

Approved March 16, 2016

**BE IT REMEMBERED THAT**, that Crook County Court held a Town Hall on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at the Cary Foster Hall, located on the County Fairgrounds, 1280 SE Main Street, Prineville, Oregon, to hear comments from the citizens of Crook County and the from the Oregon Wild Proposal organization. In attendance from the County were: County Judge Mike McCabe; County Commissioner Ken Fahlgren; County Commissioner Seth Crawford; County Counsel Jeff Wilson; Assistant County Counsel Eric Blaine and County Court Secretary Colleen Ferguson.

Members of the City Council in attendance were: Jason Carr; Jeff Papke; Gail Merritt and Steve Uffelman.

Wheeler County Judge Perry attended.

Attendance logs were provided. There were 405 signing the attendance logs. Many walked on in choosing not to sign in for the evening town hall.

The media was provided notice of the Town Hall.

Bill Mintiens acted as moderator. Mr. Mintiens welcomed the audience of an estimated 500 to 600 or more people in attendance, and thanked them for the fantastic turnout. He provided a background on the purpose of the Town Hall, the history so far with the four information meetings held by the Oregon Wild Proposal Organization, the articles in the paper and on Facebook and the information gained from the Congressman Greg Walden meeting. The Court said from the beginning they would educate and make a proposal. The Court's responsibility is to educate themselves and at the end of the process when all the informational sessions have ended, to make a recommendation. The Court will express their recommendations at the end of tonight's meeting. Today, the Court is here to listen to the citizens, and to hear the recommendation of the public.

Mr. Mintiens explained the process for speaking tonight. There would be two minutes to speak for each person wishing to speak.

During the session, comments were heard from proponents and opponents; supporters of both sides of the discussion; some that wanted to work on a better plan, finding a road that satisfies everyone; some that were adamant about not allowing the Oregon Wild proposal to go forward; some thanked the Court for listening; some discussion on logging, farming, ATV's, comments from those that had lived here for generations and others that had moved to the area, people from all walks of life. One person welcomed Oregon Wild to come join us, but not to change us. At the end of the comment session, many more comments were heard from the opponents of the proposal than proponents.

At the end of the public comment session, Bill Mintiens asked the Court for their recommendations.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**Commissioner Ken Fahlgren** thanked the Community for coming tonight and appreciated all the comments. He said the Court from the beginning was opposed to the proposal, but the job of the Court is to listen. Commissioner Fahlgren read additional comments. He said this meeting is one of many that we will have again this year. He spoke on his three years of serving on the Forest Collaborative group that has worked with industries.

**His recommendation is that he opposes the entire Oregon Wild Proposal.** Commissioner Fahlgren said this has been a great learning experience. He said we all live here too, and the Court needs the community's support for both the County and the City.

**Commissioner Seth Crawford** said he has been working on this for five months and said there may be 700 people here tonight. He has talked to many people and many said the proposal is foolish. Commissioner Crawford said he had asked for a vote at an earlier meeting and thinks the Court should get ahead of this. He said let's vote, and his answer to the Oregon Wild Proposal is "No".

**Judge Mike McCabe** thanked the audience for coming. He said this is a process we had to go through to hear the comments heard here today. Judge McCabe spoke of his meeting in Adrian, Oregon, and the opposition to the monument area in Malheur County. He spoke to the audience and said you are the next playground for Deschutes County because they messed their area up so bad. This is a two, three or four year fight. He said it is no secret that he has never been in favor of the proposal. But, if we were not in favor, we would not have heard from so many about their viewpoints and thoughts.

**Judge McCabe said he is opposed to the Oregon Wild proposal.**

Bill Mintiens announced that a formal letter of recommendation opposing the Oregon Wild Proposal is to be signed by the Court at the County Court meeting on February 3, 2016 and sent on to the Senators and Representatives.

He asked the audience to give themselves a hand. The City Council meeting will have this issue heard on January 26, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

*Colleen Ferguson*

Crook County Court Secretary  
And Executive Assistant