

**WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION / AGENDA THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2014
LOCATION: Wasco County Courthouse, Room #302
511 Washington Street, The Dalles, OR 97058**

Public Comment: Individuals wishing to address the Commission on items not already listed on the Agenda may do so during the first half-hour and at other times throughout the meeting; please wait for the current speaker to conclude and raise your hand to be recognized by the Chair for direction. Speakers are required to give their name and address. Please limit comments to five minutes, unless extended by the Chair.

Departments: Are encouraged to have their issue added to the Agenda in advance. When that is not possible the Commission will attempt to make time to fit you in during the first half-hour or between listed Agenda items.

NOTE: With the exception of Public Hearings, the Agenda is subject to last minute changes; times are approximate – please arrive early. **Meetings are ADA accessible.** For special accommodations please contact the Commission Office in advance, (541) 506-2520. TDD 1-800-735-2900.

9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Items without a designated appointment may be rearranged to make the best use of time. Other matters may be discussed as deemed appropriate by the Board.

- Corrections or Additions to the Agenda
- Administrative Officer - Tyler Stone: Comments
- [Discussion Items](#) (Items of general Commission discussion, not otherwise listed on the Agenda)
- [Consent Agenda](#) (Items of a routine nature: minutes, documents, items previously discussed.)

9:00 a.m.

[**Order for Final Public Hearing on the Formation of Road District**](#)

**NEW / OLD BUSINESS
COMMISSION CALL / REPORTS
ADJOURN**



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION
JULY 24, 2014

PRESENT: Scott Hege, Commission Chair
Rod Runyon, County Commissioner
Steve Kramer, County Commissioner
Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer

STAFF: Kathy White, Executive Assistant

At 9:00 a.m. Chair Hege opened the Special Session of the Board of Commissioners with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. White asked that the Gorge Hubs Partnership Proclamation be added to the Discussion List.

Public Comment – Road District

Chair Hege explained that today's special session had been called to consider an order to hold a public hearing on August 6th regarding the proposed Road District. He stated that while the public is welcome to speak at today's special session, testimony will be taken at the public hearing.

Lavelle Underhill expressed some frustration with the noticing of the meetings and hearings. She suggested that the County budget and public notices be published on the front page of The Dalles Chronicle.

Chair Hege explained that the County cannot dictate the placement of the notices in

the paper. He stated that the budget is published in the paper and is also available on the County website. He observed that the LB1 form on the website is a more digestible summary of the budget than the full budget document which is also available online. He added that citizens are welcome to call members of the Board or the County Finance Director with any questions they have about the budget.

Chuck Covert, Chair of the Wasco County Road Advisory Committee (RAC), asked if the budget process is open to the public. Chair Hege responded affirmatively saying that the Wasco County Budget Committee is comprised of the three County Commissioners along with three appointed citizens.

Agenda Item – Public Hearing Order

Public Works Director Marty Matherly stated that the Special Session had been called to bring forward an order identifying that the next public hearing regarding the proposed Road District will be held on August 6th. Commissioner Hege asked for confirmation that this order is merely detailing the hearing date, time, place and topic. Mr. Matherly stated that that is precisely what the order does.

{{{Commissioner Kramer moved to approve Order #14-068 in the matter of approving the formation of a Road Service District for Wasco County Oregon. Commissioner Runyon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Chair Hege noted that there had been some comments at the July 16, 2014, Maupin hearing that there should be another hearing held in the southern part of the County. He asked County Clerk Linda Brown to explain the process of bringing it to the November Ballot.

Ms. Brown explained that it must be submitted to the Clerk's Office no later than August 15, 2014. She said that the County has to put the measure in the voters' pamphlet along with an explanatory comment. She stated that in the past the County has submitted at least a couple of days ahead of the deadline in order to allow the public time to submit positions for the voters' pamphlet in support or opposition of proposed measures. She noted that there is a \$300 County fee to submit positions to the voters' pamphlet which is less than what the County pays to the State for those submissions. She added that County Counsel will have to draft the measure.

Mr. Covert wondered if people from the southern part of the County would be willing to attend The Dalles meeting. He added that he thinks the next hearing should include a presentation by the RAC which would answer a lot of the questions that were brought forward at the last hearing. Some discussion ensued around the ideal length of the presentation with a consensus that there should be a presentation of some sort at the beginning future hearings. Project Manager Arthur Smith noted that the public can access the presentation as well as the RAC's Feasibility Report on the front page of the County website.

Mr. Covert explained that the committee worked with the agricultural community and explored many ideas. He reported that he recently attended a meeting with Oregon's US Representative Greg Smith and was able to focus his attention on the issue of County roads. He said that Rep. Smith had expressed interest in the issue and would welcome an invitation to a joint meeting with the Commissioners, the RAC and State Representative John Huffman to discuss it further.

