

Union County Board of Commissioners
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room
Emergency Commissioners Meeting
Friday, May 1, 2020

Present: Commissioner Paul Anderes, Chair
Commissioner Donna Beverage
Commissioner R. Matthew Scarfo

Commissioner Anderes opened the meeting at 2:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was given with all three Commissioners present.

Chair Anderes called a recess until 3 pm as the Commissioners needed to attend a conference call with the Governor regarding reopening Oregon.

Chair Anderes reconvened the meeting at 3 pm.

Consideration a Reopening Plan of Union County for Submission to the Governor

JB Brock, Emergency Manager, presented the draft reopening plan to the Commissioners for their consideration. He explained that prior to held discussion with Governor Brown, he was prepared to recommend submission of the drafted plan. He explained it was prepared using the models from Baker County and other counties, the customized to Union County. The draft was first reviewed by the Incident Management Team (IMT), then the Commissioners, and provided to Mayors for comments. He acknowledged the work of the IMT in supporting plan development.

The information just received from the Governor now adds additional regional criteria that must be included in the plan as well as additional county specific requirements.

Post video call with Governor Kate Brown, Commissioner Scarfo believes there will be a need to revise the current draft plan. His recommendation is to adopt the proposed reopening plan, considering all of the hard work that was put into it.

Commissioner Beverage agreed with Commissioner Scarfo regarding the approval of the proposed reopening plan.

Commissioner Anderes echoed the discussion held by JB Brock, commended the Incident Management Team, and JB for obtaining information from Mayors in the area. His suggestion is to approve the proposed plan with a timeline of 12:01 am on May 15, 2020. Second would be to charge JB Brock as Emergency Manager and Incident Commander to prepare a governor centric plan, as quickly as possible. As Commissioners they will try to extricate the lumping into a region with so many other counties, especially those with high rates.

Fundamentally, Mr. Brock is concerned about writing a plan, that combines regions he is unfamiliar with. The next (new) plan will have many other variables, which effects the ability for Mr. Brock to provide a new plan in a timely manner.

Commissioner Scarfo apologized to Mr. Brock and the Incident Management Team for all of their efforts in drafting the plan, it was definitely cart before the horse. He would like to see the plan adopted and filed for the next pandemic.

Shelley Burgess commented that the intent today was to authorize the submission of the draft plan to the Governor's office for consideration. Mrs. Burgess requested submitting a revised plan to the Governor's office once it is revised with the new guidelines.

Carrie Brogoitti commented that she believes the proposed plan is still a good standpoint moving towards the next phase. She offered her continued support to the County.

Robert Strobe, City Manager of La Grande, asked the Commissioners to summarize what the conversation was between the Governor's office and County Commissioners.

JB Brock, Emergency Services, relayed that largely, some of the things remain unchanged. However, one of the key differences is that Union County must now utilize health regions, as far as meeting some of the criteria, which is divided into two categories. Some are county based, some are region based. The region-based criteria include health regions 6 & 9. The rationale behind that is the hospital regions function as one entity, that receive and ship patients out. Declining prevalence of COVID-19, key criteria would be the presence of flu like symptoms below the "seasonal level of flu". There would also need to be a 14-day decline in hospital admissions, the minimum testing requirements are 30 per 10,000 people, per week.

Regions have to have appropriate number of testing sites to accommodate the population. One of the key features there are the testing is a regional criterion, not just county criteria. Isolation facilities was a key feature in the criteria, the counties must have access to hotel rooms, or the like to be available for people who test positive, and cannot self-isolate in their environment, e.g. long-term care facilities, and jails.

The statewide sector guidelines will have to be finalized.

Another big requirement would be appropriate supply of PPE, also to attest that we have sufficient PPE for EMS and First Responders. There was quite a bit of conversation regarding the reopening of dentist's office, where PPE is still being discussed.

Commissioner Anderes relayed the prerequisites: declining prevalence in COVID-19; minimum testing in the region; contact tracing system; isolation facilities; finalizing statewide sector guidelines – restaurants, retail, etc. and sufficient PPE supply.

Commissioner Scarfo made a motion to approve the Reopening Plan of Union County for submission to Governor Kate Brown's Office. Commissioner Beverage seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beverage relayed that she believes the Governor's office may use Union County's plan, as a template. She also thanked JB and the Incident Management Team for drafting the plan.

JB suggested noting in the transmission to the Governor that we are aware there will need to be changes to the plan. He stated he would immediately begin working on a revised plan.

Adjournment

Commissioner Anderes adjourned the meeting at 3:33 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Moore
Senior Department Specialist