

Board of Commissioners Meeting  
August 3, 2016

Present: Commissioner Steve McClure  
Commissioner Mark D. Davidson  
Commissioner Jack Howard

Commissioner Howard opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and the pledge of allegiance was given with all three commissioners present.

**Public Comments and Concerns**

**B2H Advisory Committee**

Ted Taylor, B2H Advisory Committee Chair, 305 Scorpio Drive, La Grande, stated that the committee recommends the commissioners request a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the B2H project from the BLM. The committee is not certain that additional routes have been analyzed in the EIS that the BLM is now considering according to maps they have recently published. Another cause for concern is that the BLM has been interacting with some of the STOP B2H coalition members and have been quoted as saying all routes are in play; this is after they issued their agency preferred route in April. Ordinarily when a federal agency declares an agency preference, they stick close to it. The committee doesn't know if any of the new routes are outside of the bounds of the effects that have been analyzed in the EIS, such as fish, wildlife, archaeology, and the Oregon Trail. It is possible that the BLM has already researched those routes and possible effects, but it not clear. The dialogue between the STOP B2H coalition and the BLM is a little fuzzy. Commissioner Howard asked for clarification on that dialogue. Mr. Taylor stated that the BLM's replies to the STOP B2H coalition indicated that all routes are in play and some routes have been excluded; it is unclear if there are new routes that replaced the eliminated routes. He does not think that they would select a route that is not bounded in the EIS, but their replies create some uncertainty.

Commissioner McClure stated that as a recommendation of the advisory committee after their due consideration, he would support requesting a supplemental EIS from the BLM.

Commissioner Davidson stated that a good first step would be to ask if there are any routes under consideration that haven't been adequately covered by the EIS; if there are, then it would be appropriate to request a supplemental EIS. Commissioner McClure concurred. Mr. Taylor agreed that would be a good option.

Commissioner Howard asked Scott Hartell, Union County Planning Director, if he would be comfortable drafting the letter to the BLM. Mr. Hartell stated that he would.

**Commissioner McClure moved to send a letter to BLM as discussed. Commissioner Davidson seconded.**

Commissioner Howard asked about the B2H project timelines. Mr. Taylor stated that the final could be released late summer or early fall; Mr. Hartell agreed with that timeline. Commissioner Howard stated that he had hoped for the committee's input on the letter; Mr. Taylor stated that they will meet on September 22, after the letter would need to be sent.

**Roll call: Commissioner Davidson, yes. Commissioner McClure, yes. Commissioner Howard, yes. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Elected Official, Department Head & Employee Comments**

#### **Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) / Ambulance Service Area (ASA) Plan**

JB Brock, Emergency Manager, presented an updated ASA Plan for the commission's consideration. The first ASA update is due to statutory changes primarily for language and definitions; it is not a significant substantive change. The second update is for the MCI plan that was originally based on a larger county with more resources. The MCI plan engaged EOU and OHSU students who assisted with writing the plan; it remained incomplete and the students graduated and moved on. Emergency Services then engaged with Grande Ronde Hospital, Rural Fire Departments, and ambulance services in the county to craft a plan to better fit Union County. Detailed information was added to the field guide, with an objective to make it as simple as possible for on-scene operations while including specific Union County information to operate a scene successfully.

Commissioner McClure asked if EMT training had improved over the last few years. Mr. Brock stated that the rate of volunteerism locally and nationally has been decreasing. Having accessible, timely training is also a challenge, but the county is in a better situation than the last few years. It continues to be a struggle but there are better options now. Commissioner McClure asked if an out-of-district contract with BMCC would make it easier. Mr. Brock thinks it would be beneficial; BMCC is the training provider used the most over time. Mr. Brock stated that the plan update was recommended to the commissioners by the ASA committee.

