

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 12, 2019**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Mordhorst was present and Commissioner Mordhorst was excused.
2. **MINUTES**           **COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2019.**

**MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.**

3. **RICKREALL & GLENN GIBSON WATERSHED UPDATE** – Lucas Hunt, Coordinator for the Rickreall and Glenn-Gibson Watershed Councils, informed the Board that part of their mandate for funding is that they report annually to the Board with activities they have been involved in. Glenn-Gibson continues to be active in urban issues and engaging their City Council on topics such as the third bridge, flood plain management, land use planning and policy, and in support of that they invite a number of public speakers to their meetings. Those meetings and speakers are advertised to the West Salem residents. One of the major events last year was one of an over application of mercury in Glenn Creek that poisoned a number of coy fish. A number of organizations worked together and it took almost three weeks aerating the pond in order to bring mercury levels back to normal. They invited the responders to come speak at the meeting and it was very informative. Glenn-Gibson partnered with Polk SWCD for a small grant to restore native plants along a river that flows along Eola Drive.

Rickreall Water council also partners with Polk SWCD on a large wood enhancement. This was done at Laurel Creek and they brought in 60 logs along the river bend and they used an excavator that ran on vegetable oil in order to protect the water supply. They continue to operate a fish trap and haul below mercer damn to move Coho around the dam. In 2017 they passed 15 males, 18 females, and 14 jacks. The numbers have been down but they believe it is due to the ocean conditions. They also work with Polk SWCD and Oregon Fish and Wildlife out at basket slough to do a survey for water primrose, an invasive aquatic weed that was introduced at the slough probably by aquarium dumping. They have also had some discussion about large scale bank reshaping. Mr. Hunt informed the Board that he is now employed by Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development which is a small nonprofit providing similar crop services to other watershed Councils and Environmental groups. They will handle the money and grant applications will be applied for through Cascade. Commissioner Pope wants to know what activities Rickreall has been involved in with regards to the water reuse purple pipe project. Mr. Hunt stated that since they lost a city engineer they have not had much communication with the city so they are trying to rebuild that relationship. They do have a work session coming up where they will be able to discuss more ways that they can work with the city. Commissioner Pope stated that he would like to be invited that that workshop and have a more distinct conversation to look at plans for the future. Mr. Hunt told the Board that is they are ever interested he would be happy to have them out and give them a tour.

4. **SHERIFF OFFICE UPDATE** - Captain Isham, is filling in for Sheriff Garton for the update. Captain Isham stated the Sheriff Office was involved in the fundraiser and Plaid Pantry for Special Olympics, Shop with the Sheriff. They also partnered with CASA on a toy drive for

foster families, they were also able to let inmates pick a gift for their children and wrap it, which they really appreciated. In April they will also be putting together an even called Coffee with a cop or Doughnuts with a Deputy. They held an event called Buckets of Brass where volunteers came to help pick up shell casings and other garbage from Gooseneck Road. It was a very successful event and they even found the body of an old Volkswagen car that was hauled out. They completed their first Citizens Academy, citizens went through a mini police academy and were able to get some reality based training and they do plan to do that again next year. The Jail has been busy and the population went from 130 to 158. They have tried to implement more cite and release to help with the numbers. The federal government is currently contracting five beds, which is good revenue for the Jail. Captain told the Board that even though they are 204 bed facility they begin to have problems with inmates when they get to a population of 160. This is due to the male and female ratio as well as conflict issues and trying to keep certain inmates away from each other to avoid problems.

Captain Isham informed the Board that Deputy Mark Robertson, their only Drug Recognition Expert, will be receiving an award. He also told the Board that the volunteer groups are thriving with over 130 volunteers. He stated that the work they do make a huge impact on the amount of work the Sheriff Office is able to get done. The SALT team helping transport evidence each week, as well as serving civil papers. He also stated that in the past he had been asked if we kept track of how much assistance the Sheriff Office is giving to the surrounding agencies and he stated that right now they are at 1,020 assists to various outside agencies. Patrol is fully staffed and they were able to increase court security. They have heard feedback the increase in the presence of security around the courthouse has been noticed and appreciated. They created a new position in the department. The Community Relations Specialist will take over a lot of the PIO duties as well as manage social media and other public events.

5. **NON-LISTED ITEMS**

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha  
Approved: March 19, 2019