



## AGENDA: REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

<https://wascocounty-org.zoom.us/j/3957734524> OR Dial [1-253-215-8782](tel:1-253-215-8782) Meeting ID: 3957734524#

**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 from three 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. If you require an interpreter, please contact the Commission Office at least 7 days in advance.

*Las reuniones son ADA accesibles. Por tipo de alojamiento especiales, por favor póngase en contacto con la Oficina de la Comisión de antemano, (541) 506-2520. TDD 1-800-735-2900. Si necesita un intérprete por favor, póngase en contacto con la Oficina de la Comisión por lo menos siete días de antelación.*

*In light of the current COVID-19 crisis, the Board will be meeting electronically. You can join the meeting at <https://wascocounty-org.zoom.us/j/3957734524> or call in to [1-253-215-8782](tel:1-253-215-8782) Meeting ID: 3957734524#*

*We appreciate your patience as we continue to try to serve the public during this time. Please use the chat function to submit real-time questions or comments. You can also submit comments/questions to the Board anytime on our webpage: [Your County, Your Voice](#)*

9:00 a.m.	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b> 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. <b>Corrections or Additions to the Agenda</b> <b>Discussion Items:</b> <a href="#">COVID Updates</a> ; <a href="#">Transportation RFP Responses/Bid Opening</a> ; <a href="#">Mosier Watershed Council Appointment</a> ; <a href="#">Burn Ban</a> ; <a href="#">USS Oregon Proclamation</a> (Items of general Commission discussion, not otherwise listed on the Agenda) <b>Consent Agenda:</b> <a href="#">5.5.2021 Regular Session Minutes</a> (Items of a routine nature: minutes, documents, items previously discussed.)
10:00 a.m.	<a href="#">CAFFA Application Amendment</a> – Jill Amery
10:10 a.m.	<a href="#">White River Update</a> – Kameron Sam/Andrew Spaeth
10:30 a.m.	<a href="#">Executive Session – Pursuant to 192.660(2)(h) Conferring with Legal Counsel</a>
	<b>COMMISSION CALL</b>
	<b>NEW/OLD BUSINESS</b>
	<b>ADJOURN</b>

If necessary, an Executive Session may be held in accordance with: ORS 192.660(2)(a) – Employment of Public Officers, Employees & Agents, ORS 192.660(2)(b) – Discipline of Public Officers & Employees, ORS 192.660(2)(d) – Labor Negotiator Consultations, ORS 192.660(2)(e) – Real Property Transactions, ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection, ORS 192.660(2)(g) – Trade Negotiations, ORS 192.660(2)(h) – Conferring with Legal Counsel regarding litigation, ORS 192.660(2)(i) – Performance Evaluations of Public Officers & Employees, ORS 192.660(2)(j) – Public Investments, ORS 192.660(2)(m) – Security Programs, ORS 192.660(2)(n) – Labor Negotiations



**WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

**MAY 19, 2021**

This meeting was held on Zoom

<https://wascocounty-org.zoom.us/j/3957734524>

or call in to [1-253-215-8782](tel:1-253-215-8782) Meeting ID: 3957734524#

**PRESENT:** Scott Hege, Chair  
Kathy Schwartz, Vice-Chair  
Steve Kramer, County Commissioner

**STAFF:** Kathy Clark, Executive Assistant  
Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer

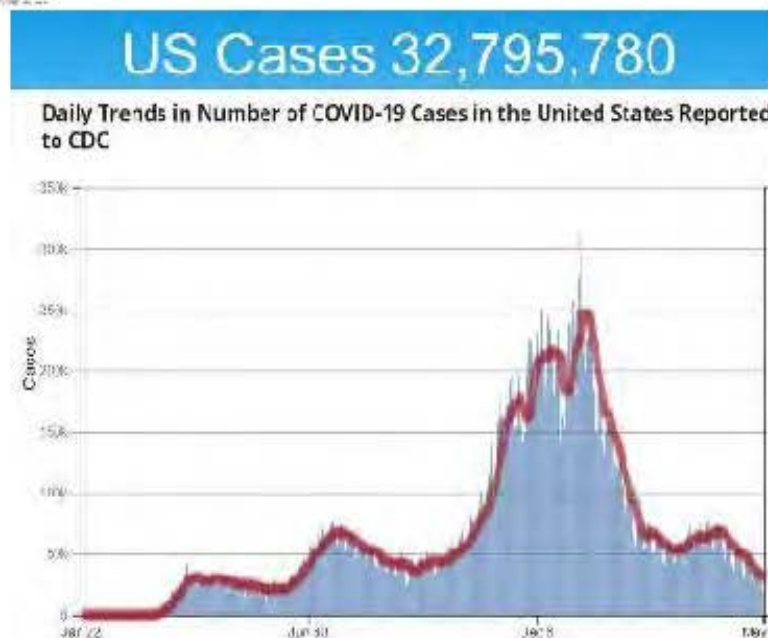
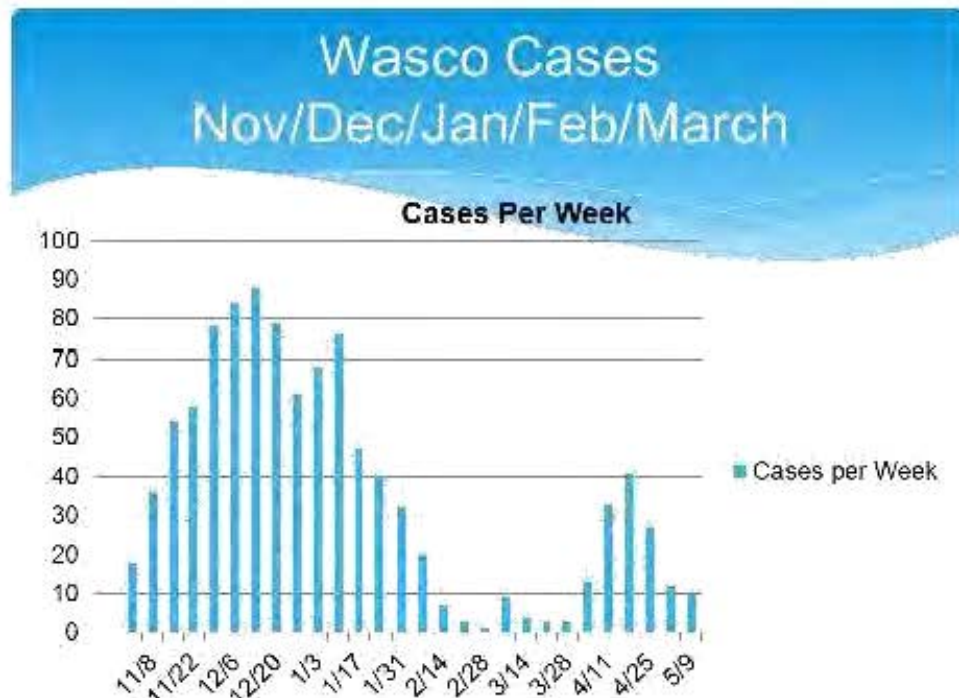
Chair Hege opened the session at 9:00 a.m.

**Discussion Item – NCPHD COVID-19 Update**

North Central Public Health District Medical Officer Dr. Mimi McDonell reviewed the up-to-date statistics for the tri-county region.

County Level Data: Cases and deaths to date	
<b>Wasco</b>	
• Total	<b>1384</b>
• Deaths	<b>28</b>
<b>• Sherman</b>	
• Total	<b>58</b>
• Deaths	<b>1</b>
<b>• Gilliam</b>	
• Total	<b>63</b>
• Deaths	<b>1</b>

Dr. McDonell went on to review the trends in Wasco County from November, 2020 through May 9, 2021. She pointed out that the Wasco County trend is very similar to the trend across the state and country as illustrated on the following slides.



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MAY 19, 2021  
PAGE 3

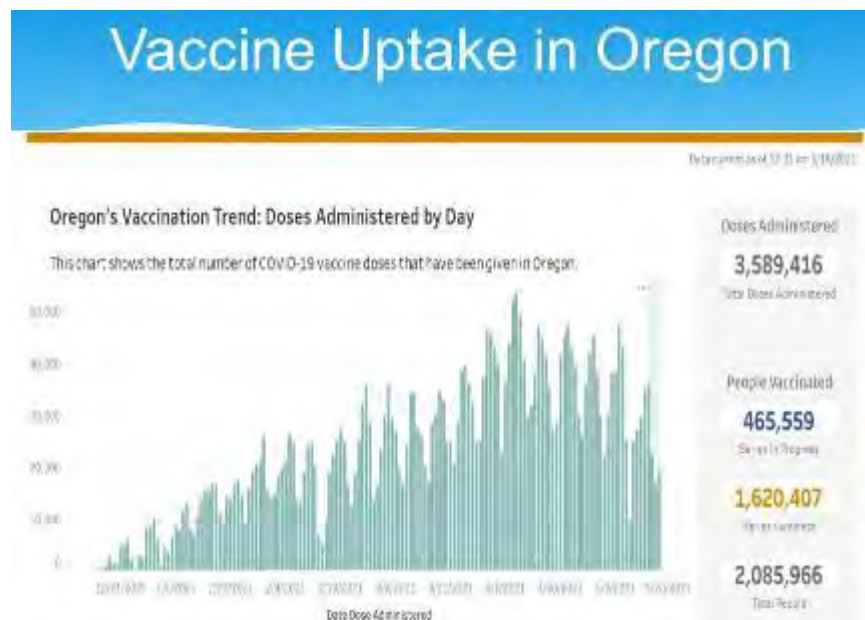
Dr. McDonnell reported that there are still over 300 COVID patients in Oregon hospitals. She then reviewed the metrics and risk levels for area counties. She explained that the system used to move counties has returned to the two week cycle – one warning week (counties are notified of their upcoming risk category assignment) followed by a movement week (counties actually move into the assigned risk category). Once a county has reached a minimum of 65% of all adult residents (16 years and older) vaccinated, they are permanently assigned to the Lower Risk Category; Hood River County has reached that benchmark. Counties reaching the 65% minimum do not have to wait for a movement week to change to the Lower Risk Category.

