

**HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2008**

→The Harney County Court convened December 3, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Grasty's office. Members attending were, Judge Steve Grasty and Commissioners Dan Nichols and Jack Drinkwater. Also attending were, Kerry Landers, Road Supervisor, Eric Drushella, newly hired Road Supervisor and County Clerk, Maria Iturriaga.

→Public attending were; Walter Cooper, Al Foulke, Sam Kaser and Debbie Raney, from the Burns Times Herald.

→Financial and statistical reports were reviewed and vouchers' paid by court's signature.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the November 24 county court minutes as mailed. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Al Foulke and Walter Cooper representing the Harney County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) were in attendance to explain a Memorandum of Understanding of a mutual aid agreement between them and Harney County. They explained that this agreement allows creation of an emergency operations station in courthouse. They informed the court that they do have repeater at the Radar site and Burns Butte. They will assist Harney County Emergency Management in providing emergency communications assistance. The court was supportive of this project. County legal counsel will re-write the resolution and will review the Memorandum of Understanding for next county court meeting December 17 at which time Vernon Estes will be attending.

→Sam Kaser, was in attendance to express concerns regarding the DEQ finding in regards to wood stove burning and the school district finances.

→Bob Hooten, Philip Milburn, Rod Klus, Tim Walters and Dan Gonzalez ODFW representatives were in attendance to discuss the Mule Deer Initiative, ongoing redband trout survey and the Riverside Wildlife Area Plan. Mr. Walters presented preliminary data on the red band trout. Mr. Klus explained the mule deer initiative which is a three year plan to address decline in deer mule population and help to improve it. He also stated they have identified the Steens Unit having a declining population and will be addressing the problem in the plan. Judge Grasty commented that economic impacts should be weighed in their plan as it should be a plan that prevents economic barriers, he offered assistance if they needed with working on the plan. Dan Gonzalez, presented an overview on the Riverside Wildlife Area. He stated that it was a 10 year plan being developed and explained the three goals as being habitat, riparian areas and encourage recreation.

→Dana Shuford and Rhonda Karges were in attendance to present the draft and explain the South Steens AMP environmental assessment which consists of building new reservoirs, drilling new wells, installing pipeline and new troughs. Mr. Shuford stated that the Steens Mt. Act provide guidance for management approaches. Commissioner Nichols thanked BLM for this project. The court will submit written comments in support of the decision contained in the EA.

→The court briefly discussed the Oregon State Public Health Contract Amendment #5. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the fifth amendment to Department of Human Services 2008-2009 Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Public Health Services. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Next on the agenda was discussion on the Christmas Holiday schedule for county employees. It was the consensus of the court that all county departments be closed Friday, December 26, 2008.

→Judge Grasty informed the court that Harney County had solicited for IT Services and had received two proposals. The IT review committee met and recommended the low bidder, AccTech Solutions, Bend, Oregon. Judge Grasty will prepare a contract for the approval of all parties.

→Discussion regarding a business plan from Wayne Baron, 4R Recycling was tabled until next county court meeting December 17.

→Judge Grasty commented that there is a model ordinance dealing with wind energy that he thinks the county court should be looking at to see if is something the county could adopt.

→The court reviewed water use requests from Oregon Water Resource Department. No objections were expressed by the court to any of the requests.

→There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC
Harney County Clerk