Chair Hege asked Ms. White to explain the limitations in planning an additional hearing prior to the August 15th deadline. Ms. White explained that public hearings require two legal notices to be published – one at least fifteen days prior to the hearing and one at least five days prior to the hearing. Furthermore, the newspaper requires 48 hours' notice prior to the scheduled publication date. She said that the result of those requirements is that there are only four possible days to hold the hearing – August 11th, 12th, 13th or 14th.

Commissioner Kramer suggested that August 11th would allow the most time to finalize as well as giving the public more time to submit comments for the voters' pamphlet. Mr. Smith said that the Dufur School cafeteria might be available for the hearing.

Commissioner Kramer moved to amend his previous motion approving Order #14-068 to have the order include a hearing to be held at 5:30 p.m., Monday, August 11, 2014, at the Dufur School cafeteria. Commissioner Runyon seconded the motion. Commissioner Runyon commented that there seems to be a misconception about what the Board is doing. He explained that the Board is not pushing anything but rather bringing the recommendation of the RAC forward to the public. He added that the RAC

has worked for many months to find solutions to the road issue. He stated that this is for the public to decide – the Board is holding hearings to listen to the will of the people; it could be that the Board will decide to not take it forward to the ballot. He concluded by saying that the intent of the Board is to educate the public and let them make the decision. The motion passed unanimously.}}}

One member of the public asked if testimony he provided at a previous hearing would be weighed. Chair Hege explained that all testimony will be considered.

Another member of the public complained that people are not hearing about the meetings or the issue. Chair Hege asked Ms. White to explain what methods the County employs to notice the hearings.

Ms. White explained that the hearings are noticed in The Dalles Chronicle twice. In addition, information is sent to local radio stations and notices are posted at all libraries and post offices throughout the County. She said that the information is always posted to the County website and citizens can sign-up for email notifications for agendas as well as a variety of County newsletters.

A member of the public said that as she understands it the Board plans to take it to a ballot. She stated that if ranchers knew they would be outraged. Chair Hege said that the Board is gathering information; no decision has been made about going forward. He stated that not a lot of support was expressed for the Road District at the Maupin hearing. He asked her how the Board might better connect with the public. She replied that she did not know.

Mr. Covert noted that the RAC made well over 30 presentations throughout the County, many of which were in the southern portion of the County. Chair Hege added that if it goes forward everyone will have the opportunity to be heard by casting their ballot.

Ms. Underhill stated that she feels that if it goes to the ballot, it is sealed in stone. She asked why the Board has not gone to the State for funds.

Chair Hege replied that they have been doing that for more than ten years. He

explained that there used to be timber harvests in the County of which the County would receive 25% of the revenue for forest harvests. However, the spotted owl issue wiped out harvest in the forest decreasing that funding source from \$2 million to \$135,000. For a time the federal government replaced those funds but that has been declining; this year the County received \$600,000 and the government has sent notice that there will be no more funding available going forward. He explained that if those funds ever come back, the County can reduce the District tax commensurately. He stated that a Road District is not something that the RAC likes either, but they feel it is the best solution. This is a potential solution that the people can vote on.

Ms. Underhill asked what the plan is if the measure fails.

Chair Hege said that, in his opinion, the roads will continue to decline. He said that the Association of Oregon Counties believes there might be another way to fund the Schools to Roads program but it is not a sure bet. He stated that there is no easy solution which is why the RAC spent eighteen months exploring the issue.

Ken Polehn, Local orchardist and member of the RAC, stated that most of today's questions were also debated in committee – at the end of the day, to have a long-term, sustainable fix, the Road District was the best solution. He explained that there are laws restricting from where road funding can originate. He said that he, too, is a landowner and it will cost him dearly, but the citizens have made a significant investment in the roads and we cannot let them go back to dirt.

A member of the public said that the County has targeted the least informed and greatest underserved population which will have the smallest voice in the election. Chair Hege explained that that will be the only population voting as the City of The Dalles and Mosier have both not opted into the proposed District and therefore those populations will not be voting on the measure.

Chair Hege recessed the session at 9:47 a.m.

The session reconvened at 9:52 a.m.

Discussion Item – Gorge Hubs Partnership Proclamation

Chair Hege asked if everyone had had the opportunity to review the proclamation

(attached). Everyone had read the document.

{{{Commissioner Kramer moved to approve the Proclamation of Partners for the Development of Gorge Hubs. Commissioner Runyon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Chair Hege closed the hearing and adjourned the session at 9:53 a.m.

Summary of Actions

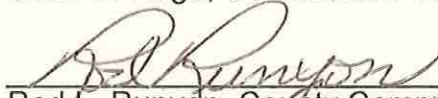
Motions Passed

- To approve Order #14-068 in the matter of approving the formation of a Road Service District for Wasco County Oregon.
- To amend his previous motion approving Order #14-068 to have the order include a hearing to be held at 5:30 p.m., Monday, August 11, 2014, at the Dufur School cafeteria.
- To approve the Proclamation of Partners for the Development of Gorge Hubs.