County 2 week metrics		
5/2-5/15	Count	% positivity
Wasco	22	2.3%
Sherman	1	2.2%
Gilliam	6	0.0 %

### County Risk Levels starting Friday May 18 "Warning Week"

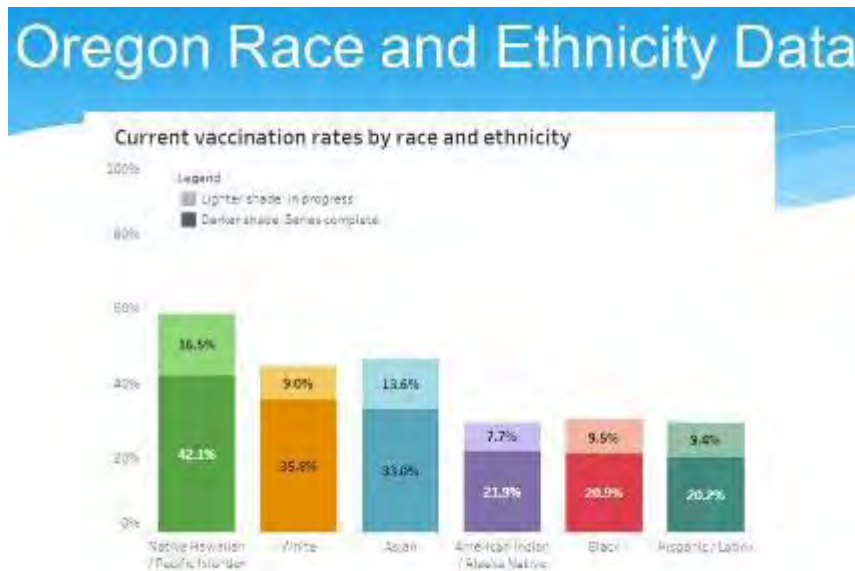
- Wasco County remaining in Moderate
- Sherman remaining in Lower
- Gilliam remaining in Lower
- Hood River moving to Lower ( due to >65% of adults being vaccinated )

The following slide illustrates the vaccination trends by day in Oregon. The sharp dips in the graph generally represent the weekends.

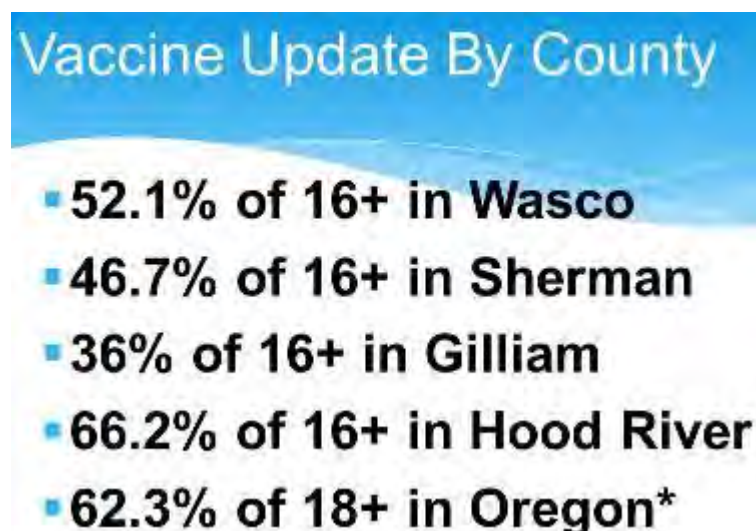




The data represented on the following slide is generally representative of the vaccination rates within the various groups; it is difficult to report with pinpoint accuracy as people do not always accurately report their ethnicity – they sometimes select other rather than selecting a listed category. That causes underreporting. The chart reveals that there are populations not being vaccinated. The Governor has tasked the Public Health Departments around the state to enhance their outreach efforts to the under-vaccinated populations.



The following slide outlines the vaccination uptake in our area and in the state. The State is 18 and up rather than 16 and up due to the process of incorporating federal vaccination efforts within the State of Oregon.



Dr. McDonnell noted that the State recently released updated mask guidance. She said that the roll out will take some time. She said they are hoping for more guidance for schools from the Oregon Department of Education in collaboration with Oregon Health Authority. Of course people who have been vaccinated can still wear a mask if they choose.

## COVID-19 News from CDC/OHA Outdoors

- ✳️ Masks no longer required\*
- \*does not include K-12
- ✳️ However, OHA **strongly** recommends unvaccinated or high risk individuals continue to wear a mask in crowded areas or large gatherings

## COVID-19 News from CDC/OHA Indoors

Regardless of requirements in other state guidance related to COVID-19, individuals who are fully vaccinated with **proof of vaccination** status are not required to wear a mask, face covering or face shield, or maintain physical distancing EXCEPT:

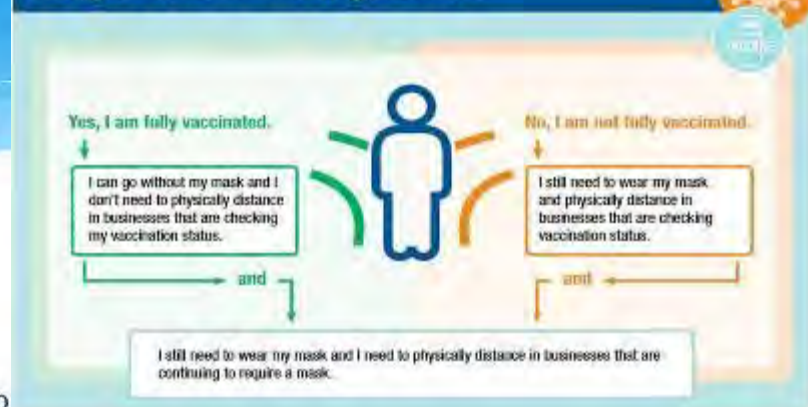
- Health care
- Jails and correctional facilities
- K-12
- Public transportation
- Businesses which continue to require masks

## Masks continued

**All businesses, employers and faith institutions are required to:**

- Continue to apply and enforce the mask and physical distancing requirements to all individuals unless a business, employer or faith institution:
  - ☐ Has a policy for checking for proof of vaccination status of individuals; **and**
  - ☐ Requests proof of vaccination status from each individual; **and**
  - ☐ Reviews each individual's proof of vaccination prior to entry or admission

## Oregon's new mask guidance



Oregon Health

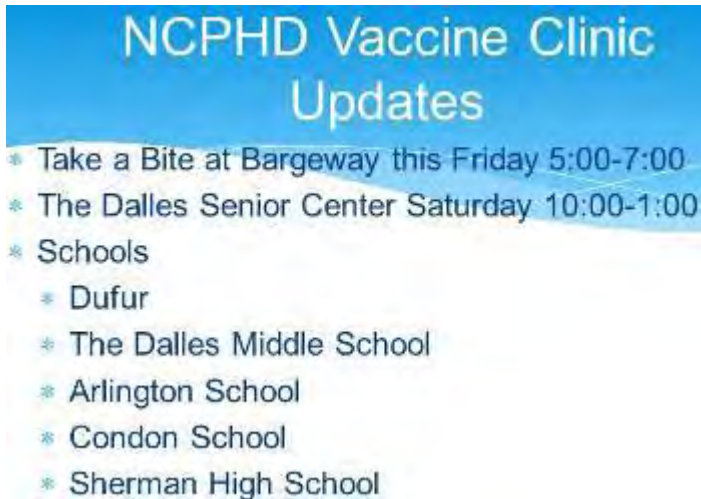
Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the Health Information Center at 1-877-644-2411 711 TTY or (503) 261-1911 or <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ohia/Statewide/Statewide.aspx>.

04A 2724 (5/18/2021)

Dr. McDonnell reminded everyone that “fully vaccinated” means being two weeks past their final dose of vaccine. She emphasized that businesses still have the right to require masks for entry to their building. Since it would take a good deal of effort to check every customer’s vaccination status upon entry, she surmised that many businesses may continue to require all customers to wear masks. She said she expects further guidance on masks in coming weeks.

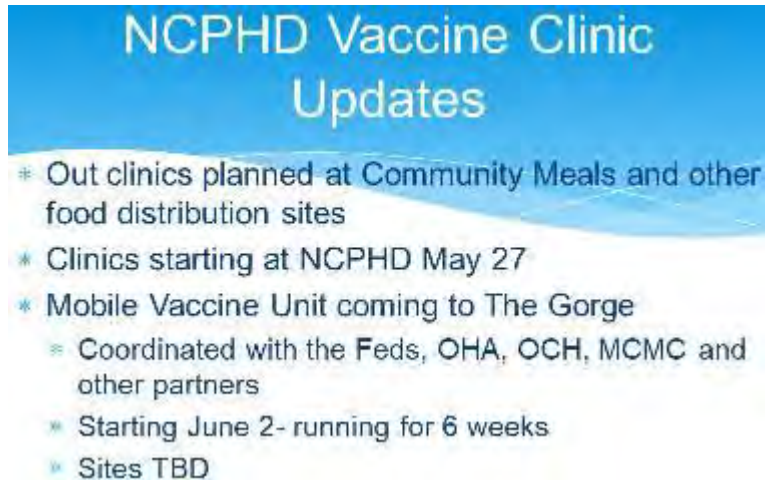
WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MAY 19, 2021  
PAGE 6

Dr. McDonell reviewed upcoming vaccination clinics. She announced that the Pfizer vaccine has been approved for children ages 12 and over. In addition to NCPHD's efforts, there will be a mobile vaccination unit in the Gorge starting June 2 and remaining for 6 weeks.



**NCPHD Vaccine Clinic Updates**

- \* Take a Bite at Bargeway this Friday 5:00-7:00
- \* The Dalles Senior Center Saturday 10:00-1:00
- \* Schools
  - \* Dufur
  - \* The Dalles Middle School
  - \* Arlington School
  - \* Condon School
  - \* Sherman High School



**NCPHD Vaccine Clinic Updates**

- \* Out clinics planned at Community Meals and other food distribution sites
- \* Clinics starting at NCPHD May 27
- \* Mobile Vaccine Unit coming to The Gorge
  - \* Coordinated with the Feds, OHA, OCH, MCMC and other partners
  - \* Starting June 2- running for 6 weeks
  - \* Sites TBD

Vice-Chair Schwartz asked when Wasco County might move back into the Lower Risk Category. Dr. McDonell replied that if our numbers remain low, we will move on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Vice-Chair Schwartz commented that she remembers hearing that the rate for people returning for their second dose of vaccine is around 95%. Dr. McDonell confirmed that across the state the rate of return for a second dose is about 95%.

Vice-Chair Schwartz observed that since businesses can decide whether to require masks or check vaccine records, she would presume that their first priority would be their employees. She applauded NCPHD's efforts to get people vaccinated.

Chair Hege pointed out that Gilliam County has a 0% positivity rate and commented that it seems unusual. Dr. McDonell said that some of that is due to the timing differential between when a test is taken and when results are reported in the count. In addition, there have just not been that many cases in Gilliam County. They continue to test, but there have not been many positives.

