

**CROOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
OF MARCH 20, 2024, REGULAR MEETING
Open Portion**

Be It Remembered that the Crook County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on March 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the County meeting room located at 320 NE Court Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754.

Board Members Present: Commissioner Seth Crawford, Commissioner Brian Barney, and Commissioner Susan Hermreck

Absentees: None

Others Present in Person or Via Zoom: Legal Counsels Eric Blaine and John Eisler; Executive Administrative Assistant Sarah Puerner; Contract County Administrator Andy Parks; Finance Director Christina Haron; Administrative Assistant Breyanna Cupp; Clerk Cheryl Seely; Health and Human Services Director Katie Plumb; Office Manager Alex Solterbeck; Extension Manager Kim Herber; Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly; Library Director Sarah Beeler; Assessor Jon Soliz; Chief Information Officer Stephen Chellis; District Attorney Kari Hathorn; Community Development Director Will Van Vactor; Natural Resources Policy Coordinator Tim Deboodt; Undersheriff Bill Elliott; Road Superintendent Brad Haynes; Assessment Technician Stephanie West; Administrative Assistant Mona Glade; Monty Kurtz; Linda Smith; Dr. Jen Fenton; Susan Crawford; Marlo Dill; Dock Kerbow; John Breese; Kim Molnar; Taylor Wilkie; Deb Shaw; Cindy Smith; John Aniello; Derik Vowels; Carter Gudell; Madeline Cunningham; Chris Edmonds; Jodie Barram; Kelsey Lucas; Melissa Hartzell; Chris Edmonds; and members of the public.

REGULAR SESSION

The meeting was **called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

Public Comment: None

Additions/Removals: Item #5 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Prineville for Airport Operations was removed from the consent agenda. This item was moved to discussion for today's meeting.

Consent Agenda:

1. ODHS Resilience Hubs & Networks Grant for library backup generator
2. Acceptance of Crook County Cultural Coalition grant, \$2000 for Glenn Miller Orchestra
3. Fair Board Applicant Consideration
4. Consider Appointments to the Abatement of Dangerous Building Code, Appeals Committee

MOTION to approve the consent agenda with the removal of #5. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #6: Proclamation of "International Dark Sky Week":

Requester: Carter Gudell and Taylor Wilkie

Details: Carter Gudell and Taylor Wilkie from Dark Sky Oregon attended the Regular Session to request that Crook County proclaim International Dark Sky Week for the week of April 2nd - 8th. This worldwide event aims to build awareness about the harmful effects of light pollution and the importance of preserving the nighttime environment. Hosted by Dark Sky International, the event highlights the economic, environmental, and social impacts of wasted light. Recognizing Dark Sky Week in a community that hosts Prineville Reservoir State Park, a Dark Sky Park, has the potential to boost shoulder season tourism if promoted effectively.

MOTION to pass the proclamation of International Dark Sky Week. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #7: Request for Support: Heart of Oregon Corps' Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (COYCC):

Requester: Laura Handy

Details: Madeline Cunningham, Heart of Oregon Corps Summer Program Manager, attended the Regular Session to request support for the Heart of Oregon Corps' Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (COYCC). The Heart of Oregon Corps empowers 225 youth and young adults annually through employment, job training, education, and service. Operating in Crook County since 2001, the program supports over 30 youth each year through its Prineville office. In 2024, three COYCC crews will engage 19 local youth in conservation work benefiting Crook County. HOC requests \$5,000 to fulfill the 20% match required to access secured USFS funds for one crew. The contribution will cover program expenses, including youth and crew leader wages, transportation, uniforms, and minimal operational costs. During the 8-week program, each youth will have the opportunity to earn \$4,200 by working 279 hours at \$15.00 per hour.

MOTION to approve the \$5,000.00 request for the Heart of Oregon Corps Summer Program. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #8: Post Paulina Rangeland Fire Protection Association:

Requester: Melissa Hartzell

Details: John Breese and Melissa Hartzell from the Post Paulina Rangeland Fire Protection Association attended the Regular Session to request continued support for the rural fire association. This association, comprising ranchers and property owners, collaborates to prevent and protect against wildfires on unprotected rangeland. Crook County has supported this association for the past 10 years, enabling them to maintain and upgrade fire equipment, enhance communication with radios, and increase supplies. The association aims to be the first responders in this rural area, where residents rely on their prompt response due to the distance from town. They are requesting \$4,500 in continued support to keep their equipment in good condition and improve response times to fires.