**Commissioner McClure moved approval of the ASA plan as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Consent Agenda**

**Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the 4-H and Extension Service District Budget Meeting, Union County Budget Meetings, June 29 Board of Commissioners Meeting, July 20 Board of Commissioners Meeting and Claims Journals for July 13, 14, 20, and 21. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Administrative Matters**

##### **Court Order 2016-24, Appointment to the Ambulance District Advisory Committee**

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, stated that there was a need to appoint a new member and reappoint existing members to the Ambulance District Advisory Committee due to Mike Gooderham's resignation and expiring terms of current members. This court order would appoint Tyson Botts with a term to begin immediately and expire June 30, 2019 and reappoint members Pam Forrest, Debra Hansen, James Hesse, and George Russell with terms to expire June 30, 2019. Mrs. Burgess stated that Debra Hansen as an at-large member is affiliated with the Cove area and George Russell as an at-large member is affiliated with the North Powder area.

**Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2016-24. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Court Order 2016-28, Appointment to the Hospital Facility Authority

Mrs. Burgess stated that there was a need to appoint a member to the Hospital Facility Authority upon the resignation of Lynn Harris; Michael Jaeger was nominated and agreed to serve. The term would begin immediately and expire on April 30, 2017.

**Commissioner Davidson moved approval of Court Order 2016-28. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

STF Advisory Committee Recommendation - Coordinated Transportation Plan

Mrs. Burgess stated that this plan is required by the Public Transit Division; services must be identified in the plan to be eligible for funding. Nelson\Nygaard was contracted to update the plan and included stakeholder outreach and a project advisory committee from Union, Baker, and Wallowa Counties. Union County's Special Transportation Advisory Committee reviewed the plan and recommend adopting it.

**Commissioner McClure moved approval of the STF Advisory Committee recommendation for the Coordinated Transportation Plan. Commissioner Davidson seconded.**

Commissioner McClure stated that he reviewed the plan; it included all the demographics adequately, including migrant workers, veterans, limited English proficiency, and low income populations. It was vetted by all three counties and the advisory committee. Commissioner Davidson agreed that the plan was very thorough. Commissioner Howard noted that it is a five year plan and added that it was very surprising to see that the number of people with disabilities remained flat in La Grande and decreased by 25% in Baker City.

**Roll Call: Commissioner Davidson, yes. Commissioner McClure, yes. Commissioner Howard, yes. Motion carried unanimously.**

Blue Zone Letter of Interest/Support

Mrs. Burgess stated that there is an opportunity to submit a statement of interest to be designated as the second Blue Zone demonstration community in Oregon; the deadline is August 26, 2016. The intent of a Blue Zone is to encourage the community to develop overall strategies that improve the health of citizens. Some of the benefits observed are increased individual wellbeing, lower health care costs, improved productivity, and increased civic engagement. Commissioner Howard recently convened a group of interested potential stakeholders to discuss the project; the request is to consider submitting a letter of support for the designation of a Blue Zone demonstration community.

Commissioner Howard stated that the desire is to include a broad sector of groups, such as businesses, faith-based groups, volunteer agencies, and local officials who then coordinate to improve living choices that are healthier, such as increased walking, access to bicycles, and address approaches to eating. The concept has been effective in test sites; they claim to have improved the obesity rate by 50% over a two year period. Due to the limited timeframe, he doesn't think there is an opportunity to talk about investing funds in the project, but would like the commission to consider submitting a letter showing interest in the concept. He hopes it would accompany a specific expression that the county would dedicate office space valued at \$800 to \$900 per month with some phone support. This would be a three year project with a \$2

million grant; they request a \$200,000 contribution but it is possible to contribute zero if they like the project.

Commissioner McClure asked who the funding source was; Mrs. Burgess stated that it is Cambia Health Foundation. Commissioner McClure clarified that it was not federal funding or from GOBHI and would be a competitive grant.

Commissioner McClure stated that Klamath Falls was a demonstration site in the past and asked if the City of Klamath Falls runs their program. Commissioner Howard stated that the city does not run the program; four outside experts are hired as staff, in addition to one executive director out of Portland so the county would not have control over staffing.