Chair Hege asked if contact tracing is still occurring. Dr. McDonell responded affirmatively. She explained that if someone tests positive, they will get a call to collect information on close contacts. However, NCPHD is only able to contact people if they have the correct phone number and the person answers their phone. The goal is to help protect people by controlling the spread.

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MAY 19, 2021  
PAGE 7

Chair Hege reported that at the last Mosier City Council meeting, they discussed having a vaccination event in the Mosier area. He asked if there are any plans for that. Dr. McDonell replied that she has not been contacted regarding that request, but would be happy to work with them to set that up. She noted that the Mosier zip code residents are pretty well vaccinated.

Chair Hege asked if Dr. McDonell has any sense of when Wasco County might reach the 65% threshold for vaccinations. Dr. McDonell responded that uptake has slowed to 1-2% per week which means that it is likely to take months rather than weeks to reach that level.

Chair Hege asked if checking someone's vaccination status is a HIPPA violation. Dr. McDonell explained that there are instances where HIPPA does not apply – a pandemic being one. She went on to say that vaccination requirements are not new; schools and universities have been making it a requirement.

Chair Hege asked if businesses can require employees to be vaccinated. Dr. McDonell replied that they can although exceptions must be made for medical contraindications and religious grounds. She said that most businesses have not been eager to take that step but many schools and universities have been making it a requirement.

Chair Hege commented that 70% has been the stated threshold for the state to lift most restrictions. Dr. McDonell confirmed, saying that the 65% threshold for counties is an incentive for residents to get vaccinated.

Chair Hege asked how a business would go about checking vaccination status should they choose to not require masks for entry. Dr. McDonell said that this is challenging for businesses and there have not been conversations with the state for strategies to manage it.

Rodger Nichols asked how we can tell if someone has been fully vaccinated. Dr. McDonell replied that you cannot tell just by looking at someone. It is a risk everyone will take – if you are at high risk or in a very crowded environment, you should wear a mask. Chair Hege said that just as we do when we drive on the roads with others – to some extent we have to trust one another.

Vice-Chair Schwartz added that if you are fully vaccinated, you can move about with comfort – you are pretty well covered even if around those who are not vaccinated. If you are high-risk or in a crowded environment, it is a good idea to wear a mask even if you are fully vaccinated. Chair Hege observed that there is also some frustration for those who have been vaccinated and still being required to wear a mask. If we can get more people vaccinated, we can all go without masks.

Vice-Chair Schwartz related that she has had some experience with this. It was not always a requirement for health care workers to get flu vaccines. At one organization where she



worked, they had encouraged workers to be vaccinated but many did not. When they instituted a policy that required employees to either be vaccinated or wear a mask, many who had not been vaccinated lined up to do so rather than have to wear a mask all day. It was a huge incentive.

Chair Hege thanked NCPHD for their work and informative presentation.

Chair Hege opened the floor to public comment – there was none.

#### Discussion Item – Transportation Services RFP Responses

Administrative Services Director Matthew Klebes stated that the Request for Proposals was issued on April 14<sup>th</sup> and closed on May 14<sup>th</sup>. We received one response which came from Mid-Columbia Economic Development District for a local contribution of \$20,000 per year over the next 3 years. The Public Transit Advisory Committee will meet tomorrow to review the proposal and provide a recommendation for the Board to consider at the next Board Session.

#### Discussion Item – Mosier Watershed Council Appointment

Ms. Clark explained that a vacancy exists on the Mosier Watershed Council. The Council has reviewed Mary Bushman's application and supports her appointment to the Council.

**{{Vice-Chair Schwartz moved to approve Order 21-033 appointing Mary Bushman to the Mosier Watershed Council. Commissioner Kramer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}**

#### Discussion Item – Burn Ban

Ms. Clark reviewed the memo included in the Board Packet. Chair Hege commented that for those in rural areas, now is the time to do the work to make your property defensible. Vice-Chair Schwartz pointed out that there are a lot of resources available on the Planning website and their social media as well as a video on the Commissioners' webpages.

**{{Vice-Chair Schwartz moved to approve Order 21-034 declaring a ban on burning in Wasco County, Oregon. Commissioner Kramer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}**

#### Discussion Item – USS Oregon Proclamation

Mr. Stone explained that the USS Oregon Commissioning Committee is looking for contributions for the commissioning event in June. While we are not in a position to sponsor the event, we can show our support through this proclamation. He explained that this is the second naval vessel in US history to be named for the State of Oregon; the first was a ship commissioned in 1890 and decommissioned in the 1950s. This vessel is a Virginia-class submarine. More information can be found online:

<https://ussoregonssn793.org/index.php?i=Ship2>

**{{{Vice-Chair Schwartz moved to adopt the proclamation celebrating the christening of the USS Oregon. Commissioner Kramer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}**

**Consent Agenda – 5.5.2021 Regular Session Minutes**

**{{{Chair Hege moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice-Chair Schwartz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}**

**Agenda Item – Amended CAFFA Grant Application**

County Assessor Jill Amery explained that the review team at the Department of Revenue had been notified of our ongoing project for ORMAP remapping. They let us know that the ORMAP work can be included in our CAFFA funding application. The last paragraph on page 3 of the application has been added to the original application

Chair Hege commented that we have been working on ORMAP remapping for years, He commended the County Survey staff – Surveyor Brad Cross and Survey Tech Ivan Donahue – for their diligent work on this project. Ms. Amery agreed saying that the work is very important and helpful.

**{{{Commissioner Kramer moved to approve the amended 2021 CAFFA Grant application. Vice-Chair Schwartz seconded the application which passed unanimously.}}}**

**Agenda Item – Forest Collaborative Update**

Commissioner Kramer introduced Barlow Ranger District Ranger Kameron Sam and Wasco County Forest Collaborative Facilitator Andrew Spaeth.

Mr. Spaeth reviewed a presentation (attached) to outline what the Collaborative has done, is doing and plans for the future. He explained that the Wasco County Forest Collaborative emerged, like many other Collaboratives in Oregon, as a response to the timber wars and the changing social values and science around forest ecosystems. The Wasco County Forest Collaborative was established in 2015 in partnership with the Wasco County Board of Commissioners and includes a broad constituency of stakeholders interested in the health of forest ecosystems, economic vitality and quality of life in Wasco County. This group provides the Mount Hood National Forest with consensus-based proposals for management of National Forest System lands.

Collaboration is successful when stakeholders can agree upon common problems and objectives. The Wasco County Forest Collaborative is working to mitigate the issues caused by 100 years of fire suppression, the impacts of past management practices and climate change. These conditions across the west have led to more frequent and intense wildfire seasons and created heightened susceptibility to disease and infestations as well as drought-related mortality in the forests.

The group conducts regular meetings and field trips to understand what the local partners' interests and values are related to the management of specific areas so they can find solutions that will meet multiple goals and objectives. They welcome public participation and work to build relationships and trust between historical adversaries as they document agreements. They make decisions based on consensus votes of the appointed Steering Committee members.

Mr. Spaeth listed the members of the Steering Committee and the segment they represent:

## STEERING COMMITTEE

- Tribal – **Bob Sjolund**, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Community Wildfire Protection – **Kristin Dodd**, Oregon Department of Forestry
- State Agency – **Jeremy Thompson**, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Private Landowner – **Larry Magill**, Wamie Rural Fire District
- Water Resources – **Pat Davis**, White River Watershed Council
- Recreation and Tourism – **Kathy Long**, NOMAC
- Local Government – **Ryan Bessette**, Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Environmental – **Brenna Bell**, Bark
- Forest Products – **Jeremy Grose**, SDS Lumber Co.
- At-Large – **Rich Thurman**, Retired Wildlife Biologist
- At-Large – **John Nelson**, School District 21 Board Member

Mr. Spaeth said he wants to recognize the leadership of the Commission for appointing such a great group of people to work with. Each member invests time and energy into the work of the Collaborative. The diverse group supports strong and effective governance.

Mr. Spaeth reviewed some of the Collaborative's recent accomplishments:

## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Science-based, socially supported
- Rocky Restoration Project
- South Pen Insect and Disease Project
- Pollywog Insect and Disease Project
- Joint Chiefs Award
- White River Salvage Project

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MAY 19, 2021  
PAGE 11

Mr. Spaeth said that where they find strong agreement in science-based, socially supported projects. He reported that they have been fortunate to have a lot of leading scientists from Oregon State University and the Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Center as well as local practitioners and managers who share their knowledge and expertise to inform a lot of the Collaborative agreements and discussions. This has resulted in no litigation for any of the Collaborative projects to date. That is an accomplishment in which the group takes great pride.

The Rocky Restoration, South Pen Insect and Disease and Pollywog Insect and Disease Projects all had signed agreements. These three projects will result in treatment of over 14,000 acres of National Forest land located in central Wasco County. They have been able to leverage additional resources through the Joint Chiefs Award which is a national competitive grant program administered by the USDA to support treatment on adjacent ODF&W White River game management areas as well as helping support adjacent private land owners who want to conduct forest health and wildfire risk reduction treatment. In fiscal year 2020, they were awarded \$563,000 to help implement treatments. For fiscal year 2021, the award is \$1.34 million over 3 years. In the next few months they will learn what the fiscal year 2022 award will be. He stated that Mr. Sam and his team have been instrumental in getting the Collaborative through the planning process and working hard to get the resources needed to achieve the outcomes.

Mr. Spaeth stated that the White River Salvage project is a 250 acre project that the Collaborative developed agreements around and worked with the Forest Service on following the wildfire of August/September 2020. He explained that there are currently 32 or 33 Collaboratives in the State of Oregon; the Wasco County Collaborative is 1 of only 5 that have been able to develop agreements for salvage projects.

Mr. Spaeth went on to review some details of the various projects including mastication, thinning and controlled burns to reduce and manage combustible ground foliage that contribute to the uncontrolled spread of wildfire as well as infestations and disease in the ecosystem.

Mr. Sam stated that the Forest Service values the shared stewardship of the forest – looking at forest health, managing wildfire and protecting water resources as well as providing recreational opportunities. A lot of great ideas come from the multiple stakeholders represented in the Collaborative. This provides a foundation for the Good Neighbor Authority agreements. The Collaborative is a big part of bridging the gaps between the Forest Service, Federal agencies and private landowners. These efforts are building a model for shared stewardship to demonstrate that it can be done and is a good investment in trying to protect the land through forest health. He said that he is very happy to work with the Collaborative and continue to build on what has already been accomplished.

