

TUESDAY WORK SESSION AGENDA
June 11, 2024
Courthouse Conference Room

THE LOCATION OF THIS MEETING IS ADA ACCESSIBLE. PLEASE ADVISE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (503-623-8173) AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO ATTEND OR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING VIRTUALLY.

**Approximate
Time**

AGENDA

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| 9:00 a.m. | 1. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE |
| | 2. COMMENTS (for items not on this agenda and limited to 3 minutes) |
| | 3. APPROVE MINUTES OF June 4, 2024 |
| | 4. CHILD CARE DATA/TRENDS FOR POLK COUNTY – Brent DeMoe |
| | 5. POLK COUNTY BUSINESS COHORT IDEA – Jenna Sanders & Lucy Escobar |
| | 6. NWREC FUNDING REQUEST – Greg Hansen |
| | 7. NON-LISTED ITEMS (Pursuant to ORS 192.640) |

Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. The meetings are held in the Board of Commissioners' 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 principal subjects anticipated to be considered. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners 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, Oregon.

A public meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners will be held on June 26, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. in the Polk County Courthouse. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 as approved by the Polk County Budget Committee.

A public meeting of the Polk County 4-H, Master Gardener, Agriculture, Forestry, Extension District will be held on June 26, 2024 at 10:00 am at Polk County Courthouse Conference Room, Dallas, Oregon. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 as approved by the Polk County 4-H, Master Gardener, Agriculture, Forestry, Extension District Budget Committee.

The Grand Ronde Sanitary District Board is meeting on June 26, 2024 at 10:15 a.m. The meeting will take place in the Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main Street, Dallas, OR, 97338.

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

The Board sets aside a time at each regular meeting for comment by the public on subjects not appearing on the Agenda. Individuals may come forward and make any statement they wish, but not to exceed three (3) minutes in length, except as is required to give concise answers to questions from Board members. If the subject will require a lengthier presentation, or merits inclusion as an item on the Agenda of a future meeting, the Board shall schedule it accordingly.

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
June 4, 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. Commissioner Gordon and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.

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

None.

3. MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF May 28, 2024
COMMISSIONER GORDON ABSTAINED DUE TO BEING ABSENT THAT DAY.**

MOTION PASSED BY VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

4. SKATS POLICY

Commissioner Pope asked for some information about SKATS (Salem Keizer Area Transportation Study) policies. Commissioner Pope explained how Commissioner Mordhorst represents Polk County on that committee and he explained how Austin McGuigan, Community Development Director, represents the Board on the SKATS Committee. Commissioner Pope stated that he realized that the Board has never talked about what SKATS. Mr. McGuigan provided background information on what SKATS is and why Polk County is a part of it. Mr. McGuigan explained the purpose of SKATS and the Metropolitan Plan Organization (MPO.) Mr. McGuigan talked about what had happened recently at a SKATS meeting and how Salem is now getting 2 votes instead of 1. Commissioner Pope asked some clarifying questions and Mr. McGuigan answered him. Commissioner Gordon shared his concerns about the process and the concerns he has with Salem having 2 votes instead of 1 and asked Mr. McGuigan if he has any concerns. Mr. McGuigan answered his question. Commissioner Pope asked if Morgan Smith, County Counsel, was able to look into the legal aspects of SKATS and how they were set up and Mr. Smith answered his question. Commissioner Mordhorst provided some background information on Polk County's involvement in SKATS and how Polk County has never received any funds from SKATS. Mr. McGuigan responded to the Commissioners concerns. Commissioner Pope asked if there was any idea of when a new MPO would be ready for review and Commissioner Mordhorst answered his question. The Commissioner thanked both Mr. McGuigan and Mr. Smith for the information that they shared today.

5. HWY 22 & 51 DISCUSSION

Commissioner Pope stated that this agenda item is being postponed to allow county staff to prepare a detailed report for the Board and staff.

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

Commissioner Pope asked Matt Hawkins how the building plans for the BH Crisis Building is going and Mr. Hawkins answered his question and stated they are set to go out to bid in a few weeks.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: June 11, 2024



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May 30, 2024

Polk County Board of Commissioners Office
C/O Greg Hansen
850 Main Street
Dallas, OR 97338

Dear Administrator Hansen,

I am writing on behalf of the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences about the North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC) in Aurora, expressing our sincere gratitude for the ongoing support you have provided over the years to support agricultural economic development. Since the late 1980s, your commitment has enabled NWREC to serve as a vital hub for applied Research and Extension programs, benefiting the constituents of Polk County in numerous ways.

NWREC's dedicated faculty and staff have tirelessly worked to innovate and address critical challenges faced by our local communities. Our programs cover a wide range of areas, including fruit trees, nursery management, integrated pest management (IPM), agrivoltaics, berry crops, IR-4 pesticide research, small farms, plant pathology, Christmas trees, and vegetable crops. Through these efforts, NWREC has contributed significantly to the agricultural and economic well-being of Polk County residents.

However, as you are aware, the costs of doing business have risen substantially over the years. NWREC is no exception. While our commitment to excellence remains unwavering, we find ourselves facing financial constraints due to stagnant funding levels. The original agreement among the counties supporting NWREC was based on farm gate sale receipts. Unfortunately, these county contributions have remained flat over the past decade.

Polk County's agricultural market value has surged by an impressive 85% since 2017, as evidenced by farm census data. Despite this growth, Polk County's annual contribution to NWREC has remained fixed at \$12,000 for at least a decade. Over this same time period, OSU's contribution to NWREC operating costs have increased from \$1M/year to \$1.23M/year. To ensure that NWREC continues to thrive and meet the evolving needs of our community, we kindly request that Polk County consider increasing its contribution from the economic development fund to \$22,200 annually—a proportional adjustment based on the agricultural market value increase in the county.

These additional funds will empower us to expand our research, outreach, and educational initiatives. Your increased support would directly impact the success of local farmers, businesses, and residents, fostering a stronger and more resilient agricultural sector. Moreover, your increased support for NWREC would further leverage your county's existing extension tax service district funding through more commodity research and support. Together, we can ensure that NWREC remains a beacon of knowledge, innovation, and progress for Polk County and beyond.

Thank you for your time and ongoing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Staci L. Lionick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Staci" being more prominent.

Dean and Reub Long Professor
Director, Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station