

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2016

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Wheeler declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Pope was present. Commissioner Ainsworth was excused.

2. **MINUTES** **COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2016.**

MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

3. **BOARD OF FORESTRY UPDATE**– Mike Totey, District Forester, Jeff Classen, Protection Unit Forester, and Mark, the new Community Wildfire Forester, gave an annual update on their programs.

Mike Totey explained that Polk County has approximately 6,000 State acres, 1,700 Common School Land acres, and over 40,000 O&C acres. Polk County averages harvest of 1 million board feet per years, generating approximately \$250,000 annually for the County. The State Forest Field Program is supposed to run off the revenue generated from timber harvest. However, because of the increasing constraints on threatened and endangered species lands, trying to do timber sales and thinnings to generate revenue is becoming increasingly difficult.

Mike Totey updated the Board of ongoing land use issues around the Black Rock Mountain Bike Association (BRMBA) Trails and Camp Tapawingo. Weyerhaeuser has offered to sell a 25-acre parcel to the BRMBA that would allow access around the Camp Tapawingo property instead of through it, and would alleviate these issues. BRMBA is working to raise funds for this purchase.

In the Private Forests Field Program, the Department has now been using the online notification program for over a year. There were 613 notifications were sent out in Polk county, and two staff members are assigned to follow up with landowners.

Mike Totey also informed the Board that Weyerhaeuser is close to closing a land merger with Plum Creek, who owns large amounts of timber land in Lincoln County.

Last year, Hancock sold approximately 11,000 acres to Starker & Hampton, which are both local companies. There is a shortage of seedlings in the local nurseries, making it difficult for reforestation compliance for some landowners, but mostly compliance is high. There are over 30 pieces of proposed legislation dealing with pesticides, and the Department is waiting to see if these will have an impact on current forest management.

Jeff Classen explained that the last the state is in an ongoing drought causing extended fire seasons for the last three years. This is also causing an increasing number of landowners to experience some timber die-off.

Mike introduced Mark, the new Community Wildfire Forester, who will be continuing work on the Fuels Reduction program. This program grant ends in August. So far, the program has completed fuel reduction on 150 acres in the Pioneer Rd. area, with six projects still active; 39 acres have been completed in the Falls City area, with 41 acres still active; and this program is also working on a fire prevention/fuel reduction project in the Salishan area in Lincoln County. Staff are working to submit continue this program through grant opportunities. Mike also informed the Board that Mark will be working on a project to update the County Wide Prevention Plan (CWPP) over the next couple years.

There was a fire last year in the Ohms Road area that was out of the Board of Forestry boundaries, but the State responded to provide support to the local rural fire protection area and prevent the spread of the fire to District land. Jeff discussed the difficulties of these types of situations where the State resources are requested to be used to fight out of district fires, then the rural fire departments are on the hook to pay for these resources, which can be expensive. Jeff explained that in the 2017-2018 planning, there has been discussion of moving the district boundaries to cover additional rural areas.

4. **LAND USE WEBSITE** – Pat Wheeler and Tremaine Arkley with the Friends of Polk County attended the meeting to request easier access to land use planning docs via the Polk County website. Currently, interested citizens can annually register their email address to receive notifications of Planning Department records, and then citizens can choose to visit the department to pay for copies of these documents. The Friends of Polk County feels that posting these documents online instead would be more convenient for all parties involved. Austin McGuigan, Community Development Director expressed some concern with posting land use applications online due to the sensitive nature of some of the contents, but agrees that most other documents could be made available via the Planning Departments website. Austin explained that there would be a public process via the Planning Commission that would be needed to amend Chapter 11 of the Zoning Ordinance to change the notification process. Austin suggests doing this in the fall as the spring and summer is the building season and historically a busy time for his department.
5. **SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE** – Sheriff Mark Garton gave an update of his department. The Patrol division has made 12 new hires, six of whom are still in DPSST Academy. The division is on track to restore full 24-hour patrol coverage in July, along with reinstatement of the POINT team. There have been eight hires made in the jail, and an additional two pending hires of certified deputies from Coos County. Due to recent leadership changes in the Jail, Sheriff Garton is working to transition the oversight of the Jail to Lt. Isham, and going forward will be using Sergeants to handle the day-to-day operations of the jail instead of a separate Jail Lieutenant.
6. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)
 - a. **LPSCC STAFF GRANT PROPOSAL** – Marty Silbernagel, Community Corrections Director presented a notice of a grant opportunity to staff LPSCC Coordinator to improve capacity and function of the council. After discussion, the Board did not want to pursue this grant opportunity.
 - b. **BUDGET HEARINGS** – Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, announced that Budget Hearings are tentatively scheduled for April 4-7 (Mon – Thurs). The Hearings Monday and Tuesday will be approximately 9am – 4 pm. Hearings Wednesday and Thursday should be approximately 10am – 12pm.
 - c. **UPCOMING EVENTS** – Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director informed the Board that the Polk County Golf Tournament has been scheduled for May 20. Matt is also working to secure a date in the summer for the employee BBQ. Jennifer requested it be scheduled for July as opposed to August.

Commissioner Wheeler adjourned the meeting at 10:15 am.

Minutes: Heather Chase
Approved: March 15, 2016