Vice-Chair Schwartz commented that the building of relationships is so important; she is



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MAY 19, 2021  
PAGE 12

very impressed that there has not been any litigation. She asked how OSU is involved. Mr. Spaeth replied that they present on request and educate the Collaborative on current and upcoming management techniques. In addition, the State is funding positions around the state to support these efforts. Our contact for the program is Amanda Roe who attended a recent Collaborative meeting to provide an update on State activities and the work being done at OSU.

Vice-Chair Schwartz said that she was not aware that the Collaborative was also involved in the control of insects and disease. She asked if that includes spraying chemicals. Mr. Spaeth stated that drought weakens the trees defense to insects and disease; the Collaborative's interest is to reduce forest density as less dense conditions support resilience and resistance to insects and disease. The Forest Service has authority for that work.

Vice-Chair Schwartz asked if there is enough funding for these projects. Mr. Sam stated that the shared work we have done and the shared stewardship has attracted more funding as we have demonstrated that we are a good investment. We do not have enough resources but we are moving toward that.

Vice-Chair Schwartz asked about the prescribed burns. Mr. Sam stated that they just finished a 250 acre prescribed burn – it is the first since 2014. The reasons have to do with resources, ground preparation and weather conditions. This is the start of a bigger effort to create a defensible space.

Chair Hege asked how many acres there are in total. Mr. Sam reported that there are approximately 167,000 acres of public forest land in Wasco County. Some of that is wilderness where they have not done work. They have addressed 5-10% of the land in the past 10 years; there is a long way to go in the areas outside of the wilderness areas. He went on to say how important social acceptance is to the work; the Collaborative provides that input and helps guide the work which determines how much and how fast the work is done.

Chair Hege asked if there are funds for private forest lands. Mr. Spaeth responded that the Joint Chiefs, Natural Resources and Conservation Service and Soil and Water Districts provide shared cost programs to support projects on private lands. The Oregon Department of Forestry has some resources for Firewise Communities to develop defensible spaces.

Chair Hege asked how long the treatments last. Mr. Sam explained that the work intensive mastication and thinning create the foundation for ongoing management through prescribed burns which must be conducted every 5-7 years. If they wait too long, then the mastication and thinning must be repeated as a prescribed fire in areas where the ground foliage is too tall will result in a fire that reaches the forest canopy.

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MAY 19, 2021  
PAGE 13

Chair Hege asked about using material as fuel stock. Mr. Sam explained that they are looking at options to use biochar to create fertilizer which is an investment opportunity. Other areas may have fire wood opportunities and he has tasked his staff to start looking at that. The upcoming projects will provide more of those opportunities for people to get permits and gather firewood.

Commissioner Kramer commended the Collaborative and Mr. Sam. He noted that Ryan Bessette, who still serves on the Collaborative, was his co-convenor in 2015. In addition, Bill Noonan was the facilitator that helped the Collaborative develop their charter – he has retired and those responsibilities have been passed on to Andrew Spaeth who is doing an outstanding job.

**Agenda Item – Executive Session for Legal Consultation**

At 11:05 a.m. Chair Hege opened an Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) to confer with legal counsel. He explained the process to be followed for the session which would take place in a breakout room. Members of the press may attend the Executive Session but are prohibited from reporting on anything discussed in the session except to state the published topic of the session.

The Regular session reconvened at 11:34 a.m.

**{{{Commissioner Kramer moved to direct County Counsel to move forward with the Union Pacific settlement with no substantial changes; any substantial changes should be brought back to the Board for consideration. Vice-Chair Schwartz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}**

**{{{Vice-Chair Schwartz moved that Wasco County Board of Commissioners delegate to County Counsel authority to negotiate an agreement with the entities that have already filed opioid litigation on behalf of Oregon local entities that will require: that settlement funds from that litigation, intended for local entities, be paid directly to the local entities and not pass through the State of Oregon. I further move to direct County Counsel to bring any proposed agreement to this body for final approval. Commissioner Kramer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}**

**Commission Call**

Commissioner Kramer said he would like to start the process of soliciting proposals to open predator control to more than just APHIS.

**\*\*\*The Board was in consensus to solicit proposals for predator control services.\*\*\***

Vice-Chair Schwartz announced that the Transportation Advisory Board has been suspended. Mr. Stone explained that much of the work and discussions were parallel to what the Public Transportation Advisory Committee is doing; it did not make sense to have

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MAY 19, 2021  
PAGE 14

redundant committees. The Transportation Advisory Board might be called upon to discuss more county-centric transportation issues rather than the regional scope assigned to the PTAC.

Vice-Chair Schwartz reported that the Mayor's houseless committee is moving toward a permanent shelter site with wrap-around services and the possibility of moving CAP to that location. The intent is permanence rather than pallet shelters but the housing would be transitional. Chair Hege asked if it would be a construction project or an existing building. Vice-Chair Schwartz said it will depend on what is available in the market as well as resources. She stated that CAP is working with Representative Bonham to try to secure state funding as well as trying to access American Recovery funds.

Chair Hege asked if MCCFL is participating. Vice-Chair Schwartz replied that Al Barton attends the meetings. Chair Hege stated that he believes MCCFL has funding available for housing that has not been fully used. Vice-Chair Schwartz said that she would bring that up at the next meeting; it may not be for capital expenditures.

Vice-Chair Schwartz asked when the Board wants to resume in-person meetings. Commissioner Kramer pointed out that all members of the Board will be fully vaccinated in 2 weeks. Vice-Chair Schwartz pointed out that the Back to Work Playbook asks that we keep meetings to 6 people or less – that would not allow for public attendance.

Chair Hege stated that he would concur with 2 weeks but is open to the conversation; the sooner the Board can meet in person, the better, but it needs to be appropriate and safe. Vice-Chair Schwartz pointed out that there will be a cost involved. She met with IS Director Andrew Burke yesterday; he has already done the legwork but would need to order and install equipment. Chair Hege commented that he did not believe it would be prohibitively expensive and there are already some funds available. He asked that Vice-Chair Schwartz move forward with plans.

Mr. Stone said that we are shooting for June 1<sup>st</sup> for the County offices to be more open; that is not different for the Board. We would need to do Zoom for the public but we are not talking about streaming.

Vice-Chair Schwartz said she would work with Mr. Stone and Mr. Burke to move this forward. She asked Ms. Clark for her thoughts. Ms. Clark stated that she wants to see the Board return to in-person meetings but we will need the technology available to allow the public to participate.

Vice-Chair Schwartz asked County Counsel Kristen Campbell for her thoughts. She stated she would accommodate whatever decision the Board makes.

Chair Hege asked that they consider what space will be used for Board sessions – perhaps

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MAY 19, 2021  
PAGE 15

another space outside of County properties would make more sense. Vice-Chair Schwartz stated that with ordering and installing equipment, they would not be ready for in-person meetings by the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Session.

Chair Hege adjourned the session at 11:54 a.m.

Summary of Actions

**MOTIONS**

- **To approve Order 21-033 appointing Mary Bushman to the Mosier Watershed Council.**
- **To approve Order 21-034 declaring a ban on burning in Wasco County, Oregon.**
- **To adopt the proclamation celebrating the christening of the USS Oregon.**
- **To approve the Consent Agenda – 5.5.2021 Regular Session Minutes.**
- **To direct County Counsel to move forward with the Union Pacific settlement with no substantial changes; any substantial changes should be brought back to the Board for consideration.**
- **That Wasco County Board of Commissioners delegate to County Counsel authority to negotiate an agreement with the entities that have already filed opioid litigation on behalf of Oregon local entities that will require: that settlement funds from that litigation, intended for local entities, be paid directly to the local entities and not pass through the State of Oregon. I further move to direct County Counsel to bring any proposed agreement to this body for final approval.**

**CONSENSUS**

- **To solicit proposals for predator control services.**

Wasco County  
Board of Commissioners



\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott C. Hege, Commission Chair



\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen B. Schwartz, Vice-Chair



\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven D. Kramer, County Commissioner





## DISCUSSION LIST

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[NCPHD COVID UPDATES](#)

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[TRANSPORTATION RFP RESPONSES/BID OPENING](#) – Matthew Klebes

---

[WATERSHED COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS](#) – Kathy Clark

---

[2021 BURN BAN](#) – Kathy Clark

---

[USS OREGON PROCLAMATION](#) – Tyler Stone

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## DISCUSSION ITEM

WASCO COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATES

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[NO DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED FOR THIS ITEM – RETURN TO AGENDA](#)

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## DISCUSSION ITEM

### Public Transportation Services Bids

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[STAFF MEMO](#)

---



## MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT:** Transportation RFP Responses/Bid Opening

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**TO:** BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

---

**FROM:** KATHY CLARK

---

**DATE:** MAY 10, 2020

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On April 14, 2021, Wasco County issued an [RFP for Public Transportation Services](#) with responses due May 14, 2021. Bids will be opened/announced at the 5.19.2021 Board Session with the contract award planned for the June 2, 2021 meeting.





## DISCUSSION ITEM

### **Mosier Watershed Council Appointment**

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[STAFF MEMO](#)

---

[APPLICATION](#)

---

[ORDER 21-033 APPOINTING MARY BUSHMAN TO MOSIER WSC](#)

---

[MOTION LANGUAGE](#)

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## MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT: Mosier Watershed Council Appointment**

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**TO: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

---

**FROM: KATHY CLARK**

---

**DATE: MAY 10, 2020**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Watershed Councils can have up to 13 members; currently, the Mosier Watershed Council has 12 members. At their April meeting, the members of the Mosier WSC voted to recommend Mary Bushman for appointment.



## INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATION FORM

### Watershed Councils VOLUNTEER POSITIONS WASCO COUNTY, OREGON

#### BACKGROUND

The Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District created watershed councils as a means of identifying and addressing the resource concerns of those living within the area. The watershed councils are a way to focus manpower and resources on natural resource issues within the watershed as a whole.

#### APPLICATION

Provide personal qualifications for this specific volunteer position.  
Supplementary information may be attached. Do not provide confidential information.

*For which Council are you applying?*

☐ 15-Mile    ☐ The Dalles    ☐ White River    ☒ Mosier

Name: Mary Bushman

Address: [REDACTED] Mosier 97040

Phone (home) [REDACTED] Phone (work) Same

E-mail address: [REDACTED] gmail.com

Signature: Mary Bushman

Date: 2/1/2021 Number of years as a Wasco County resident: 6 yrs

Your objectives/goals? Desired contributions and accomplishments? \_\_\_\_\_

To represent Rowena Creek watershed on the Mosier Watershed Council. To offer my experience with watershed planning & stream monitoring.

CONTRACT: COGNITIVE BEHAVIOR SERVICES CONTRACTING SERVICES

**WATERSHED COUNCIL APPLICATION**

Approximate hours/week available for this commitment? 2 hrs/week

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Education (school, college, training, apprenticeships, degrees, etc.)

