



## CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES – WORKSHOP

Wednesday, January 19, 2016 –10:00 A.M.

Commissioners' Hearing Room, Courthouse Annex  
94235 Moore St., Gold Beach, Oregon 97444

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**Commissioners Present:** Chair Tom Huxley, Vice-Chair Susan Brown, David Brock Smith

**Staff Present:** Administrative Assistant, Shelia Megson

### CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLIEGENCE

Huxley called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. The Pledge was said by all.

### GOALS

**Commissioner Smith:** Smith presented a PowerPoint slideshow as he spoke. Last year he had focused on some food systems work. He said the Curry School Districts now all have school gardens and involved in the Farm Schools program which also provides reimbursement for buying local products through a governmental program. With help through the ODA, he and others were able to change the phytosanitary certification which enables farmers in the area to export strawberries, blueberries, cranberries, and cherries to Asian markets and thus substantially increase the local industry income. The Eat Fresh and Local program concerning tourism continues to move forward.

The South Ports Coast Coalition is trying to get a regional permit for dredging spoils and make it easier for the individual areas. He continues to work with the collaborative efforts of OPAC, OCZMA, NMFS, State of Oregon, ODF&W, the ports, the watershed councils, and the industry to have a sound policy for sustainable fishing. He worked with Red Fish Rocks and OSU that built a field station in Port Orford and a dive tank refill station. Infrastructure financing projects include dredging equipment for the south coast ports, future replacement of the Port Orford cannery building, and a processing facility in Brookings. This will alleviate the need to wait for the Army Corps of Engineers to service the various ports in the County.

Commissioner Smith wants to continue the work with the recommendations of the Strategic Technology and Economic Development Task Force. Charter Cable will be combining with Time Warner and he wants to continue the existing partnerships as well as have a program implemented for low income residents for internet service. The task force concerning the use of the PEG funds recently submitted their recommendations so that the County can move forward with public transparency as well as ways to utilize the equipment for educational purposes. Curry Community Health continues to grow and he worked on a project in order to allow for an emergency satellite location in Brookings should it be able to move forward on that in the future. He continues to work with schools and the County to find funding for infrastructure projects. A transportation package that he is working on at the State is a funding source for the Road Department.

A current project is dealing with the problem of Sudden Oak Death which is mutating and spreading to multiple species. It threatens horticulture and timber products and could devastate the valley if the spread is allowed to continue. A task force will be formed soon to eradicate this disease. He continues to work with the Wild & Scenic River Stewardship and spoke about the recent blue whale carcass as an example in where he envisions a science center in the County. The aggregate build up at the base of the Rogue River is a concern and much of it is coming from the removal of the dam.

Commissioner Smith talked about the dispersal of the funds when a foreclosed property is sold amongst the many districts. He is working on legislation to make sure that the back taxes are paid but then the rest of the revenue go to the County. He said one of his most important points of focus concerns the BLM land and the O&C agreement that has drastically reduced the income to the Counties under a new resource management plan. He is researching the issue of the idea of having some federal lands handed over to State ownership to weigh the pros and cons.

The ReHome project partnering with NeighborWorks Umpqua has helped people with \$1.2 million for upgrades or replacements of mobile homes and will expand to help with \$400,000 for repairs and maintenance. Smith is continuing his work in renewable energy potentials to increase the capacity to transmit it for export to other areas. The Cape Blanco Country Music Festival brought an estimated \$2.3 million dollars of economic benefit to the area but Smith suggested it brings more through the increased interest of people relocating or vacationing at other times in the area.

Another current project was to work for changes in timelines set in the Justice Reinvestment Act to save the County money on State Prison agreements. He works on the issue of state land use that he says is not in the best interest of the County. He explained his position of working against another proposed large increase in minimum wage in the legislative session at the State. He pointed out that recent clean fuel and healthy climate proposals were having less positive effect than would have been realized by other transportation proposals. He said that forest management issues must be addressed to reach a comprehensive solution. He spoke about the increased awareness concerning the subduction zone destruction that would occur when the Cascadia Event natural disaster finally happens. The County would suffer a devastating earthquake and the published priority list from the State shows that the roads, electricity, and water could be out for up to three years. He addressed the ongoing concern of County finances to show that major cuts have been made but revenue is needed in order to keep the County running in the future. He would like the rest of the Board to help on the subject of a local funding solution.

