



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 14, 2017

PRESENT: Scott Hege, County Commissioner
Rod Runyon, Commission Chair

STAFF: Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer
Kathy White, Executive Assistant

ABSENT: Steve Kramer, Vice-Chair

At 11:50 a.m. Chair Runyon opened a Work Session.

Building Codes

Planning Director Angie Brewer reported that she had had a meeting with Stephanie Ziegler, Program Director for MCCOG Building Codes. The meeting included an overview of the transition process and recent decisions from the City of The Dalles. She said that Ms. Ziegler asked that she convey to the Board of Commissioners that time is of the essence – staff needs to know if they are preparing for a transition to a new agency or looking for a new job. She went on to say that the smoothest transition would be for the County to absorb existing staff. She noted that the City has derailed the idea of co-location and we are not sure what partner counties will decide to do. She reminded the Board that MCCOG has set a date of February 1, 2018 for the program’s transition out of MCCOG..

Mr. Stone reported that the State has agreed to take the program temporarily to give us more time to prepare, but they have not yet provided us with the continuation plan which was due last Friday. He said that he is hesitant to engage with the contracting community until we have more answers.

Commissioner Hege responded that even without clear answers, it could be useful to outline the options and get feedback from the contracting community.

Chair Runyon asked if Ms. Ziegler has been in touch with the State. Ms. Brewer

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replied Ms. Ziegler shared that she had spoken with Mark Long at the State. It is Ms. Ziegler's understanding that if the County does not implement the program locally, most services will come out of Salem.

Further discussion ensued regarding where State inspection services are currently based. Commissioner Hege commented that he is concerned that the State solution will not be robust and suggested that it might be better if we take the program to keep the County in a position to continue to work with the City toward a joint program in the future. He noted that the program is designed to pay for itself.

Mr. Stone commented that there is no agreement with MCCOG partners as to how the reserve funds will be allocated when the program moves from MCCOG. He said that Wasco County currently has Building Codes Authority for our county and its municipalities as do the other partner counties. He said he believes they will talk about partnership and want Wasco County to manage the program. He stated that it would be his recommendation that Wasco County run its own program and allow the other counties to contract with us for services. He stated that the program would spend down reserves to a certain level and then run it on a cost basis. Commissioner Hege said that at that point it should be cost-based even for Wasco County. Mr. Stone agreed, saying that he is not sure the partner counties fully understand the proposed agreement.

Commissioner Hege stated that he thinks the agreement is fair. He observed that we might be able to make the program more efficient and bring costs down for everyone. Chair Runyon agreed, saying that perhaps recent years' increases could be rolled back.

Mr. Stone pointed out that there is an option to give the program to the State for a period of 2 years if we are not able to resolve all the issues in the coming months. Commissioner Hege said that doing so would have a negative impact on large projects. He added that he would not want to make that decision without hearing from the contracting community. Mr. Stone replied that staff will redraft the letter to the contracting community and get it sent out. Chair Runyon stated that it is important that they understand what we have done so far.

Commissioner Hege said that we also need to know the state plan so we can determine how to approach a transition. He said that we need to invite the state to that session; they need to share with us how they will manage the program

going forward.

Further discussion ensued regarding possible times and locations for a public listening session and the disposition of the MCCOG Building.

Board Assignments

Ms. White asked if any of the Commissioners are interested in changing any of their Board assignments. Brief discussion ensued regarding the possibility of Commissioner Hege moving from an alternate on the NORCOR Board to the County representative on that Board.

NORCOR

Mr. Stone reported that the Juvenile Oversight Committee is drafting an action plan with inspections and a timeline for implementation. He said that if the facility is deemed safe, the Board can consider taking action to move Wasco County kids back into the facility or the Board can delegate that authority.

Commissioner Hege said that NORCOR would probably like that decision sooner rather than later; he pointed out that the Board really cannot take action until the next Board session which is scheduled for December 27, 2017.

Chair Runyon reported that Oregon Youth Authority representatives would be at NORCOR today. Mr. Stone commented that their findings will likely help to inform the Board's decision.

Wag Bags

Commissioner Hege explained that he would like Board support for a letter to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for changes to an OAR that would allow for the use of human waste bags – commonly referred to as WagBags – as an approved portable toilet on the Deschutes River Scenic Waterway.

*****The Board was in consensus to have staff draft a letter in support of proposed changes to OAR 736-040-0070 for the use of human waste bags on the Deschutes River Scenic Waterway to be signed by the Board Chair.*****

Audit

Finance Director Mike Middleton reported that all information is in to the auditor. He stated that he had to do some research on items that had not been completed by staff. He said that his department is rebuilding staff to be able to

maintain reporting throughout the year which will streamline the audit process.

Chair Runyon asked if staff now has a to-do list. Mr. Middleton replied that those are being developed. He stated that he assumed too much. He added that he will be doing an asset inventory this year.

Commissioner Hege asked if best practice would be daily reconciliation. Mr. Middleton responded that there is daily tracking of inflow and output – that is not connected to the monthly reconciliation.

Chair Runyon adjourned the session at 1:45 p.m.

Summary of Actions

CONSENSUS

- **to have staff draft a letter in support of proposed changes to OAR 736-040-0070 for the use of human waste bags on the Deschutes River Scenic Waterway to be signed by the Board Chair.**

Wasco County
Board of Commissioners



Rod L. Runyon, Board Chair



Steven D. Kramer, Vice-Chair



Scott C. Hege, County Commissioner