo, Alison Breckon, Jared Tesch

Absent

Commissioner David Sykes

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:00 a.m.

Consideration and Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Peterson motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: 2 in favor (Peterson, Wenholz), 1 absent (Sykes). Motion carried.

Department Reports

The Justice Court report was written by Glen Diehl

The Juvenile Department report was presented by Christy Kenny

The Planning Department report was presented by Tamra Mabbott

The Sheriff's Office report was presented by Brian Snyder

The Public Transit report was presented by Steven Davis

The Risk Management report was presented by Sandi Pointer and Kevin Ince with Staci Eckstrom and Don Matthews from Wheatland Insurance

Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes: June 26, 2026, Special Session; July 1, 2026, Regular Meeting
- b. Land Use Planning Firm of Record – On Call
- c. Oregon Health Authority Intergovernmental Agreement 185824 Amendment 9
- d. Purchase of 2027 Western Star 47x Dump Truck
- e. Kunze Land Right-of-Way Dedication
- f. Bouten Construction Invoice INV-01688 Payment Authorization

Commissioner Peterson motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: 2 in favor (Peterson, Wenholz), 1 absent (Sykes). Motion carried.

Business Items

Umatilla National Forest Discussion

Michelle Hanum, Heppner District Acting Ranger; Christopher Dennis, Public Affairs Officer
Following the retirement of Heppner District Ranger, Doug McKay in July 2025, Michelle Hanum has been Acting Ranger for the district.

Current projects involving the Umatilla National Forest include the Blue Mountain Forest Plan and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) which was published July 2 and is open for public comment through September 30. There is work being done around the Heppner area to revegetate land affected by the 2024 wildfires and build a 300-foot fire break for added security.

No action taken. Information only.

Intergovernmental Agreement with Oregon Department of Transportation for Transportation Growth Management Program Funding to update Morrow County Transportation System Plan

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director

Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, began by acknowledging public comment submitted by Jonathan Tallman in the form of two emails sent prior to the meeting which are included in correspondence.

The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Morrow County and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is for a Transportation Growth Management (TGM) grant awarded to the County to update the Transportation System Plan (TSP). The total grant amount is \$319,450 with a \$36,562 contribution from the County.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Morrow County and Oregon Department of Transportation for the Morrow County Transportation System Plan Update and authorize the County Administrator to sign. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: 2 in favor (Peterson, Wenholz) 1 absent (Sykes). Motion carried.

Consideration of Process for Interim Fair Manager Coverage

Vince Guerrero, Assistant County Administrator

With the recent departure of the Fair Manager, multiple members of staff have been collaborating to complete tasks for the upcoming fair; however, they are spread thin and it still leaves the fairgrounds unmanaged day-to-day. The request for temporary Fair coverage reflects the need to have coverage of the fairgrounds and the short timeline to the 2026 fair. Bringing on last year's Fair Intern and the previous Fair Manager on a part-time basis would prevent a coverage gap and help the process in thanks to their familiarity with the Fairgrounds and Fair.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve an exception to the standard county hiring process and authorize the County Administrator to hire interim fair assistance due to the critical

timeframe. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: 2 in favor (Peterson, Wenholz) 1 absent (Sykes) motion carried.

Correspondence

- Oregon State University Extension Office update on fringe payroll policy change
- Email correspondence from Jonathan Tallman

Commissioner Reports

No reports provided

Adjourn

10:09 a.m.