

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
July 31, 2018

1. At 9:03 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Pope was present. Commissioner Wheeler was excused.
2. **MINUTES** **COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2018.**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

3. **BLM RESOURCE PLANNING UPDATE** – Jennifer Velez, Public Affairs Officer, was planning to be at the meeting today but something came up and she was not able to attend. Jose Linares, BLM's Northwest Oregon District Manager, gave the Board a brief description of the work he has done prior to becoming the District Manager a year and a half ago. He stated the Northwest District has 5 field offices, in 14 different counties. He stated that his primary focus the last 2 years has been the successful transition to the new Resource Management Plan. He is hoping that with the new RMP they will be able to rebuild their shelf stock.

Commissioner Pope asked Mr. Lanires what the plan is to deal with all of the protestors. Jose responded that there are protestors on every timber sale and that BLM has been very thorough when doing the environmental surveys prior to making a decision to sell. He informed the Board that it is a 3 year process and 2 of those years are spent surveying the land. Commissioner Pope told Jose that he felt like there was not enough emphasis on the fact that 720,000 acres of these timber lands are O & C land. He encouraged Jose to put more emphasis that this land was set aside by Congress specifically for the revenue it could bring to the counties.

Jose gave a brief update on the Resource Advisory Council. He informed the Board that they have not had a RAC meeting for a while because they have 5 vacancies so it has been hard for them to get a quorum. They are up to 13 members and are waiting to hear back about 2 other spots being filled. He also stated that there will be another 5 vacancies coming up so it will still be a while before they have another RAC meeting most likely. Commissioner Pope stated that he believes if they focus more on timber management and less on recreation management that more elected officials would be inclined to come to these meetings.

Commissioner Ainsworth asked Jose if BLM land is shut down during the high alert fire season and Jose stated that no typically it is not closed down. Jose did say they will sometimes close down certain areas, such as Gooseneck Rd., because it is a popular shooting area. Commissioner Pope stated that he feels there is an issue with closing roads and decommissioning roads because it makes it more difficult for the fire fighters to get to the fires they are trying to put out. Commissioner Pope also stated that he felt there was a lack of patrol in the woods to keep people out that should not be there. Commissioner Pope wants to know if there is a plan in place or being developed that would get more patrol for the BLM land. Jose told the Board that they rely heavily on the relationships with the County Police. He stated that they currently have 5 rangers to cover the 14 counties, so the relationships with the County Police are very important. He said they sometimes try and get Rangers from other states, Counties to come and help out during the fire season but that is temporary assistance. He states they have secured another 1 year Contract with ODF and plan to continue to do so in the future.

Commissioner Pope stated that it has been awhile since the Commissioners have been on a tour of the BLM land and he would like to see that scheduled sometime in the future. They all agree.

4. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** – (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 09:40 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: August 7, 2018