Commissioner Davidson asked if there was an expression of support from other local agencies and organizations. Commissioner Howard stated that there was some preliminary support, but the application had not yet been completed; GOBHI and Grande Ronde Hospital showed some interest.

Commissioner McClure asked if there was support from the school districts or CHD. Commissioner Howard stated that he had worked with CHD and a school district representative attended the meeting.

Commissioner Howard added that there is a short window to submit the application and there were talks about whether enough partners would make a pledge to make it a convincing statement to the Blue Zone organization. He is not sure it will get to that point so his goal is more short term in starting the discussion of improving community health and the potential of being designated as a Blue Zone community without necessarily contributing funds. There will be a short term benefit of communication about the topic and he hopes it will be adopted by the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization Local Community Advisory Council, who may become the steering group for what happens. This would be a statement that the program has positive returns by making the public more aware, adopting some of the practices, and doing a trial run. Since Wallowa County is interested in partnering with Union County, co-sponsoring their proposal is another option. It would need to be the same commitment from both counties, with the exception of Union County contributing office space.

Commissioner Davidson asked about the significance of the name Blue Zone; Commissioner Howard stated that he did not have that information. Mrs. Burgess did not find that information in her review of the program.

Commissioner McClure noted that information provided to the commission indicated that the program is brought to Oregon by the Cambia Health Foundation in support of the Oregon Healthiest State Initiative in partnership with Healthways, Inc. and Blue Zones, LLC; he asked for more information about Healthways, Inc. and Blue Zones, LLC. Commissioner Howard stated that Blue Zones, LLC is owned by an entrepreneur that does a lot of health promotion. He thinks Healthways, Inc. may be the holding company for the funds. Commissioner McClure stated that he had no problem taking a look at it, but would like more information, specifically whether or not it is a for profit effort. Commissioner Howard stated that he would look into that question.

Commissioner Howard stated that the question of who would run the program makes him hesitate. In one sense, they are asking for money to staff the project. The benefits are good if it works for the designated county and they are probably going to be safe. Commissioner McClure concurred and stated that he would like to know a lot more details about the structure. Commissioner McClure suggested that Commissioner Howard gather more information before the commission makes a motion on this matter. Commissioner Davidson concurred and added that a lot of good questions have been posed.

Vehicle Purchase Authorization (Weed Program)

Mrs. Burgess requested approval to purchase a ¾ ton single cab pickup for the Weed Program under the bid received by Public Works earlier in the year from Legacy Ford for \$25,155. She and the Public Works Director, Doug Wright, felt that the bids received for that vehicle were very good and it would make sense to purchase an additional vehicle under the current bid that expires August 13. The county had indicated that it would try to support the new Weed Program and there is funding within its approved budget for a vehicle. She spoke with Allan Guttridge, the Weed Board Chair, who stated that the Weed Board established an executive committee to work with the new executive director to get the program going. They were consulted and also thought the purchase was a good way to go.

Mrs. Burgess stated that \$15,000 was budgeted for capital outlay in the 2016-17 FY Weed Fund. At the time the budget was formulated, the program's needs were estimated. A vehicle lease was also considered and the budget would be adequate to do that if chosen. In order to facilitate this purchase, the county would need to loan the Weed Program \$10,155. She proposes that the county make the loan through the vehicle reserve fund, which has adequate funding. The Weed Fund would then pay back the loan in the 017-18 Fiscal Year. The new Weed Supervisor questioned whether or not the single cab pickup would be the best choice for the program due to GPS equipment and other items; she suggested that he talk with the Weed Advisory Board about those concerns. Mrs. Burgess requested authorization now since the bid is good through August 13. If the Weed Board decides to wait and further examine the needs of the vehicle, then the purchase would not be made.