WASCO COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS



Scott C. Hege, Commission Chair



Rod L. Runyon, County Commissioner



Steven D. Kramer, County Commissioner

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
WASCO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING)
THE FORMATION OF A ROAD) O R D E R
SERVICE DISTRICT) #14-068
FOR WASCO COUNTY, OREGON)

NOW ON THIS DAY, the above-entitled matter having come before the Board for consideration, said day being one duly set in term for the transaction of public business and a majority of the Board being present; and

IT APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That the Board of Commissioners for Wasco County intends to form a Road Service District (District) under authority of ORS 451.010(1)(L). The Board has initiated the creation of the District as authorized by ORS 198.835. The name of the proposed District is the Wasco County Road Service District; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That the District will have the general powers granted by ORS Chapter 451 (the "Principal Act") and the specific powers granted by ORS 451.550. The District will provide for Roads per ORS 451.010(1)(L); and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That the Board of Commissioners will serve as the governing body of the District as provided by ORS 451.485; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That county voters will be asked to establish the district with a permanent rate limit for the District's operations as authorized by ORS 451.547. The District will have authority to levy and collect general property taxes to create a fund to finance its operations.

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That, on July 16, 2014, the Board heard public testimony and received written comment about Road Service needs, economic feasibility and a permanent tax rate limit;

NOW THEREFORE: The Board has determined, in accordance with criteria described in ORS 199.462, that a Road Service District could be of benefit to the county and its residents; and

NOW THEREFORE: The Board approves its Order of Initiation and Order for First Hearing, June 25, 2014; and

NOW THEREFORE; The Board has determined that the proposed tax rate limit of \$2.0334 per \$1000 of assessed value is economically feasible; and

NOW THEREFORE: The Board determines that the boundaries of the District shall include all territory within Wasco County, excluding the Mt. Hood National Forest, the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, and the cities of The Dalles and Mosier, but including the territory within the incorporated cities of Antelope, Dufur, Maupin and

Shaniko. As required by ORS 198.835(3), certified copies of the City Council Resolutions of each city approving this Initiation Order were attached to the Order for First Hearing dated (date of initiation); and

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: That 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 6, Room 301, Wasco County Courthouse, 511 Washington Street, The Dalles, OR, be fixed as the date, time and place for the final Public Hearing on the formation of the Wasco County Road Service District, in accordance with ORS 198.810(2). All interested persons may appear and be heard. At that time, the Board of Commissioners may order an election on the question of formation and approval of the permanent tax rate limit, in accordance with ORS 198.810(4)(a).

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED: That the Executive Assistant will cause to be printed in The Dalles Chronicle, a newspaper of general circulation in Wasco County, a Notice of such hearing, said Notice to be printed on July 20, 2014, and July 30, 2014; and

The notice shall state that the Board has entered an order approving and declaring its intent to form the District, the purpose for which the District is to be formed, the name and boundaries of the proposed district, the time and place of the final hearing, and that the final hearing and election shall be ordered pursuant to ORS 198.810(4)(a); and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED: That the County Surveyor will cause to be prepared a legal description and map of the proposed District, consistent with the

requirements of ORS 308.225, and submit it to the Oregon Department of Revenue and the Assessor prior to March 31, 2015.

DATED this 24th day of July, 2014.

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Scott C. Hege, Commission Chair

Rod L. Runyon, County Commissioner

Steven D. Kramer, County Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Eric J. Nisley
Wasco County District Attorney

Gorge Hubs

Bridging the Gap Between the Historic Highway State Trail and Gorge Communities

A proclamation of partners for the Development of Gorge Hubs

The Gorge Hubs as a general concept will act as welcome centers, information centers, trailheads, and rest areas for travelers (especially hikers and bikers) along the Historic Highway. Building upon the work of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail and community partnerships within the Gorge, we have gathered to participate in the development of a network of Gorge Hubs.

We, the undersigned, agree to participate in the implementation of the Historic Columbia River Highway and State Trail Gorge Hub Project. We agree to identify opportunities and solutions whenever possible, to contribute assistance and support within resource limits, and to communicate and collaborate with other team members in promoting a coordinated Historic Highway Recreational Gorge Hub System.

We, the undersigned, also agree that separate Intergovernmental or Cooperative Improvement Agreements may be required between affected participating parties. Said agreement(s) must be executed prior to the construction of Project elements, or financial contributions made toward such a Project.

As evidenced by our signatures below, we agree to come together to celebrate this partnership and dedicate ourselves to contributing to the creation of a plan and design tool kit for the sustainable development of the Gorge Hubs.

Signature

Title, Organization

Date