

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Administrative Meeting of April 10, 2013
2:00 p.m., Room 121, County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

** ****

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Larry Givens, Chairman; Bill Elfering, Vice Chairman; Dennis Doherty, Commissioner

COUNTY COUNSEL: Doug Olsen

MEMBERS & GUESTS PRESENT: Dave Faux, VALORR; Tammy Sundin, Umatilla County Community Corrections Office Manager; Homer Peterson; Tamra Mabbott, Umatilla County Land Use Planning Director

** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ****

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. Chairman Givens reminded all present that the meeting was a public forum.

BUSINESS ON AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 29, 2013 Board of Commissioners Land Use Planning Hearing were presented for approval. **Commissioner Doherty moved that the board approve the minutes of January 29, 2013 as written. Commissioner Elfering seconded. The motion carried 3-0.**

Consent Agenda:

1. Reimbursement for benches purchases as part of the West Umatilla Ford Family Leadership project to Ron Methvin - \$5978.18
2. Authorization for out of state travel for Thea Teal
3. Waive the hiring freeze and authorization to recruit and hire for vacancy
4. Authorization of payment to Recall Secure Destruction Services - \$1689.91

Commissioner Doherty moved approval of the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Elfering seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Agenda Items:

1. **Volunteers Against Litter on River Road (VALORR) update by Dave Faux:** Dave Faux reported that the organization had obtained assistance with the periodic clean-up of Umatilla River Road by utilizing the Umatilla County Community Corrections work crews. Most recently, the crews picked up 2,000 pounds of garbage, not including tires, of which there was a large number. Providing a map (attached), Dave Faux illustrated the most popular dumping sites. Those were generally in a couple turnouts along the road. He

suggested that placing cables across the more protected portions of the turnouts would discourage dumping of larger items. The board suggested that perhaps cables would pose a greater problem and suggested that Tom Fellows, the public works director would have a better solution for those locations. Dave Faux replied that he would get in touch with Tom Fellows to discuss the request and that further input would be brought to the Board. He closed his report by stating that the next cleaning project would begin in about 3 weeks, weather permitting.

2. **Replace the Community Corrections copier in Pendleton and in Hermiston:** Tammy Sundin presented the request to replace the copiers in the Pendleton and Hermiston Community Corrections offices. The newest copier in the department was purchased some years ago, but as of April 30th, the maintenance contracts on the copiers were to expire due to a change in ownership of the company holding the contracts. On review of the available units, it became apparent that a purchase of the new copiers with a maintenance contract would amount to savings for the department over the current costs on the contracts. The units would be used as multi-purpose office machines with printing, copying, scanning and faxing capabilities. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve the request by Community Corrections to replace the copiers in Pendleton and Hermiston. Commissioner Doherty seconded. The motion carried 3-0.**

3. **Response to NOI for Wheatridge Wind Project:** Tamra Mabbott presented a proposed response to the Notice of Intent for the Wheatridge Wind Project, noting that the county was not substantially affected because out of the entire project, there was just 2 to 3 megawatts sited in Umatilla County. The remainder of the project's towers would be sited in Morrow County. The applicant filed the NOI in February.

In March, EFSC appointed the Board of Commissioners as the advisory group without providing any information on the project. The presentation of the proposed response was a change of process as the planning staff prepared and submitted the responses to NOIs.

The draft response presented to the board at the time that the item was set to meeting would need to be updated as staff obtained additional information since. The response was due on April 15th and was prepared utilizing the local applicable criteria.

Commissioner Doherty commented that since the impact to Umatilla County seemed to be minor, were there any policy issues to be addressed. Commissioner Givens stated that the project was proposed in two specific phases. Tamra Mabbott stated that the applicant was working on a transmission line proposal or substation provision, which would be provided as a condition of the permit.

The county would consider the application as it appeared in the NOI as incomplete. The response letter included the county's applicable code and requested additional clarification on an item referred to as "maintenance facility." There was also additional information needed related to access roads and a new piece entitled "analysis area." The species protection was up to ODF&W, but as for transmission lines, the developer would need to meet the standards in HB 2714.

Doug Olsen commented that the county would have two more opportunities to weigh in on the project. **Commissioner Elfering moved approval of the response to the NOI for Wheatridge Wind Project and authorized the chair to sign the revised edition. Commissioner Doherty seconded. The motion carried 3-0.**

4. **HB 2704:** The report on the latest on HB 2704, the transmission line concept, established that the first portion of the bill was that transmission line hardware siting was determined not to be a land use decision requiring notice. A draft letter of support was presented for the bill. **Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the letter of support for HB 2704. Commissioner Elfering seconded. And the motion carried 3-0.**

5. **North East Oregon Water Association:** JR Cook provided a brief history of the Umatilla Basin Water Commission with its responsibility to oversee Stage 1 of the Umatilla Basin Aquifer Recharge Project. The commission tried twice to initiate revisions to the IGA to introduce the intra-state partners.

With the current IGA stating that any change to the commission's structure must be approved unanimously by the commission's board revisions to the partnership seemed to be at an impasse. The result was that the commission was no longer able to be responsive to the basin's needs.

NEOWA was then formed to develop the basin for its mutual benefit. It would be a non-profit 501(c)(6) corporation so that it could include the irrigators in the process. A flow chart of the process was provided to help illustrate how the association would allow greater funding latitude for the basin.

Commissioner Doherty described that even in Washington's Office of the Columbia River is joined with its ecology department, but has autonomy to operate. Commissioner Doherty advised that there would be a funding request eventually for the NEOWA.

The proposal would establish some consistency to the process suggested via the county's 2050 Plan with dues based at \$500 per year for the first year with an additional \$2 per acre for anything over the base.

There was to be a hearing on SB 846 on Tuesday, April 16th in the afternoon and then a work session on SB 839 as well. Commissioner Doherty commented that the legal formation of the association was the primary target and asked for a deadline date on that completion. JR Cook replied that it was likely as soon as Friday, April 12th.

Other Discussion: None.

Scheduling of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held April 17, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Headley
Executive Secretary
Umatilla County
Board of Commissioners