

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Administrative Meeting of September 11, 2015
10:00 a.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

** ** ** **

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

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Guests Present: Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director; Phil Wright, East Oregonian

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. Vice-Chair Larry Givens welcomed all and reminded those present that the meeting was a public forum. It is being recorded and minutes will be taken. The purpose of the meeting is to consider amendments to the burn ban currently in force since July 23, 2015.

Doug Olsen advised phone calls about the burn ban had been received from canola growers on 9/10/15 by Kathy Lieuallen, 911 Dispatch Manager. They advised their crop must be planted before 9/15/15 (federal requirement). This requires their fields be burned before that date in order to plant by the required deadline.

Commissioner Givens noted grass seed growers might also be affected by the burn ban. Mr. Olsen noted they usually plant by the end of September. Commissioner Givens noted the dew point and field moisture has increased and temperatures are dropping. He suggested the burn ban be lifted on agriculture burning but not on residential. Commissioner Elfering added this should take effect immediately.

Mr. Olsen and Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, reviewed the county ordinance to determine proper timeframe and notice as well as burning during Round-Up (prohibited). Mr. Olsen advised, upon the Board's decision, he would notify Kathy Lieuallen who would relay the information directly to the canola growers (there are 2 or 3 in the county).

Discussion continued about notification, a press release, canola growers can burn starting on 9/11, improvement of fire situation in the region and need for immediate action to meet the 9/15/15 deadline for canola growers, and lifting the ban for all ag burning.

Commissioner Elfering moved to approve and adopt Order No. BCC2015-072 declaring a lift of the Agricultural Burn Ban within the unincorporated areas of Umatilla County. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 2-0.

Commissioner Elfering moved to allow the burn day regardless of dispersion and wind conditions for canola growers due to their 9/15/15 deadline for canola crop planting. Seconded by Commissioner Givens. Carried, 2—0.

Mr. Olsen noted with the decision that day, no more action is needed by the Board of Commissioners at the scheduled 9/16/15 meeting. In addition, the normal cessation of burning during Round-Up is still in effect.

Commissioner Givens noted the normal end of burn banning is October 1 based on cooler weather and moist conditions.

Ms. Mabbott noted the press release will be issued on Monday, 9/14/15, as is usual by Gina Miller, Code Enforcement Coordinator. Phil Wright noted his report of the meeting will be posted on-line at the East Oregonian website within the hour after the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary
Umatilla County Board of Commissioners