

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Administrative Meeting of April 28, 2015  
9:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse  
Pendleton, Oregon

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**Commissioners Present:** Chair, George Murdock; Vice-Chair, Larry Givens; and Commissioner Bill Elfering

**County Counsel:** Doug Olsen

**Members and Guests Present:** Charles E. Danforth, Milton-Freewater; Randy Pressnall, Milton-Freewater; Jack Remillard, Emergency Management Director; Dale Primmer, Community Justice; Verl Pressnall, Milton-Freewater; Suni Danforth, Milton-Freewater; Phil Wright, EO; Meghan DeBolt, Public Health Director; Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director; Robert Pahl, CFO; and Greg Silbernagel, Water master

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. Chair George Murdock welcomed all and reminded those present that the meeting was a public forum. It is being recorded and minutes will be taken. If persons wish to speak before the BCC, please identify yourself and state where you live for the record.

**Pledge of Allegiance.** Those in the room stood, saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Additions to Agenda.** None.

**Agenda**

1. **Land Use Hearing – Development Code Amendment – Firearms Training Facility.** Presented by Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director. This is Text Amendment #T-15-061. LUBA made a decision on the appeal for the Milton-Freewater Gun Club application. The facility was approved, but the portion for the expansion was not due to lack of code provision also for the expansion. Commissioner Elfering asked about an emergency clause for amendment. Doug Olsen responded the drafted ordinance does have an emergency clause. The East End Rod & Gun Club would like to move forward since it is spring (a good time for use). This process took about an additional year from its plans. Chair Murdock opened the Public Hearing at 9:10 a.m. No one wished to speak. He closed the Public Hearing at 9:11 a.m. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve text amendment #T-15-061 to amend the Umatilla County Development Code for Firearms Training Facility in an EFU zoned district and to approve Ordinance No. 2015-03. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
  
2. **Drought Declaration – State.** Greg Silbernagel, Water Master presented. Of 19 years of record, today we are at a 207 flow, the lowest ever. Snow pack reports measure the depth of snow and also water content. Near Tollgate and Meacham, it is 1/10”; there is no snow at Emigrant

Springs. There is no snow at Arbuckle Mountain, which serves the Butter Creek drainage. Another site which serves the Walla Walla River drainage, with 5 years of data, shows there is 15” of snow compared to last year at 38.9”, before that, 40”, and before that 43”. Umatilla County is at half or 50% of snow pack. There are no reserves on the Walla Walla. Cold Springs Reservoir is at 56% and McKay Reservoir is at 78%, but there is no snow to fill it up. Commissioner Elfering talked about restrictions of taking the water. Mr. Silbernagel advised that on April 21 restrictions came into effect. Commissioner Givens asked about water levels and flow for the Walla Walla River. Mr. Silbernagel advised the South Fork is at 221 cfs and the North Fork is at 23 cfs. There is only 15” of snow so the water will disappear pretty fast. Commissioner Givens noted irrigation districts may start shutting off water about the second week into May when normally that does not happen until mid June.

Jack Remillard, Emergency Management Director, noted the OEM Website shows last year’s information about disaster declaration. He read about the process in the form of a letter from the Commissioners to the Governor to then be forwarded to OEM and others to make their recommendation for approval or denial or to continue monitoring the situation. If the county does declare, he listed examples of what it provides. Mr. Olsen said 2010 was the last time the County declared a drought disaster.

Mr. Silbernagel continued, by projecting on the monitor Oregon Water Availability report maps. Umatilla County is at 1% snow equivalent. Chair Murdock noted the next step is to rely upon the Water Master’s professional judgment. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. BCC2015-48 Proclamation of Drought Disaster. Seconded by Commissioner Givens.** This step is prudent according to the Water Master. Mr. Remillard continued about what happens in the Emergency Management realm. Commissioner Elfering expressed concerned about the fire potential. Mr. Remillard noted there is a meeting planned to look at forest, very dry. Chair Murdock advised Grant County has a Federal designation of drought. Mr. Silbernagel provided a copy of a report with maps and other drought information to the Board.

He cautioned Umatilla County is a closed basin, no new permits for wells can be drilled. There will not be drought permits in groundwater areas -- that is off limits. It can take surface water, and other than that, one can drill a temporary drought well – but it is costly. One may drill deeper wells, but it would take careful consideration. Drought permits go to the top of the list -- that is one item that goes with the emergency status. He noted the Milton-Freewater area in particular will benefit by the drought designation.

Chair Murdock commented about federal designation and benchmarks. **The motion carried, 3-0.**

3. Vehicle Repairs. Dale Primmer, Community Corrections, reported. One of the Community Justice Department’s vehicles (2015 Ford Fusion) was involved in a wreck in February. The person who rear ended the car submitted insurance that later was determined not to be valid. Three bids were requested. They started with about a \$3,000 bid (a visual inspection only) and went up to about \$9,000. After more careful examination, Zimmerman’s discovered more extensive damage, thus the lowest bid was estimated at \$6,919.82. **Commissioner Elfering moved to accept and approve the bid from Zimmerman’s Auto Body in Athena for**

**\$6,919.82. Mr. Olsen also recommended pursuing legal action against the party who caused the accident. The Board agreed. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**

4. West Umatilla Mosquito Control District Board. Mr. Olsen reported. Approval is sought to reappoint Cindy Harvey to the Board of Trustees on the WUMCD as her term is expiring. It is their Board's recommendation and she is eligible. **Commissioner Elfering moved to adopt Order No. BCC2015-047. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.**
5. Mental Health Services Request For Proposals. Meghan DeBolt, Public Health Director reported. On 4/1/15, the Board approved a new School Based Mental Health Specialist II position. As per grant requirements from the state, a licensed social worker is needed for the SBHC. To be a contractor, a person must have a private practice. Providers could work on a part-time basis. Between \$120,000 and \$350,000 has been requested for funding. It would be at least \$120,000 and sustaining, which is what Public Health currently receives. The person's hourly rate would be \$37/hour (as opposed to \$40/hour). She hopes to have a contractor signed up by June 1 for training by Jackie Downie, the current contractor who will retire by the middle of June. The buy-in from schools is of utmost important and Jackie Downie is well respected. Commissioner Elfering asked for clarification about this position and what all it entails. Ms. DeBolt talked about funding requirements and what services can be provided within grant requirements. **Commissioner Givens moved to authorize issuing an RFP to provide mental health services at the School Based Health Centers. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
6. B2H Memorandum Amendment. Tamra Mabbott reported. The MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between BLM and Idaho Power they will expire soon. The County is requested to amend its MOU with Idaho Power, the Bureau of Land Management and other agencies for the Environmental Impact Statement for the Boardman-Hemingway transmission line project. The amendment will extend the agreement to 2019 and add the Bureau of Reclamation as a party. Ms. Mabbott recommends approval. **Commissioner Givens moved to approve the MOU amendment and authorized the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board. Seconded by Commissioner Elfering. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Witcher Payable. Mr. Olsen reported. This contract was previously approved for tile installation in the second floor restrooms, but it was more than originally anticipated and requires Board approval. This expense is to be reimbursed by State Courts. **Commissioner Elfering moved to approve payable for \$6,921 to David Witcher. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 3-0.** Discussion continued about the noise of remodeling on the second floor and issues while courts are in session. Hopefully, construction work will be done soon.

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt,*  
Executive Secretary, Board of Commissioners