**Commissioner McClure moved approval of the vehicle purchase for the Weed Program with the current Public Works bid as presented. Commissioner Davidson seconded.**

Commissioner Howard asked if The Weed Board's recommendation was needed in writing. Mrs. Burgess stated that the Weed Program's budget is part of the county budget; she will request the Weed Board to include their recommendation supporting the vehicle purchase in their next meeting so that the minutes reflect their support. Commissioner Davidson agreed that there needs to be an acknowledgement by them indicating that the debt is owed back to the reserve fund. Commissioner McClure stated that it is a reasonable statement to include in the motion so that it is understood in the next year's budget process.

**Roll Call: Commissioner Davidson, yes. Commissioner McClure, yes. Commissioner Howard, yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Public Hearing: Ordinance 2016-02, Ratifying Intergovernmental Agreement creating the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors**

Commissioner Howard stated was surprised that this was being presented as an ordinance. Mrs. Burgess stated that the commission already approved the Intergovernmental Agreement that sets up the operating guidelines for the agency, but their legal counsel determined that the governing body also needs to accept them by ordinance because it was creating an entity that had not been created by an ordinance. This ordinance adopts the Intergovernmental Agreement and creates the OACES organization. It formalizes an agency that has been in existence; it has either not kept up with the governing approvals that should happen or the rules have changed since it started. There is a need to make sure that this agency is in good standing with the statutes. This hearing was advertised and, if approved, a second reading would be required.

Commissioner McClure stated that it appears that the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) is bringing the organizations they work with up to current rules and regulations in accordance with ORS 190. The commission approved the agreement, but it also has to have an ordinance that gives it authority.

Commissioner Howard stated that it is interesting because OACES is an existing organization; there is a stop-gap of time due to the second reading and the required 90 days following before it takes effect. Commissioner McClure stated that it is a housecleaning task and it is to make sure the county has proper documentation in place so these organizations have standing when it is appropriate. Commissioner Davidson stated that the AOC hired new legal counsel about two years ago; he has systematically gone through all of the agreements to bring them current and make sure they are fully documented and organized correctly; some deficiencies were found in some of the other agreements. This will set it up as an ORS190. It should be recognized that the counties that are members of this are financially liable for the debts of the organization. Those counties also have a seat at the table in the decision making as well. It is a very worthwhile organization that works cooperatively with the transportation steering committee to drive policy decisions at the county and state level.

Commissioner Howard opened the hearing to public comments. No public comments were offered and the hearing was closed.

**Commissioner McClure moved approval of Ordinance 2016-02, Ratifying Intergovernmental Agreement creating the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors. Commissioner Davidson seconded.**

Commissioner Howard noted that there was no request for a full reading of Ordinance 2016-02.

**Roll Call: Commissioner Davidson, yes. Commissioner McClure, yes. Commissioner Howard, yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

Mrs. Burgess stated that a second reading would be required and requested scheduling it for September 7, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

**COD Agreement (Blue Mt. Community College), Larry Glaze and Commissioner McClure**

Commissioner McClure stated that he met with Cam Preus, Blue Mt. Community College (BMCC) President, and Larry Glaze, La Grande School District (LGSD) Superintendent, the

previous week. They are now presenting an agreement for consideration between Union County and BMCC which reflects the beginning of the process needed for completion prior to the beginning of the school year. It has been budgeted and discussions with the commission have already taken place.

Mr. Glaze stated that the LGSD has agreed to provide office space and phone/internet service for this program at the high school. They expect to establish an advisory group within the county this year including representatives from local businesses, education sectors, and individuals. This would be a two-pronged approach to promote vocational educational opportunities for adults in Union County and to provide those training opportunities through BMCC. BMCC has pledged to be very flexible in working with the needs of the community and businesses; this has not been in play in the past and will be a real plus. The BMCC advisory committee would probably involve some of the superintendents around the county so that vocational trainings for high school students could be brought in and also offer college credit. It is an opportunity that has not been directly available on this scale at high schools throughout the county, not just La Grande. LGSD is housing the program and also offering the vocational building as a training facility for adult education classes and high school students. These opportunities would be available throughout the high schools in Union County. LGSD is very excited about these opportunities for everyone in the community.