Yamhill Carlton High School Date(s): grad                     

Portland State University Date(s): grad                      / B.S. Env. Science

Oregon State University Date(s): grad                      / MS Botany

\_\_\_\_\_ Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Experience (work, volunteering, leadership roles, achievements etc.)

Columbia Land Trust Date(s): 2018 - current

City of Portland Date(s): 2007 - 2018

US Forest Service Date(s): 2006 - 2007

\_\_\_\_\_ Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

General Comments/Additional Relevant Information

I have many years experience in  
Environmental planning & Environment  
Assessment & Monitoring. It would be my  
pleasure to support the watershed council  
in whatever way is helpful in meeting  
their goals.

Send completed form to:

Wasco County  
511 Washington Street, Suite 101  
The Dalles OR 97058  
(541) 506-2520  
(541) 506-2551 (fax)



IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASCO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MARY BUSHMAN TO THE MOSIER WATERSHED COUNCIL

**ORDER #21-033**

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

IT APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That the Wasco County Soil & Water Conservation District has requested that the Wasco County Board of Commissioners appoint individuals to the Mosier Watershed Council; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That a vacancy exists on the Mosier Watershed Council; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That Mary Bushman is willing and is qualified to be appointed to the Mosier Watershed Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: That Mary Bushman be and is hereby appointed to the Mosier Watershed Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2024.

DATED this 19th day of June, 2021.

WASCO COUNTY BOARD  
OF COMMISSIONERS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott C. Hege, Commission Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen B. Schwartz, Vice-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven D. Kramer, County Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristen Campbell, County Counsel



## **MOTION**

**SUBJECT: Mosier Watershed Council Appointment**

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I move to approve Order 21-033 appointing Mary Bushman to the Mosier Watershed Council.



## DISCUSSION ITEM

### 2021 County Burn Ban

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[STAFF MEMO](#)

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[OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY PRESS RELEASE](#)

---

[ORDER 21-034 BANNING BURNING IN WASCO COUNTY](#)

---

[MOTION LANGUAGE](#)

---





## MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT: Burn Ban Order**

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**TO: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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**FROM: KATHY CLARK**

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**DATE: 5.11.2021**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Wasco County's burn ban coincides with the MCF&R burn ban which begins annually on July 1<sup>st</sup>. MCF&R coordinates with other fire agencies in Wasco County as well as those in Hood River County to determine if the date should be set earlier based on prevailing conditions. We were notified on May 11, 2021, that due to the prevailing conditions, the ban will be instituted at 12:01 a.m. on June 1, 2021. The ban remains in effect until fire authorities deem it safe to lift the ban.



Central Oregon District  
Oregon Department of Forestry

**Christie Shaw**

Public Information Officer

541-263-0661

[christie.shaw@oregon.gov](mailto:christie.shaw@oregon.gov)

**Websites**

[www.odfcentraloregon.com](http://www.odfcentraloregon.com)

**Twitter**

@ODF\_COD

**Instagram**

@OregonDeptForestry



[facebook.com/ODFcentraloregon](https://facebook.com/ODFcentraloregon)



**Central Oregon District  
At a glance**

Fire protection for 2.3 Million acres of private and non-federal public forest and rangeland in 12 counties

Administer the Oregon Forest Practices Act

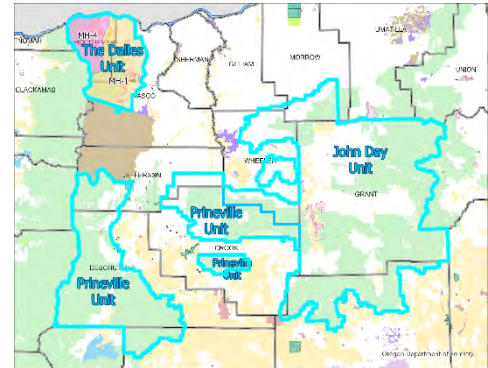
Provide technical and financial assistance to landowners

## Fire Season Declared for Lands Protected by ODF in Portions of Central Oregon District

May 13, 2021

[Prineville, Ore.] Fire Season will begin for The Dalles and Prineville units of Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) Central Oregon District at 12:01 a.m.

Saturday, May 15, 2021. Leadership within the District have been monitoring fuel conditions this spring, as well as reviewing snowpack, weather forecasts and drought impacts. The limited precipitation across the region this spring has affected down woody fuel moisture content as well as the condition of live vegetation fuels and their susceptibility to fire ignition and spread. Conditions in The Dalles and Prineville units are unseasonably dry and at an increased risk of fire spread. New maximum daily fire indices are being recorded, indicative of the potential wildfire hazard.



ODF's Central Oregon District

Historically, this will be the earliest declaration of Fire Season in the District in more than forty years. Typically weather and fuels in central Oregon begin to warm and dry in late May or early June, with Fire Season beginning in mid-June. However the lack of spring rains this year and the rapid loss of snow pack in the higher elevations has moved this timeframe forward by several weeks.

Early season fires have created significant concern for firefighters this spring. Twenty-two human caused fires have burned over 200 acres. The ten-year-average for this timeframe is ten fires, burning thirty-two acres. Escaped debris burning is the leading cause of these fires, accounting for more than half of these wildfires.

### General Fire Season Regulations

The following acts are prohibited during fire season in accordance with ORS 477.510 and ORS 477.512:

- Smoking while working in or traveling through any operation area.
- The use of fuse and caps for blasting, unless approval is granted by the forester.
- The discharge of an exploding target inside the district or within one-eighth mile of the district.
- The discharge of tracer ammunition on land that is within the district or within one-eighth mile of the district, or when discharged, crosses above land that is within the district or within one-eighth mile of the district.

Operators should refer to <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/Documents/fire-season-requirements-for-industrial-operations.pdf> for information specific to industrial operations during fire season, or call their local ODF Office.

## **Information specific to ODF's Central Oregon District by Unit.**

### **The Dalles Unit-Wasco and Hood River Counties (541)296-4626**

In addition to the on-set of Fire Season in The Dalles Unit, MH-4 (west of Hwy 35 in Hood River County) and MH-1 (east of Hwy 35 in Hood River and Wasco counties) will move into Industrial Fire Precaution Level 1. Included in these restrictions is the use of fire or power-driven machinery in any forest operation unless in compliance with all fire prevention requirements (ORS Chapter 477 and OAR Chapter 629 Divisions 41 to 43). A one hour firewatch is required after all forest operations, unless waived.

Burn permits from ODF or your local fire department are required for burn barrels and burning yard debris material (ODF will not be issuing permits for debris burning after May 15<sup>th</sup>). Always follow all recommendations on your burn permit. Only burn materials approved by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for outdoor burning. A DEQ Fact Sheet to help determine what applies in your area, or who to call for more information can be found here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/OpenBurnEng.pdf>. Beginning June 1, 2021 Hood River and Wasco counties will be implementing county wide burn bans to reduce the risk of wildfire from escaped debris burns. While campfires are not included in this ban, please verify with the respective landowner that campfires are allowed on their land and always make sure the campfire is completely out before leaving.

"There is strong agreement between ODF and our local county and fire district partners to bump up the Burn Ban dates in alignment with the fuel conditions we are seeing and the number of fire responses that have occurred this spring to date. Given the limited rainfall received during the winter/spring and the hot & dry conditions, this is the prudent thing to do. We hope the public can support holding off on burning until the fall rains in order to minimize the number of human caused wildfires on the landscape," states Kristin Dodd, The Dalles Unit Forester.

### **John Day Unit—Grant, Wheeler, Morrow, Harney, & Gilliam Counties (541)575-1139**

Fuel conditions in the John Day Unit are unseasonably dry, but do not yet necessitate the restrictions implemented with the Fire Season declaration.

Burning of logging slash and larger debris piles is not currently allowed in the John Day Unit. Burn barrels and smaller yard debris piles do not require a burn permit from the Department of Forestry, but may require a permit from the local fire department. Remember to follow safe burning guidelines and never leave a fire unattended.

### **Prineville Unit-Crook, Jefferson, and Deschutes Counties (541)447-5658**

Fire Season restrictions are intended to reduce wildfires in the Prineville Unit and Sister's Sub-Unit. Burning of logging slash is not allowed at this time. Contact the local fire departments to obtain burn permits for burning yard debris where allowed.

For additional information on ODF's Central Oregon District, including contact information and unit offices, please visit [www.ODFcentraloregon.com](http://www.ODFcentraloregon.com).



IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

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IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASCO

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IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING A BAN ON RESIDENTIAL BURNING IN WASCO COUNTY, OREGON

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**ORDER #21-034**

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

IT APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That local fire officials have identified a need to ban all residential burning in Wasco County, Oregon until the fire danger has been reduced; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That fire agencies located within Wasco County have designated a complete ban on all residential burning within their jurisdiction; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That due to the extreme fire conditions in Wasco County, Oregon it is imperative that a ban on all residential burning be declared, which includes piles and burn barrels, for those areas in Wasco County that lie outside the boundary of an officially recognized Fire Protection District.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: That a ban on all burning, which includes piles and burn barrels, for areas outside the boundary of an officially recognized Fire Protection District in Wasco County is hereby ordered to become effective on June 1, 2021, at 12:01 a.m., and will remain in effect until it is determined by local fire officials that said burning ban can be lifted.

DATED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

**WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

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Kristen Campbell, County Counsel

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Scott C. Hege, Commission Chair

---

Kathleen B. Schwartz, Vice Chair

---

Steven D. Kramer, County Commissioner



## MOTION

**SUBJECT:** Annual Burn Ban

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I move to approve Order 21-034 declaring a ban on burning in Wasco County, Oregon.



## DISCUSSION ITEM

### USS Oregon Proclamation

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[PROCLAMATION](#)

---

[MOTION LANGUAGE](#)

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## CELEBRATING THE COMMISSIONING OF THE USS OREGON

- Whereas:** It has been more than 100 years since a ship in the United States Navy has borne the name USS Oregon; and
- Whereas:** In the summer of 2021, the Navy will commission the USS Oregon (SSN 793) as the twentieth submarine in the Virginia class; and
- Whereas:** The commissioning of the USS Oregon is a distinct and lasting honor for the State of Oregon and acknowledges Oregon's long history in contributing to the nation's defense; and
- Whereas:** It is with deep pride and faith in the USS Oregon, her officers and crew, that the citizens of Oregon celebrate the USS Oregon's entry into the fleet to deliver advanced capabilities and undersea supremacy in the service of our nation's defense.
- Now,  
Therefore:** We hereby proclaim the commissioning of the USS Oregon as a momentous occasion for our state and call upon the citizens of Wasco County to join us in celebrating the commissioning of the USS Oregon and welcoming the sailors assigned to the USS Oregon.

