

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
May 28, 2024

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session and led the Board and attending audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. and Commissioner Mordhorst was present and Commissioner Gordon was absent.

2. COMMENTS (for items not on this agenda):

None.

3. MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF May 21, 2024**

MOTION PASSED BY VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

4. OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY UPDATE

Michael Curran, District Forester, and Jeff Classen, Dallas Unit Forester, provided their yearly Oregon Department of Forestry update to the Board. Their update went over state wide and county wide updates. Mr. Curran stated that as of July 1st, 2023, the Private Forest Accord was implemented and he gave an explanation of what that is and spoke about some of the rules and regulations that were put into place. Next Mr. Curran talked about a Habitat Conservation Plan that they have been working on since 2018 and that they just received Board approval to move forward with implementing this plan. Mr. Curran explained what the HCP entails. Commissioner Pope thanked Mr. Curran for the information on that plan, but shared his concerns on this topic. Commissioner Mordhorst shared his concerns about the lack of listening to the public comments. Mr. Curran stated that he can pass along that feedback to his leadership in Salem. Mr. Curran spoke about a bill that did not pass, but what will be coming from that. Next, Mr. Curran provided a staffing update and stated that they are finally in a much more stable place. Mr. Curran shared some data and statistics with the Board and he wanted to share that on August 25th, 2023, we had 2 rounds of dry lightning, which is pretty rare for Oregon. He stated that staff did a great job in containing those fires and they were able to limit and contain the fire to 12 acres, which is very good. Mr. Classen provided a recap of fires that Polk County experienced in 2023. Mr. Curran spoke about what he thinks the fire season will look like for 2024 and stated that he thinks it will be a pretty average season for us, but at the end of the day, August still comes and it is always pretty hot and dry that time of year. Mr. Classen provided an update on three grants that Polk County has been benefiting from. Commissioner Pope asked what a grant application looks like and Mr. Classen answered his question. Mr. Curran provided an update on the Polk County Classification Process and he explained what that is. He stated that the Governor's Office has asked them to put a pause on this process until they receive resolution. Mr. Curran stated that this won't really have an impact on Polk County. Commissioner Pope shared his concerns with this pause and provided feedback for them to take back to their leadership in Salem. Commissioner Pope asked how they are funded for their fire staff and Mr. Curran answered his question. Next, Mr. Curran provided some data and projected revenues from State Forests. Mr. Classen provided an update on forestry resources. Commissioner Mordhorst asked for an ETA on cleanup for the roads to the Valley of the Giants and Mr. Classen answered him. Commissioner Pope asked for an update on Black Rock and the mountain bike trails and Mr. Curran answered his question.

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

None.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: June 4, 2024