MOTION to approve the request for \$4,500.00 for the Post Paulina Rangeland Fire Protection Association. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #9: Update on Oregon Living With Fire:

Requester: Jodie Barram

Details: Jodie Barram, Co-Coordinator of Oregon Living with Fire, attended the Regular Session to update the Board of Commissioners on the Oregon Living with Fire program. Supported through a four-county MOU with Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath, and Crook counties, this program aims to implement the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The goal is to promote controlled burning as a mitigation measure and provide workshops for residents on fire prevention techniques for their properties. An upcoming event in Crook County will be held at the Clover building to encourage fire-resistant planning for homes. The program focuses on state-level involvement before seeking federal funding options. As fire season approaches, they will collaborate with the Ochoco Fire District. Dr. Jen Fenton is exploring grant options for Crook County and is ready to assist with any related projects.

Discussion item #10: Upcoming Transmission Line Project:

Requester: Ruby Nunez

Details: John Aniello, Senior Project Manager with Pacific Power, attended the Regular Session to discuss the upcoming Blueprint South 500-kilovolt Transmission Line Project. Pacific Power plans to introduce a transmission line that may cross Crook County and aims to inform the Commissioners and seek their feedback during the early planning stages. The project involves building approximately 180 miles of high-voltage transmission line connecting existing and proposed substations across a five-county area, including Deschutes, Crook, Klamath, Lake, and Harney counties. Currently, the routing study to identify alternative routes and a preferred route is beginning, and extensive public outreach and engagement are planned to gather local input. The routing study is expected to be completed by early 2025, followed by a complex permitting process. The project will need to comply with the Oregon Energy Facilities Siting Council, National Environmental Policy Act, and Oregon Public Utilities Commission processes, among other permits and approvals.

Discussion item #11: Crook County School Support Fee Rate Resolution [HB2009]:

Requester: Kelsey Lucas

Details: Kelsey Lucas, with EDCO, attended the Regular Session to discuss the Crook County School Support Fee Rate Resolution. This request is to consider and adopt a resolution to set the Enterprise Zone School Support Fee as required by House Bill 2009, passed in 2023 state legislative session. EDCO is recommending that the County sign off on the 15% fee, as passed by the Crook County School District Board. HB 2009 was passed and signed into law requiring a School Support Fee to be set by local school districts and charged to businesses utilizing the enterprise zones (SEZ) and long-term rural enterprise zones (LTREZ). CCSD's school board voted on 15% and Zone Sponsors (City and County) must pass their own resolutions in alignment. This will not impact the County's current budget. The fee is paid to the local school district in years 4 and 5 (SEZ) or 6-15 (LTREZ) by businesses utilizing the Crook County Enterprise Zone.

MOTION to pass Order 2024-15 in the matter of the County of Crook approving the establishment of a school support fee of 15%. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #12: Consider appointments to the Planning Commission:

Requester: Will Van Vactor

Details: Will Van Vactor, Community Development Director, attended the Regular Session to present appointment recommendations for the Planning Commission. Following County policy, the Crook County Planning Commission reviewed five applications to fill an existing vacancy. After reviewing the applications and interviewing some candidates, the Planning Commission recommends appointing Marlo Dill to fill the vacancy until December 31, 2024. Additionally, the Planning Commission recommends appointing Shelby Duncan to a pro tem position on the Planning Commission, as per CCC 18.172.080(1)(i), with both appointments suggested for the remainder of the year.

MOTION to pass Order 2024-18 in the matter of the appointment to the Planning Commission of Marlo Dill and Shelby Duncan. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #13: Consider appointment to the Taylor Grazing Board:

Requester: Tim Deboodt

Details: Tim Deboodt, Crook County Natural Resources Policy Coordinator, attended the Regular Session to recommend an appointment to the Taylor Grazing Board. Two applications were received from BLM permittees. Deboodt recommends appointing Gary Bedortha to fill the current vacancy. The County's grazing board, which approves projects funded by Taylor Grazing dollars received from BLM grazing fees, uses these funds to improve range conditions and grazing management within BLM allotments. The board is composed of BLM permittees who live and ranch within the County. Filling this vacancy ensures full membership, allowing for effective project approval and appropriate fund allocation.