Wasco County Board of Commissioners

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Scott C. Hege, Chair

---

Kathleen B. Schwartz, Vice-Chair

---

Steven D. Kramer, County Commissioner



## **MOTION**

**SUBJECT: USS Oregon Proclamation**

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I move to adopt the proclamation celebrating the christening of the USS Oregon.



## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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[MINUTES: 5.5.2021 REGULAR SESSION](#)

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WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION

MAY 5, 2021

This meeting was held on Zoom

<https://wascocounty-org.zoom.us/j/3957734524>

or call in to [1-253-215-8782](tel:1-253-215-8782) Meeting ID: 3957734524#

PRESENT: Scott Hege, Chair  
Kathy Schwartz, Vice-Chair  
Steve Kramer, County Commissioner

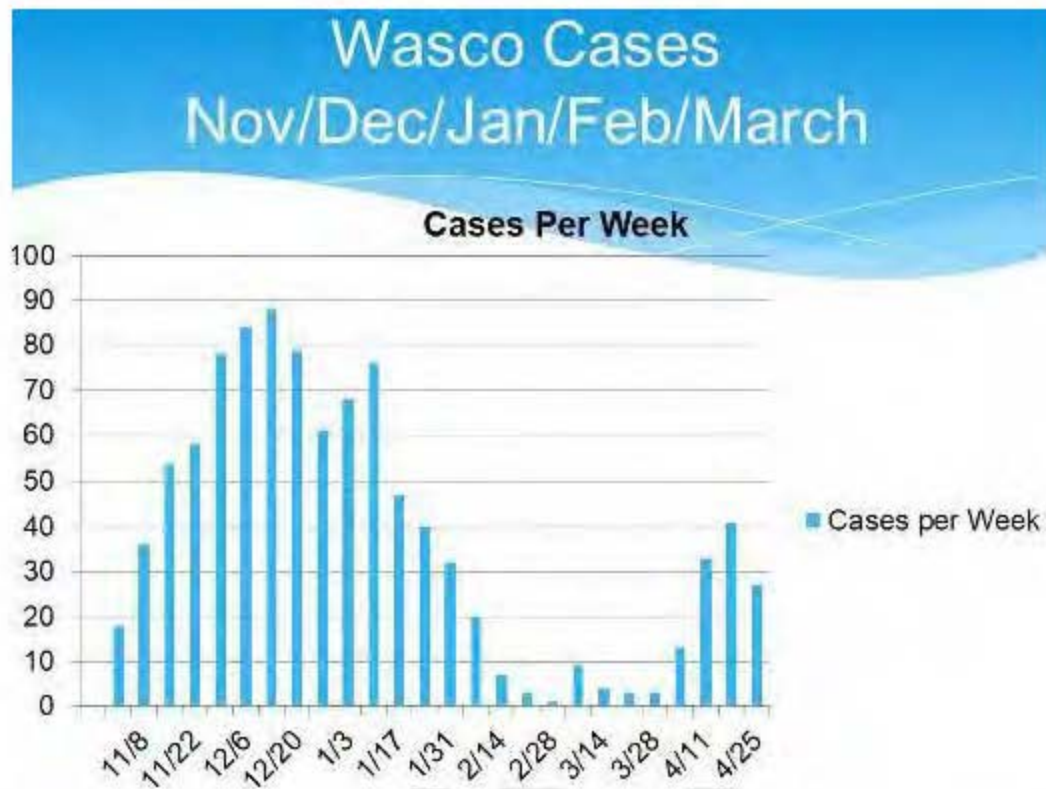
STAFF: Kathy Clark, Executive Assistant  
Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer

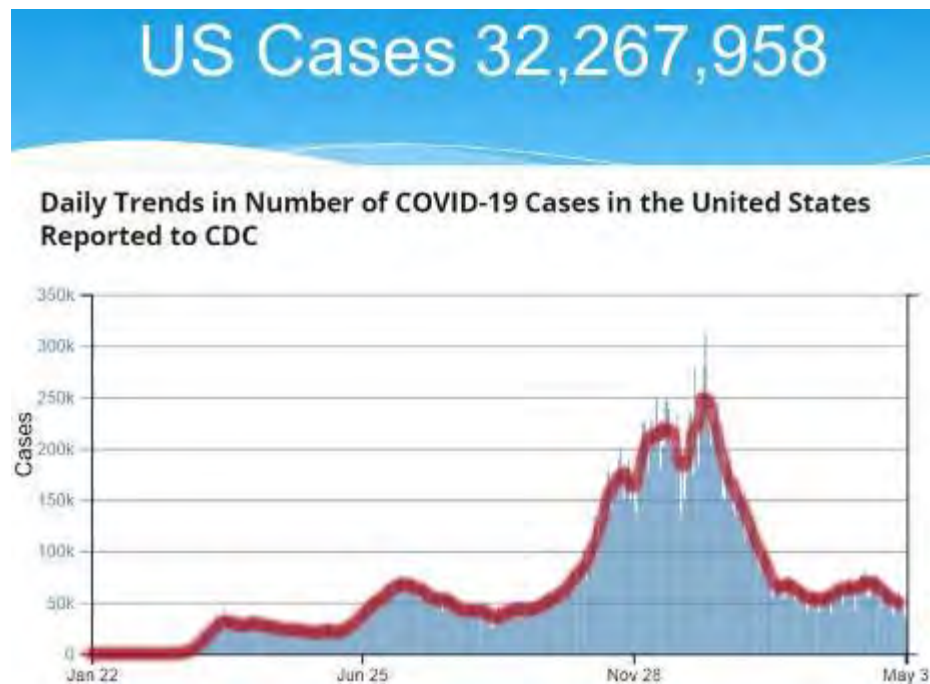
Chair Hege opened the session at 9:00 a.m.

**Discussion Item – NCPHD COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Stone reviewed the up-to-date statistics, noting that the trends in Wasco County are similar to those seen across the state and the country.

County Level Data: Cases and deaths to date		
<b>Wasco</b>		
• Total		<b>1361</b>
• Deaths		<b>28</b>
• <b>Sherman</b>		
• Total		<b>58</b>
• Deaths		<b>1</b>
• <b>Gilliam</b>		
• Total		<b>57</b>
• Deaths		<b>1</b>





County 2 week metrics		
4/18-5/1	Count	% positivity
Wasco	68	5.5%
Sherman	0	0.0%
Gilliam	1	0.0 %

Mr. Stone announced that Wasco County will be moving out of the Extreme Risk Category into the High Risk Category this Friday. Sherman and Gilliam Counties remain in the low risk category. Due to the decrease in COVID related hospitalizations, no Oregon county will remain in the Extreme Risk Category as of Friday.



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MAY 5, 2021  
PAGE 4

Chair Hege observed that it is important to note that the numbers in Wasco County would still be considered in the Extreme Risk category were it not for the statewide metric for hospitalization. We need to remain vigilant.

## County Risk Levels starting Friday May 7

- \* Wasco County moving to High Risk
- \* Sherman remaining in Lower
- \* Gilliam remaining in Lower
- \* No counties in Oregon will remain in Extreme due to change ( improvement!) in hospital metric

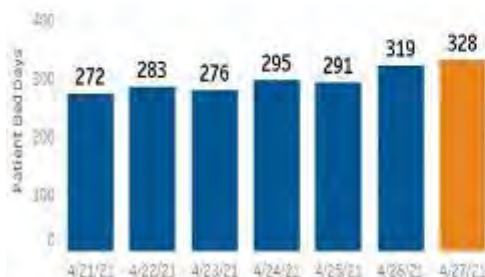
## Statewide Hospital Bed Criteria

### Seven Day Totals of COVID-19 Positive Patient Bed Days

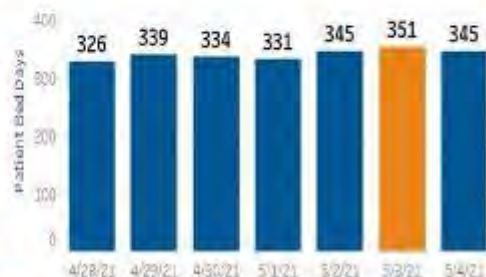
Previous Seven Day Period	Current Seven Day Period	Percent Change	Current Period Daily Peak
2,064	2,371	14.9%	351

If both the Percent Change and Current Period Daily Peak boxes are red, then the metric is met.

Previous Seven Day Period COVID-19 Positive Patient Bed Days



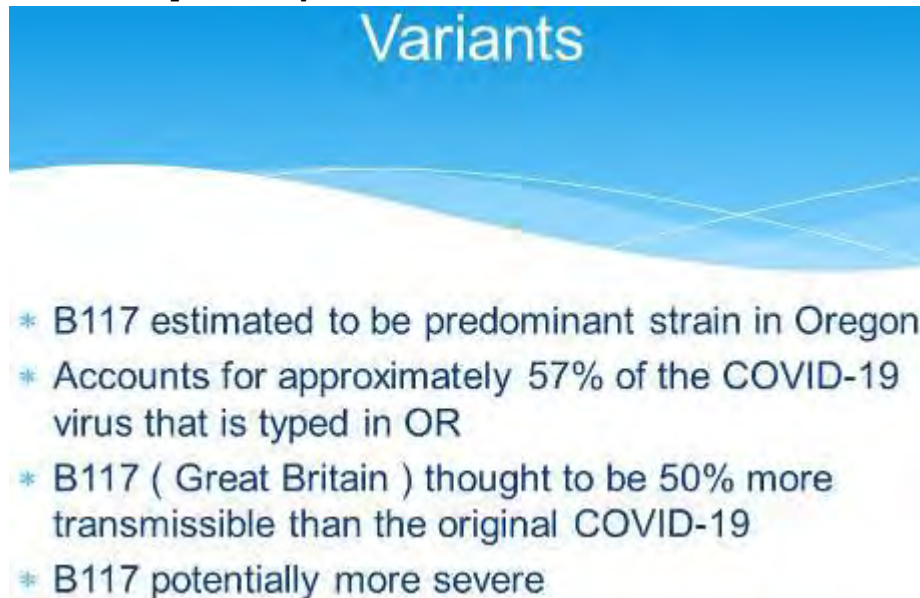
Current Seven Day Period COVID-19 Positive Patient Bed Days



Orange indicates the highest daily number of beds occupied by COVID-19 positive patients in that seven day period.



