

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Emergency Administrative Meeting of June 8, 2021  
9:00 a.m. (Google Meet)  
Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton, Oregon

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**Commissioners participating:** Chair George Murdock, Vice-Chair John Shafer, and Commissioner Dan Dorran  
**County Counsel:** Doug Olsen  
**Guests:** Gina Miller, Planning-Code Enforcement; Robert Pahl, Chief Finance Officer; Tom Roberts, Emergency Manager; and Bryce Dole, East Oregonian

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Chair Murdock called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Business Item:**

1. Annual Non-Agriculture Burn Ban for Summer 2021. The matter before the board is to take action on emergency burn ban due to conditions leading into wildfire season. Gina Miller is staff liaison to the smoke management team. She reported that it is proposed the Board enact the annual Non-Agricultural Burn Ban today at noon. Other local jurisdictions have made this move as well – CTUIR, City of Pendleton, Umatilla County Fire District 1, and Oregon Department of Forestry. **Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Order No. BCC2021-047. Commissioner Dorran seconded. Carried, 3-0.**

In addition, Ms. Miller noted yesterday she and Tom Roberts, Emergency Manager, attended a pre-fire season meeting with local fire chiefs and state and federal Forest Service representatives. The take away was they are urging county commissioners to make a burn ban overall as we are looking at a pretty active fire season, which include banning agricultural burning. Responding to a question about notice, Chair Murdock advised notice is usually provided to farmers through the Planning office. And it is posted on the county website.

Mr. Olsen added the Board could implement the non-ag ban at this point and then next Monday, implement the overall burn ban. Commissioner Dorran expressed concern about wheat being green and they are using fire lines for harvest – this shouldn't last for much longer.

There was more discussion about today's action, and then publishing on 6/16 a total ban? The press release format includes ag producers and all local media outlets as well as the smoke management Facebook page where Ms. Miller posts press releases – it is wide distribution

Based on discussion, Mr. Olsen will revise the Order to include language for the ag burn as noted. That will be included in the motion to also implement the total burn ban on 6/16. **Commissioner Shafer moved to add this to the motion.** Commissioner Dorran asked for clarification -- the non-ag burn goes into effect today (6/8) at noon and then the full burn ban will go into effect on 6/16. He wanted the ag industry to be clear that the ag ban will be effective 6/16. It was suggested two separate press releases might be more clear.

Commissioner Dorran asked Ms. Miller if two separate press releases would be better. She agreed it would be best to separate the press releases. He also asked about emergency text message? Commissioner Shafer didn't feel that was necessary. However, Mr. Roberts noted that Ms. Miller has access to a non-emergency line for notifications. **Commissioner Dorran was in support of the amended motion. Motion Carried, 3-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melinda Slatt*

Executive Secretary, Umatilla County Board of Commissioners