**Commissioner Brown:** Brown explained that she had held twenty five public forums and performed two high school class surveys. They were well attended and she was able to get lots of feedback from the residents. She made a new Board of Commissioners meeting agenda to allow for further transparency and participation. The County policies have been revisited, organized, and some modified and more are being looked at. She plans to revisit the TLT tax and business license fees this year. A public meeting with the Planning Commission is scheduled in February concerning the business license issue.

Commissioner Brown explained that the County recently received a \$100,000 grant from AllCare for housing aide. Coos County is considering a similar program and may partner with Curry County in the project. Brown said that Fair Capital Improvement plans are coming up and she worked for an RSVP grant for a three year program that is focused on economic opportunity. It will include housing, jobs, and skill training. Volunteers will be needed to do this but she feels that they can achieve real progression. New buses and the grants to get those are an ongoing project that she

works on. Smith shared that he likes this focus change and appreciates Browns hard work. Brown said that her strategic plan not only includes what is good for the County but to serve the needs of the citizens as well.

**Commissioner Huxley:** Huxley said that he hadn't looked in the meeting packet as he had other priorities to attend to. Smith said that he didn't see Huxley's goals on the shared computer drive, pointing out that they are supposed to submit for workshops early because Huxley had said he wanted that. Huxley said he wasn't going to go there. He said that the notice for this workshop had been made only thirty minutes after setting it so wouldn't have had time to submit it for a packet. He said that he wanted packets published to the public for workshops too and not just the meetings.

Commissioner Huxley said that he didn't want people to make lists and call the project "theirs." Short range issues will come to fruition sooner than long range. He said that he knew the Planning Director wanted to talk about fees and he would talk to her outside of this meeting concerning meeting laws. He said concerning the Commissioner Journal update that was originally touted for citizens to access, but the current search engine is hard for him. He talked to the developer of the new search engine and they promise a better one by the end of the first quarter of 2016. Huxley said this workshop overlaps with strategic planning and wants it reduced to writing. He said concepts won't commit them. He said he had heard from the Planning Director that there are zoning issues and he wants with a user interface. It will help make a major multi-year project a reality. He wants to keep the survey results at the forefront so they aren't forgotten. He would like a zero based budget for the County to use next year.

## **OTHER CONCERNS**

Commissioner Smith reminded the Board that Accountant Short was retiring and had called for the budget direction but the Board had not yet addressed that topic. Commissioner Huxley asked Smith to find a place on the calendar to make a workshop. Huxley also said that he wanted to discuss a new county website. He has bids for it to be outsourced and would like to have that at a workshop next month. He also would like to talk about organization and County structure. He gave a handout diagramming the Sheriff's Department positions and explained that he had sat with the lieutenant for more than two hours to get the information to make the chart. He said he would make them for the other departments over the next couple of months. This would help to make things clear on which positions are mandated or not. He would like to combine the information on the charts that he makes in an effort to make a zero based budget. Smith asked and it was confirmed by Huxley that he had copywritten his chart.

Commissioner Huxley said that as a follow-up, the recent workshop concerning the audio video equipment had options for them to show documents during the meeting such as the PowerPoint slideshow shown by Smith at this meeting instead of perhaps printing a thousand pages if they wanted to have it in front of them. He feels it would increase transparency and provide a valuable tool to the Board. For transparency, he would like the monthly published financial reports to be required to be available on the website and posted in the hallway instead of just to all the employees and in the CountyWide computer drive. Huxley said that GIS is an ongoing issue and is used by the Planning Department, Roads, Sheriff, and numerous other departments.

Commissioner Huxley said he heard the Director of Administration talking about it so he would like to find out more detail about the costs of the Brookings Airport. He said that a resolution for the animal impounds issue was still needed. He would like to see call logs to the Sheriff department

concerning dogs and the priority classifications assigned to them. Smith said the Sheriff had given recommendations for the changes to the animal shelter agreement and asked Huxley if he had gathered more information. Huxley said that there had been long meeting with the animal shelter director so that he could understand his perspective. Smith asked if he was proposing another workshop for the issue and Huxley replied affirmatively.

Smith showed a budget worksheet tool on the projector, showed how variables could be entered, and explained how it could help the department heads make their budgets. Brown said that the worksheet was premature since the Board needs to make a decision on the direction first. It was agreed that there needed to be a workshop with the department heads to discuss only the budget.

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Huxley adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shelía M. Megson

These minutes from Wednesday, January 19, 2016 Board of Commissioners Workshop approved this 1 day of June, 2016.

**CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Thomas Huxley, Chair

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Susan Brown, Vice Chair

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David Brock Smith, Commissioner