MOTION to pass Order 2024-19 in the matter of the appointment to the Taylor Grazing Committee with appointing Gary Bedortha. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #14: Support the addition of a herbicide to the list of available herbicides on Crooked River National Grasslands:

Requester: Tim Deboodt

Details: Tim Deboodt, Crook County Natural Resource Policy Coordinator, attended the Regular Session to request support for adding an herbicide to the list of those available for use on Crooked River National Grasslands. Currently, the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grasslands have a limited selection of herbicides for controlling weedy vegetation. The Forest Service is seeking comments on the addition of an herbicide called Indaziflam (Forest Service Plan Amendment (ONF-CRNG) #65406). This herbicide is crucial for controlling annual invasive grasses such as cheatgrass, medusa head, and ventanta.

MOTION to encourage the letter of support for Indaziflam. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #15: Backup / Failover / Redundant Internet Circuit to the Justice Center:

Requester: Stephen Chellis

Details: Stephen Chellis, Chief Information Officer, attended the Regular Session to request signatures for establishing a redundant internet connection to the Justice Center via Lumen. This connection will serve as a backup if the primary internet circuit through Primetime fails. He is seeking authority to sign the contract, which includes an initial one-time cost of \$7,000 and a monthly fee of \$450 for a 36-month period.

MOTION to support Stephen in the charges and costs of \$7,000 to Lumens for the internet. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #16: Jockey Room Bid Selection:

Requester: Casey Daly

Details: Casey Daly, Fairgrounds Manager, attended the Regular Session to present the accepted bid for the Jockey Room project. Crook County received a \$277,777 grant from the Oregon Business Development Department for Fairgrounds capital improvements, which will be used to construct a new Jockey Room. The new facility will be 2,088 square feet and include a public meeting area, two bathrooms, a mechanical room, and 12 parking spaces. The County received one bid from Bex Construction for \$490,900 with the state grant offsetting the total bid price.

MOTION to award the Jockey Room to Marshall Bex Construction in the amount of \$490,000.00 and for the Board to sign out of court following the protest period. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion item #17: Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Prineville for Airport Operations:

Requester: Andy Parks

Details: Andy Parks, Contract County Administrator, attended the Regular Session to present an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the City of Prineville for Airport Operations. The agreement focuses on finalizing cost sharing for the Airport Manager and reconciling the airport fund. The County owns the airport property and operated it until 2010, when a strategic relationship with the City began. This IGA, which expired on December 31, 2023, had the City managing day-to-day activities and providing staffing. Over the past 14 years, both the City and County have made significant investments in the airport. Due to GASB 87, enacted on July 1, 2021, the County, as the property owner, must capitalize all leases. Consequently, the County has taken on more responsibilities, including financial reporting and implementing changes such as recruiting a Fixed Base Operator (FBO) and updating several policy documents. The proposed IGA aims to gradually reduce the City's financial contribution to the airport from approximately \$100,000 in fiscal year 2025 to \$0 in fiscal year 2028.

MOTION to approve the IGA with the City of Prineville and the Airport. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

Administrator Report: None

Board Member Updates:

Commissioner Barney presented a letter of support for the McKay Creek Water Rights Switch Project, requesting additional funding. The Ochoco Irrigation District is seeking the Board of Commissioners' assistance in securing further funds for an infrastructure update. This project will benefit the valley, irrigators, farmers, and anyone with agricultural interests in the area.

MOTION for the Board of Commissioners to support the Ochoco Irrigation District with the letter presented today. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

At 10:04 a.m. the Board of Commissioners convened into Executive Session under the following statute(s): ORS 192.660(2)(h) Consulting with Counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Board of Commissioners convened back into Open Session, inviting members of the public into the meeting room.

There being no further business before the Board of Commissioners, the meeting was **adjourned at 10:26 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Puerner