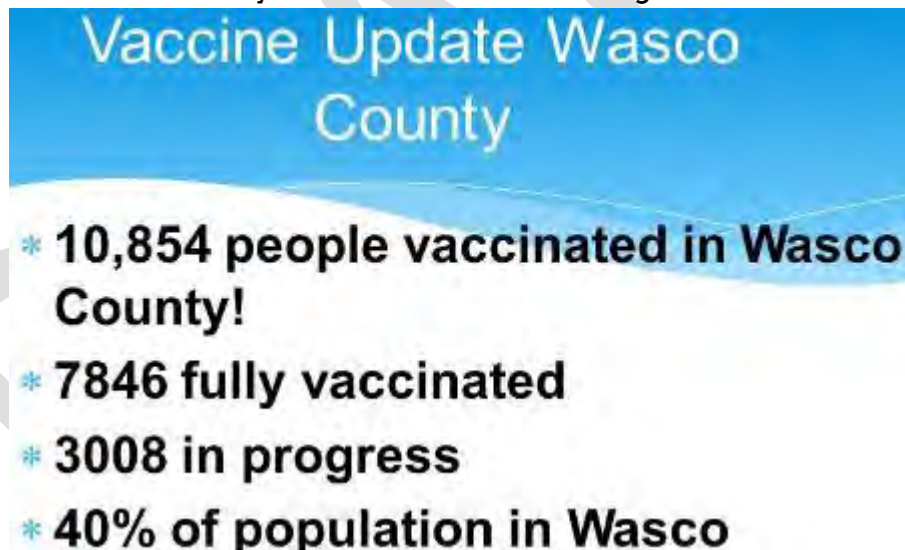
Mr. Stone stated that the B17 variant is significantly more transmissible than the original strain of COVID-19 and potentially more severe.



## Variants

- \* B117 estimated to be predominant strain in Oregon
- \* Accounts for approximately 57% of the COVID-19 virus that is typed in OR
- \* B117 ( Great Britain ) thought to be 50% more transmissible than the original COVID-19
- \* B117 potentially more severe

Mr. Stone announced that everyone 16 and older is now eligible for vaccination.



## Vaccine Update Wasco County

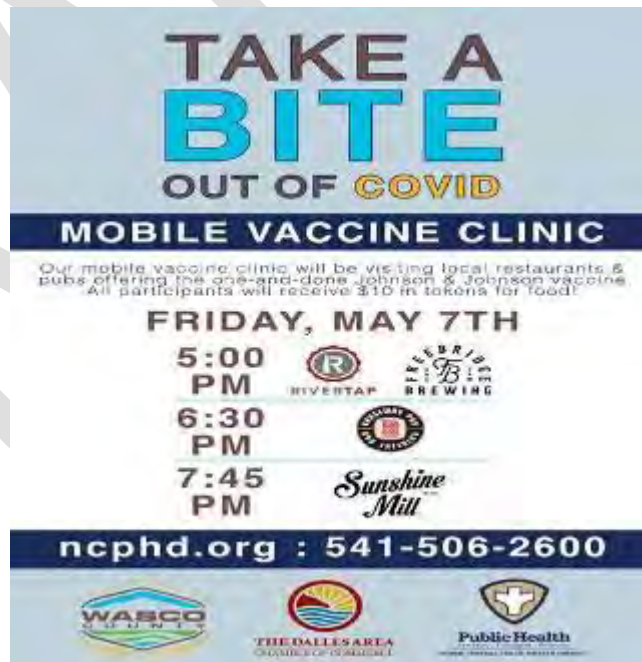
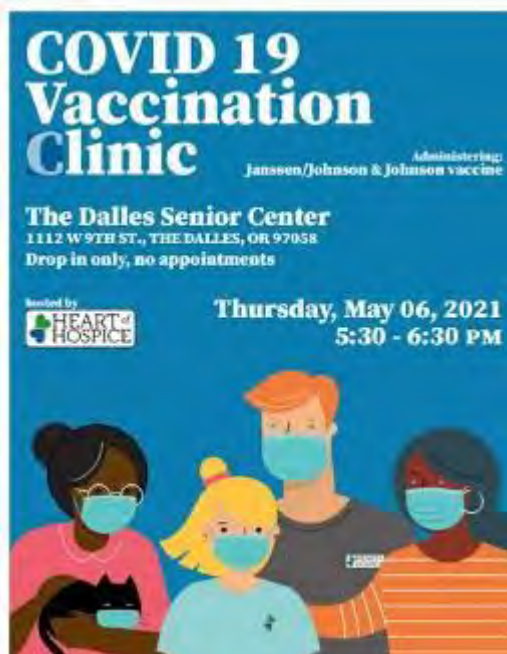
- \* **10,854 people vaccinated in Wasco County!**
- \* **7846 fully vaccinated**
- \* **3008 in progress**
- \* **40% of population in Wasco**

Mr. Stone said it is troubling to see uptake of the vaccine decline. The hope is that everyone who wants a vaccine has gotten one. About 40% of Wasco County is vaccinated which leaves 60% unprotected. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been reinstated with guidance and the Pfizer vaccine may soon be approved for those ages 12-15.

## COVID-19 News from CDC/OHA

- Johnson & Johnson Vaccine distribution paused on April 13, re-instated with updated guidance on April 24 with updated guidance about risk
- Pfizer vaccine approval for 12-15 year olds may happen within one week

Mr. Stone went on to say that to encourage more vaccine uptake they are using the mobile vaccine bus to meet people where they are.



Mr. Stone explained that although the metrics were established on a two week evaluation cycle, we could be moving weekly based on the local case numbers and statewide hospitalization rate. Those numbers come out on Mondays. He commented that we can watch our local case numbers and predict where our risk level will be but with the addition of the statewide hospitalization rates, it is more difficult to know as far in advance. Chair Hege added that the highest a county can go is the High Risk Category unless the state

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MAY 5, 2021  
PAGE 7

hospitalization rate exceeds a certain number.

Mr. Stone stated that testing is still available and free of charge. You can be tested at North Central Public Health and local pharmacies may have access to those tests; primary care providers can also order tests. Chair Hege added that you should not get tested just out of curiosity but if you have any symptoms at all, you should be tested.

Dr. June Gower, Executive Director of Mid-Columbia Center for Living, asked if MCCFL could help transport the homeless to vaccination sites. Mr. Stone replied that it would be welcome and appreciated; NCPHD has been talking about how to reach that population and have been working with the meal sites. Commissioner Kramer added that David Griffith has been working with Dr. McDonell on that effort.

Vice-Chair Schwartz commented that at this point it is all about hospital bed capacity . . . that is what allowed us to move out of Extreme Risk to High Risk. She stated that this surge was predicted and is predicted to go back down. It is so important to get vaccinated and follow the guidance. Hopefully, we can open more over the summer. We are seeing younger people in the hospital which makes sense as so much of the older population has been vaccinated.

Mr. Stone stated that if Friday's event is successful, it will be repeated locally on Friday and Saturday nights. Tokens will continue to be issued to those who are vaccinated to help support the businesses that are supporting this effort.

Vice-Chair Schwartz pointed out that the 40% vaccinated is a percent of the entire county population; there are a lot of kids in that population.

Mr. Stone stated that when Wasco County went into the Extreme Risk Category, we became eligible for State grant funds for businesses significantly impacted by the closures associated with that risk category. He reported that we received an award of \$360,000 and asked for direction on how to allocate those funds. He said that we could use the existing MCEDD criteria or we could use a model that evaluates the more impacted businesses such as restaurants, gyms and theaters that stocked up when the county opened and then had to close.

Chair Hege said that what is important is to get the funds out quickly and to identify those businesses more significantly impacted. He added that we should do so without a lot of paperwork for the businesses; it should be simple, easy and fast.

Vice-Chair Schwartz said that she agrees – the process should be easy, fast and targeted.

**\*\*\*The Board was in consensus to direct the Administrative Officer to distribute the Extreme Risk Category state grant funds quickly through a simple and easy process that targets those most impacted by the closures.\*\*\***

### Agenda Item – Budget Adjustment

Finance Director Mike Middleton reviewed the memo included in the Board Packet. The contingency funds are being transferred to cover contracted services that were necessary after a recent wind storm pushed a tree into one of the museum structures and several adjacent trees.

**{{Vice-Chair Schwartz move to approve Resolution 21-001 in the matter of increasing expenditures/appropriations and decreasing contingency within a fund. Commissioner Kramer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}**

### Discussion Item – Finance Report

Mr. Middleton reviewed the report included in the Board Packet. Vice-Chair Schwartz asked about the Building Official position and how filling that position will impact the budget. Mr. Stone reported that the position has not yet been filled. Chair Hege asked about cost of the contracts that we have entered into to fill that gap.

Mr. Middleton replied that so far this year we have spent \$20,000 for those services. He said that he does not expect a significant impact to the budget once the position is filled. He noted that while the electrical building codes is a little more challenging, the general building codes has reserves to support services for years.

Chair Hege said that he has not heard any complaints, but he is sure that those we have contracted with for services are being stretched thin. Mr. Stone stated that he has a meeting with them tomorrow.

### Agenda Item – District 21 Enterprise Zone Funding Report

North Wasco County School District 21 Chief Financial Officer Kara Flath reviewed the presentation included in the Board Packet.

Vice-Chair Schwartz asked which agreement is associated with this. Chair Hege replied that it is from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Google Enterprise Zone Tax Abatement; the School District gets 30% of each annual payment. He stated that the Board wanted to give the District an opportunity to do capital improvements that would not have happened otherwise. It is great to see that they have money left and can continue to do these projects.

### Agenda Item – MCCFL Updates

Dr. June Gower, Mid-Columbia Center for Living Executive Director, reported that they sold their Lincoln Street building and the funds were sent to Wasco County to offset the loan MCCFL has with Wasco County. She stated that the loan was originally taken as the MCCFL Finances were not as strong as they needed to be for a commercial loan. They have worked to improve their financial status and have met their budget consistently for the last 8 months. She asked that the County review the current interest rate on the loan and consider reducing it; the outstanding balance is \$1.4 million. She added that COVID made this a

tough year for them – it was hard to keep services moving. They did not qualify for a lot of the support funding that was available but they did the best they could with the resources they had; no services were closed and no clients were turned away.

Vice-Chair Schwartz asked what the current rate is. Dr. Gower replied that it is 4.5%

Commissioner Kramer said that he thinks this is worth exploring; any savings we can provide to our Mental Health Authority will get services on the ground where they are needed. Vice-Chair Schwartz agreed that we need to support mental health services.