Commissioner McClure stated that he was a commissioner when the first COD between Union County and BMCC was made. He feels much better about this one; it gives the community the chance to determine the needs and have BMCC provide it. He stated that Ms. Preus understands that this has to be county-wide and she committed to visiting with the superintendents to do that. He stated that Mr. Glaze has been fantastic providing support from LGSD. This will provide educational opportunities to people working for local employers that need extended training in areas that are not currently available; there is a real demand for a higher level of technical skill. Barreto Manufacturing and Boise Cascade are strong supporters of this. It also provides educational opportunities for people to fill these jobs and stay in the area. He likes the size and appropriateness of the advisory committee; all the players are being brought to the table, which is much better than before. The people working in the field should be the ones to determine which programs are needed, not the Commissioners. Cooperation is needed and he hopes it will grow into a meaningful relationship. It doesn't need to be in competition with Eastern Oregon University (EOU) and should be in cooperation with them if nothing else. Since Union County is not in a district, it has not had this opportunity before. The need for it has been demonstrated by the community. He appreciates all of Commissioner Davidson's efforts in seeing this through.

Commissioner Davidson stated that the need for it is clear; it has been identified as a shortcoming for the county in recruitment of economic development opportunities and this will allow the county to address that. It has a lot of potential and shouldn't compete with EOU in any way; it offers training that is outside their scope of curriculum and is very necessary. Having the largest employers engaged at the advisory committee level reinforces the benefits and the need in the community.

Commissioner McClure stated that this is an opportunity for the entire community. Grande Ronde Hospital has been engaged in discussions to determine how they can help meet some of the training needs in the community.

Commissioner Davidson stated that he can't say thank you enough to LGSD for being willing to share their new facility. Through this partnership, opportunities can be provided that couldn't be afforded otherwise. That highlights the collective collaborative spirit at work and he is happy for it.

Commissioner McClure stated that, by state statute, the county must pay 20% of the cost because it is out of district. Commissioner Davidson stated that he was surprised with the low cost and it is very affordable. Mr. Glaze stated that it is a good buy for the community.

Commissioner McClure stated that this partnership is good for BMCC too; the more students BMCC gets, the more money they generate and it is an opportunity for them to broaden their base. He thanked Mr. Glaze and Ms. Preus for their efforts.

Mr. Glaze stated that Ms. Preus has been great to work with and she has opened up a lot of doors that weren't open before she became President of BMCC. She helped make this a viable opportunity for Union County and he gives her a lot of credit and kudos for the work she has done.

**Commissioner Davidson moved approval of the Contract-Out-of-District Agreement between Union County and Blue Mt. Community College. Commissioner McClure seconded.**

Commissioner Howard stated that sometimes there are pet projects and sometimes commissioners have common interests; what he likes about this is that his fellow commissioners got it done. They started with a great idea, brought a team together, and put their own passion and energy into it. He stated that he wasn't a participant in the process except to see the budget pass; this was his opportunity to say his fellow commissioners deserved a lot of credit for this. Mr. Glaze concurred.

**Roll Call: Commissioner Davidson, yes. Commissioner McClure, yes. Commissioner Howard, yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Howard recessed the meeting until 10:00 a.m.

#### **MERA Trails and Adjacent U.S. Forest Service Land**

Commissioner McClure stated that MERA covers 3,700 acres and is primarily surrounded on the back side by U.S. Forest Service land. He suggested working together to extend MERA trails into forest service land to create bigger loops, making it a very attractive recreational ATV site. The county needs permission from the forest service to extend these routes, which would not need concentrated efforts from the forest service since the county has already made investments in parking, trailheads, campgrounds, and toilets. It would also answer some of the travel management issues that the county has if good faith is shown by the USFS. Commissioner McClure invited the Forest Service to meet with the county's MERA advisory committee. Mr. Montoya stated that they were open to all of those good ideas and added that those loop trail systems work really well. He encouraged the commission to work with Bill Aney. Mr. Aney stated that they have started some of those conversations with Sean Chambers,



Union County Parks Coordinator. There is one route off the northwest corner of MERA that could be tied into an old road bed and connected to the adjacent National Forest.

