



***In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court Session***

October 18, 2017

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Pete Runnels' office at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, October 18, 2017. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Mark Owens, and Commissioner Patty Dorroh via telephone. Also attending were Rick Paul, Harney County Fair; and Eric Drushella, Roadmaster.

Public attending were JR Johnson, Jason Spriet, Justin Iverson, Racquel Rancier, and Harmony Burrignt from the Oregon Water Resources Department; Eric Nigg, Aaron Borisenko, Paige Evans, and Smita Mehta from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality; Tara Thissell, BLM; Samantha White, Burns Times Herald; Christy Cheyne and Steve Beverlin from the U.S. Forest Service; Lisa Moody, TVCC; and Barb Kull.

Work Session 9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Voucher Approval

The Court reviewed accounts payables, signed checks, and approved the vouchers by Court signature.

Judge Runnels led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Judge Runnels made a Motion to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2017, County Court meeting, and seconded by Commissioner Owens. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

Flood Issues Update

Judge Runnels discussed the willow removal project. The removal project is progressing and there has been good cooperation with the affected landowners. Action items from the October 12th meeting included; 1) letter to FEMA disagreeing with their 100-year CFS amount, 2) grant, feasibility study, and holistic approach to the flood issue, and 3) community flood insurance pool. The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in the Judge's Chambers.

New Business

10:20 a.m. Eric Nigg, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Eric Nigg, Paige Evans, Smita Mehta, and Aaron Borisenko met with the Court to discuss the groundwater water quality monitoring project. Topics of discussion included the well monitoring process in Harney County, the Statewide Groundwater Monitoring Program Fact Sheet, the DEQ volunteer recruitment process and benefits to the residents who participate in the project, funding for the groundwater monitoring program, types of contaminants to be measured, collaboration efforts with the Water Resources Department and the Watershed Council, Groundwater Management Areas, and discussion of the types of contaminants to be identified. The goal is to sample approximately 100 wells in Harney County in a yet to be determined study area, and to take place during two (2) sampling events (fall and winter). The end goal of the study is to 1) provide a service to the domestic well owners to give them information regarding the water they are consuming, and 2) identify if there are some larger issues that may be of broader concern regarding water quality. Commissioner Owens discussed the current community-based water planning in Harney County, which includes water quality and water quantity.

10:50 a.m. Racquel Rancier, Oregon Water Resources Department

Racquel Rancier, Oregon Water Resources Department, updated the Court on the 2017 Oregon legislative session and the next steps for the future.

11:15 a.m. Steve Beverlin, John Day Forest Service

Steve Beverlin and Christy Ceyne, U.S. Forest Service, discussed with the Court the upcoming travel management plan, spring 2018. The forest travel management plan involves three (3) parts: 1) Subpart A - minimum road system analysis which was finalized in 2015; 2) Subpart C – designation of areas for snow machine use and groomed trails/routes; and 3) Subpart B – over the ground designation of roads, trails, and areas for motorized use. Subpart B is going to be a forest wide effort and environmental impact statement, and there will be many meetings to start the formal impact statement process and will begin March/April 2018.

12:00 p.m. Lisa Moody, Budget presentation, Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC)

Lisa Moody discussed the 2017-2018 TVCC and Harney County, Oregon Contract Out of District Service Delivery Agreement. Lisa will have the contract revised then present to the Court for signature.

Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve the 2017-2018 TVCC and Harney County, Oregon Contract Out of District Service Delivery Agreement, and Commissioner Dorroh seconded the Motion. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Water use requests

Correspondence

Malheur National Forest Schedule to Proposed Actions Fall 2017

Scheduling

The next County Court meeting will be November 1, 2017, at 9:15 a.m. in Judge Runnels' office.

Rural work session meetings to be confirmed:

- *October 23, 2017 Frenchglen/Diamond at 5:30 p.m. Frenchglen school
- *October 26, 2017 Fields at 5:30 p.m. at Fields School

*Flu shots, Oregon Health Plan and public hearing meeting

Late Items

Groundwater Study Advisory Committee update

2019/2020 completion milestone on track. Data collection is on track, quarterly meetings, no comprehensive data evaluation to date. Open to public, meeting information available on website (bit.ly/malheurlakebasin).

General Deliberation by the Court (no decisions will be made)

For the Record

Adjournment

There being no further business, County Court adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk