

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2014

1. At 9:06 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Ainsworth and Commissioner Wheeler were present.

2. **MINUTES** **COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2014.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **BLM UPDATE** - Rich Hatfield, Field Manager for Mary's Peak Resource Area and Kim Titus, Salem District Manager with the Bureau of Land Management attended the meeting to provide project updates and discuss the Resource Management Plan. The Resource Management Plan covers Polk County, who is being represented by the Association of Oregon Counties. BLM hopes that the plan will be signed by 2015, and will move forward with the planning effort even though there are current proposals before the legislature for timber management. The previous planning effort was signed in 2008, but was pulled by the Obama administration. The hope with the new Resource Management Plan would be in place for 15-20 years. There is an increased focus on public outreach and are including a broader emphasis on sustained harvest, protecting "old growth", include large reserve for spotted owl, and recreation. A draft of the plan will be out this year.

There are 5-10 timber sales in Polk County expected this year, with three more planning efforts in process, with 15 million board feet on average. So far Polk County has not had much opposition to any of the sales from conservation groups.

Current or recently completed projects include restoration work up the Rickreall Creek, that resulted in BLM receiving an award for Conservation Group of the Year from the Polk Soil & Water Conservation District. The Forest Deputy program is anticipated to end this year due to Polk County funding cuts, so the BLM is looking into other patrol options, so Polk County's priorities for Title II monies is dumpstoppers and noxious weed projects, anticipated to be approximately \$65,000.

There is a public meeting scheduled for March 6 at the Salem Convention Center to discuss Resource Management Plan alternatives.

4. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)
 - a. **CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS** - Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer informed the Board that on President's Day he was contacted by Jim Williams with Representative Thompson's office requesting a list of Capital Outlay projects in the Polk County area. The State is interested in funding some upgrades to the Courthouse Complex, and has about \$2 million dollars for this project, if it is funded. Greg will keep the Board updated.

Chairman Pope adjourned the meeting at 09:47 a.m.

Minutes: Heather Alvarez

Approved: February 25, 2014