### **Blue Mountains Forest Resiliency Project Presentation**

The Blue Mountains Forest Resiliency (BMFR) Project was presented by Tom Montoya, Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisor; Bill Gamble, District Ranger; Bill Aney, Eastside Restoration Coordinator; Darcy Weseman, Resiliency Team Public Affairs; and Ann Thomas, Interdisciplinary Team Leader for the BMFR project. The project is an effort to restore more than a half million acres of forests on the Ochoco, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. It will use thinning and fire to actively restore dry forests toward more resilient conditions. There are over 2.3 million acres that have become overcrowded and vulnerable to unusual outbreaks of insect diseases and wildfires. The current pace of active forest restoration is not keeping pace with forest growth and every year it falls behind. Forests have become denser, ladder fuels have increased, and the abundance of fire-tolerant tree species have declined. Climate trends are leading to extended late season drought and longer wildfire seasons; the forests are losing against these conditions.

Commissioner Davidson stated that it was a significant proposed treatment in Union County and applauded that because it is needed. He asked about different types of treatment and management techniques planned and expressed his concerns about managing fuel load by using wildfire as a tool instead of a mechanical treatment. Mr. Montoya and Ms. Thomas responded to Commissioner Davidson with additional information about treatment and management techniques under consideration. Commissioner Davidson stated that some of those plans had been proposed in the past but were stalled by litigation. The ruling stated that they had not considered the cumulative effects; he asked if they were changing their analysis process to address that shortcoming. Mr. Montoya stated that they were changing their analysis process; it can be a forest-wide amendment or a site-specific amendment. The team is looking at the needs that allowed those things to occur and is part of the analysis that the judge told them they did not do a good job of doing.

Commissioner McClure stated that the forest plan had been in revision for 13 to 14 years and asked which plan they were referring to. Mr. Montoya stated that since there was no decision on the revision, they are operating under the 1990 plan. They expect a decision on the new plan's EIS sometime in 2017.

Commissioner McClure stated that counties have been working with the USFS for a long time; counties want the forest plan to correct the problems and not be limited by the budget set in Washington, D.C. When the budget is priority, the problems aren't corrected. He is excited that the plan is of a larger scope as it should be, but asked if they would be able to get the funding and through the NEPA process. Mr. Montoya thinks they will get it through NEPA, but they will have to figure out how to implement it in terms of funding since there is no pot of money for it. The counties had told them to do the analysis that shows what needs to be done and not worry about the money, which is what they have been directed to do by Regional Foresters. Commissioner McClure stated that he was very encouraged to hear that the USFS understands that this is a step in the right direction. Last year's fire season was unequivocally one of the scariest he had seen in Eastern Oregon. Commissioner Davidson thinks the efforts need to continue. Commissioner McClure agreed and added that this plan is a vast improvement.

Commissioner Davidson thanked Bill Gamble for his management of the Phillips Creek fire and Bill Aney who has been guiding the innovative NEPA process.

Commissioner Howard recessed the meeting for an Executive Session held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) and ORS 192.660(2)(h).

Commissioner Howard opened the meeting to general session.

**Airport Hangar Purchase**

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, stated that the county could accept an offer to purchase an airport hangar for \$140,000 from K&L Hangars. Mrs. Burgess stated that the purchase would be made from the Airport Fund and a check could be issued immediately.

**Commissioner McClure moved approval of the purchase of the airport hangar from K&L Hangars for \$140,000 to be executed immediately. Commissioner Davidson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Next Meeting and Location**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on September 7, 2016.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorcinda Johnston  
Sr. Dept. Specialist II