

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES MAY 26, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners to be in session. Commissioner Mordhorst and Commissioner Ainsworth were present.

Staff present: Matt Hawkins, Administrative Service Director

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. Each meeting is held in the Courthouse Conference Room, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon. Each meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. and is conducted according to a prepared agenda that lists the principle subjects anticipated to be considered. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, The Board may consider and take action on subjects that are not listed on the agenda. The Board also holds a department staff meeting at 9:00 a.m. on every Monday in the Commissioners Conference Room at 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon.

3. COMMENTS

- (a) Commissioner Pope proposed that agenda item 7 and 8 be reversed in order to allow Family & Community Outreach staff to return to their work rather than having to wait. The Board was in support.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS AMENDED

MOTION: COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF MAY 19, 2021

MOTION: COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2021.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. FAMILY & COMMUNITY OUTREACH PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Pope opened the public hearing at 9:02 a.m. and announced that Family & Community Outreach (FCO) Director, Brent DeMoe, will be holding a public hearing that is required for two (2) grant applications.

Mr. DeMoe informed the Board that the first grant is to provide financial assistance vouchers for low and moderate-income families in rural Polk County who need help in paying for child care due to Covid or Covid-related employment impacts. The grant is for \$250,000 through Business Oregon. This grant is designed to assist families who have been impacted by the pandemic or a related job or income loss to help pay for child care for a limited time. The family eligibility is tied to income level (Low or Moderate Income – LMI) and employment status. Child care expenses will be paid directly to the child care provider through a voucher system. The grant, if funded will run from July 2021 through December 2022. Mr. DeMoe did state that this grant excludes West Salem because the way the grant is broken up is rural and non-rural areas so a separate pot of money would be available to the City of Salem which would include West Salem. Additionally, if all funds are expended prior to the end of the grant period, FCO may apply for an additional \$250,000.

The second grant Mr. DeMoe will be applying for is for \$250,000 through Business Oregon to help families impacted by the pandemic or a related job or income loss by providing food box delivery service

to rural parts of the county. Business Oregon is a State of Oregon agency that oversees various economic development activities and the Community Block Grant Funds. If funded, the FCO food distribution plan would greatly expand access to food for families impacted by the pandemic. Over 50% of our family households are in the low or moderate income range based on household size and income which qualifies our area for this grant. Commissioner Pope also noted that there were multiple letters of support from various community members and child care agencies who support Polk County's application for both of these grants.

Commissioner Pope opened the meeting for public comment. Polk County resident, Joe Rivera, asked if the funds were state or federal. Mr. DeMoe responded that they are federal dollars that go to Business Oregon to be distributed.

Hearing no further testimony Commissioner Pope closed the public hearing at 9:10 a.m.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVES WITH MOVING FORWARD IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR BOTH GRANTS AS PROPOSED.

8. NWREC UPDATE

Mike Bondi, Director of NWREC, provided the Board with an annual update. Mr. Bondi informed the Board that they recently began round 2 for the recruitment of a new Director because the 1st round was not successful. Mr. Bondi has planned to retire after the replacement is found and after he helps with the transition.

OSU is no longer requiring masks outdoor. OSU has been closed since March 16, 2020 and has only allowed very limited in person learning with small groups. The first olive agriculture school was put on. There were approximately 40 people broken up into 4 groups of ten rotating stations. The school is planning to welcome students back in September depending on the vaccine rate. The largest challenge is the air quality because the facilities do not have up to date HVAC. They do not meet OSHA requirements but are currently being worked on.

Mr. Bondi reviewed a list of some faculty and program highlights that included retirements and some extension employees that have resigned or been promoted. Some of those position have already been approved to be filled by OSU but some have not. Since OSU is on a hiring freeze right now they will need special approval to fill that position again.

Mr. Bondi informed the Board of some infrastructure updates that have taken place or will be taking place. There was a new well completed in May 2019 at the Parker House. There was also a private infrastructure gift based on NWREC facilities management plan of \$510,000. They plan to remodel the main office lab and add Wi-Fi coverage for the entire farm.

They are moving forward with the Agrivoltaics projects. The projected cost is \$1,500,000. The investors are being recruited and subscriptions for solar power are being sold. The goal is to complete all preliminary steps prior to installing panels on the ground. With the integration of agriculture and power some crops will grow better with partial shade. This could have major global and national impacts and could potentially provide all the energy needed on a farm and to make agriculture more sustainable. It will provide excess energy back to the grid for community use. The Board expressed their support for the work with Agrivoltaics and Mr. Bondi informed them that NWREC is the only place in the world doing this kind of work.

At 9:25 a.m. Commissioner Pope asked if there was a need for executive session. Staff answered that there was not and the meeting was adjourned.

The following items were approved by Motion under **5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- (a) **CONTRACT NO. 21-67 – HEALTH SERVICES**
Approve Contract No. 21-67 with Lori Linton-Nelson to provide mental health services to referred Polk County Behavioral Health individuals.

- (b) **CONTRACT NO. 21-69 - PERSONNEL**
Approve Contract No. 21-69, Employee Agreement with Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director in Personnel.
- (c) **CONTRACT NO. 21-71 – PERSONNEL**
Approve Contract no. 21-71, Employee Agreement with Danny Lundy, Roadmaster in Public Works.
- (d) **CONTRACT NO. 21-72 – PERSONNEL**
Approve Contract no. 21-72 with Cascade Centers for the County's Subscription Agreement.
- (e) **CONTRACT NO. 21-73 – PUBLIC HEALTH**
Approve Contract no. 21-73, amendment 21 to Contract No. 19-111 with the Oregon Health Authority.
- (f) **CONTRACT NO. 21-74 – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
Approve Contract no. 21-74, with P. Kinsey Miller to provide mental health services to referred Polk County mental health individuals.
- (g) **CONTRACT NO. 21-75 – FAMILY & COMMUNITY OUTREACH**
Approve Contract No. 21-75 with the Oregon Department of Human Services accepting the Grant funds to be used offering family focused services starting at the assessment phase and extending into aftercare services.

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Craig Pope, Chair

not available for signature
Mike Ainsworth, Commissioner



Lyle Mordhorst, Commissioner