Dr. Gower reported that they had to deliver services differently during COVID and were requested by NCPHD to help with testing. MCCFL provided transportation for some to the vaccination sites. They also served meals although the cottage was diminished capacity due to COVID restrictions. In addition, there were a lot of costs associated with standing up telehealth modality, which has to be HIPPA compliant for their organization. They did not have the necessary computers, monitors and software, so those had to be purchased and were unexpected expenses.

Dr. Gower went on to say that they could not access the grants because of their status as a government agency. They have continued their deep relationships with public health agencies in Hood River and Wasco Counties. They are currently struggling to reclaim client visits, although some have returned. Crisis calls went up by 40% much like the state and nation. Crisis workers need to be trained and we compete with the metro area for staffing. MCCFL is trying to meet those needs creatively. The other challenge is that at both the state and national level there is a shortage of counselors and therapists. The need has gone up so quickly, it is faster than we can get people certified for practice.

Vice-Chair Schwartz asked about their COVID funding. Dr. Gower replied that they received a few thousand dollars from the Community Care Organizations and some from the Oregon Health Authority but the bigger buckets of money that some of their counterparts received were denied to MCCFL as a government agency.

Chair Hege asked who the counterparts were. Dr. Gower answered that they were nonprofits such as Mid-Columbia Medical Center, One Community Health and Providence.

#### **Agenda Item – Long Term Planning Update**

Wasco County Long-Range Planner Dr. Kelly Howsely-Glover reviewed the presentation included in the Board Packet. She explained that they are trying to do the work in chunks so as not to overwhelm the public. That will allow time for people to digest the material and enter the process where it is relevant to them.

Dr. Howsley-Glover said that all of the Comprehensive Plan work is archived on the website and available to the public; however, the site is now refocused for the Land Use and Development Ordinance updates. She explained the color coding and the website

tools available to get information. The bulk of the year is focused on public input.

Chair Hege said that it is interesting that drafts are already available. He asked if that is for the entire ordinance. Dr. Howsley-Glover replied that it is only for the category currently being worked on. The ordinance is over 500 pages which is too much to take in at once. She said that they are hoping people will take advantage of the on-demand videos along with the virtual open houses. There are also surveys and polls available for feedback on both the information available and the usability of the site.

Vice-Chair Schwartz said that it is great and she has watched some of the videos and went to the site to see how it works. She said that she does not like to do everything virtually and asked if there are other ways for people to access the information. She also asked how people will be able to enter the public process; will they be able to join by phone as well as computer.

Dr. Howsley-Glover responded that citizens have the opportunity to submit comments at any point. Oral comments cannot be accepted but they can submit comments through the website, email or regular mail. The Planning Department is also working on a kiosk where people can come to Planning and put their comments in through that portal. People can also call or make an appointment through the website.

The Board thanked Dr. Howsley-Glover for the good work and informative presentation.

#### **Agenda Item – Wildfire Preparedness**

Planning Director Angie Brewer noted that the Wildfire Preparedness pre-recorded presentation is available on the County website. Dr. Howsley-Glover is currently the contact while they work to fill the Senior Planner vacancy. She asked if there are any questions.

Chair Hege said that there is a lot of great information in the presentation and it starts the conversation around how this will roll up into the Land Use and Development Ordinance. He said that the current questionnaire on fire preparedness that is part of the land use application is long and a little daunting. Ms. Brewer explained that it is comprehensive and meets the needs of the local fire entities. It is a self-certifying checklist and makes the owner responsible to maintain their property. It also serves to educate them on the capacity of the local fire response.

Chair Hege stated that now is the perfect time to prepare for the coming fire season. He encouraged everyone to take the time to build that defensible space and give yourself the best chance of avoiding loss due to a wildfire.

Vice-Chair Schwartz said that the video was very informative; you can pull out some real pearls of information on what can be done. She asked about the references made to more stringent codes. Ms. Brewer explained that there is a package of State-acknowledged codes (Section K) that is optional for counties. She said there has been discussion about



making them permanent throughout the state. The Board can adopt any of those if they feel they would be helpful.

Chair Hege noted that Mosier has some fire related items added to their codes – some are challenging – they are city rules and should be enforced by the City of Mosier. Ms. Brewer confirmed saying that the State was not comfortable enforcing those.

Vice-Chair Schwartz asked if we enforce Building Codes for the City of The Dalles. Ms. Brewer replied affirmatively.

#### **Agenda Item – NSA LUDO Implementation**

Chair Hege said that there has been a lot of confusion after the last meeting around the idea of the County withdrawing from the National Scenic Area (NSA). He stated that is not the discussion and he does not think the County has the authority to withdraw from the NSA. We are talking about the administration of the Land Use Planning Ordinance in the NSA; Klickitat County has never adopted the ordinance. All the other counties in the NSA have administered it for the last 27 years. It has been challenging. While it is reasonable to comment that we have always done it, why not continue, just because that is the way we have always done something, does not mean that is the way we should continue to do it. It is the job of the Board to evaluate and re-evaluate to continue to meet current needs. He stated that the Board has received a lot of public comment on this and he wants the public to know that they have heard them.

Ms. Brewer said that her request is direction on whether or not to pursue the NSA revisions to the Wasco County LUDO. This is the normal process but follows some contentious work on the Gorge 2020 Plan. She reviewed the memo included in the Board Packet addressing the questions asked by the Board at the last session.

Chair Hege asked if the number of addresses in the NSA equate to the number of parcels. Ms. Brewer replied that it is approximate. It is the mailing addresses from the Assessor's database for tax lots; one owner may own multiple lots.

Vice-Chair Schwartz asked about the "Measure 56" style mailings. Ms. Brewer responded that Measure 56 covers required notification for changes to zoning or codes. It is a state requirement not a Gorge Commission requirement. We may not be required to do that in the NSA but we do it anyway; even if it is on behalf of the Gorge Commission. It is very prescriptive language that must be included and often causes confusion for landowners.

Vice-Chair Schwartz said that in the cases where it is not required and we are sending post cards, we would have discretion to not follow all the requirements of Measure 56. Ms. Brewer replied affirmatively.

Citizen Jake Richards asked if it is safe to assume that people with property in the NSA pay elevated property tax rates relative to the rest of the county and if that's the case, wouldn't



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MAY 5, 2021  
PAGE 12

those elevated tax rates cover the cost of Wasco County Planning dealing with the NSA land use issues. County Assessor Jill Amery replied that that is not a correct assumption; the tax rates are based on districts that provide services in the designated tax code areas. You can find your TCA on our GIS map or your tax statement. The TCA detailed information is included in the Tax Summary Report on the County website at:

<https://cms5.revize.com/revize/wascocounty/2020-21%20Tax%20Summary.pdf>

Chair Hege asked how the Gorge Commission can assist on the implementation of the code. Ms. Brewer responded that there was an offer of temporary assistance. Since there are significant differences in implementation processes, the conclusion is that it would not benefit either of entity greatly.

Ms. Brewer went on to say that she wanted to correct a statement she made at the last session. She explained that after reviewing with Dr. Howsley-Glover, her assumption that we could easily pull over existing historic zoning for the NSA properties was in error. An ESEE (economic, social, environmental, and energy) survey would still have to occur. It would not be cheap and would take a significant amount of time. The result would be that we would have one plan/one ordinance rather than two as we do with the NSA ordinance. That would pare down our obligations going forward.

Vice-Chair Schwartz asked if the ESEE would require the same public process. Ms. Brewer replied that it would.

Commissioner Kramer pointed out that the technical assistance being offered would have to be multiplied by three as there are two other counties questioning this.

Chair Hege observed that we would need to update our NSA Ordinance and asked if that is a completely separate process that has to be completed by the end of this year. Ms. Brewer replied that they are separate ordinances with separate timelines. While it will be difficult, they have known it is coming. The conversation is how busy the staff is, their capacity to do this work and the potential for burnout.

Vice-Chair Schwartz asked if both ordinances are extensive and if there has to be separate outreach processes. Ms. Brewer replied that they are both extensive and at a minimum there needs to be separate hearings, processes and materials. She worries that if we tried to combine them, it would cause a good deal of confusion and overwhelm citizens. She said that her goal today is to get direction.

Chair Hege said we have gotten a lot of public comment already. The Friends of the Gorge have done an exceptional job of outreach to county residents. The path forward from today is not a path to change our direction. The Gorge Commission does not have the resources today to take this on. He said he thinks we will have to update our NSA ordinance; however there are some problems. Just because we have done it for 27 years does not mean we will continue. In some of the conversations with people who want us to do it, he has learned that

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MAY 5, 2021  
PAGE 13

our residents see benefits to having our local staff implement. However, there are challenges and we are not alone in that. Building Codes is a function of the state that we do. It is the same with the NSA LUDO - it is Gorge Commission's responsibility. However, the important point is that with Building Codes, it needs to pay for itself. We have been losing money in Building Codes but have reserves and are working to make ends meet. I think we need to make it clear to our partners that we need a better path forward. We need help to get the resources. The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) wants to help. The problem is that we are running this program in the red as are other counties. We need to work together to find the most efficient path forward. Our staff and others have to know two separate LUDOs. He said that he can support staying where we are at, but looking for a better path. Hood River had this same discussion Monday. He said what he has heard from our Director and staff is that we are resource short, which means we will have to not do some things in order to do this. To some extent we have ignored this for 27 years; he does not want to see it languish for another 27 years.

Commissioner Kramer stated that the intent is to make us fiscally whole. The Board is responsible for our taxpayers' dollars. He said he would like to see a letter drafted to partner agencies – we need the resources to do this. Mr. Stone stated that he and Ms. Brewer would draft something to bring back to the Board.

Vice-Chair Schwartz agreed that she would like to see more dollars from DLCD. She said we did receive a letter from them that referenced their willingness to advocate for more dollars and support for doing this work.

**{{Vice-Chair Schwartz moved to direct Planning Staff to proceed with the incorporation of Gorge 2020 revisions into the Wasco County National Scenic Area Land Use and Development Ordinance. Commissioner Kramer seconded the motion.**

DISCUSSION

Vice-Chair Schwartz thanked the citizens for being so engaged. She stated that it was helpful to hear from so many. She stated that the stories were very impactful. She commended the Wasco County Planning staff saying that they are hard-working, experienced and dedicated professionals.

Chair Hege noted that he had gathered together a lot of quotes that were attacking Board members. He said we need to look at the areas where we can agree – we all love this place and want to protect it. It has been a tough year with the Gorge Commission Board. We need better partnerships that work toward win-win solutions. There have been a lot of win-lose scenarios.

Commissioner Kramer reported that he got a nasty-gram this morning that contained threats; he has turned that over to law enforcement as it is unacceptable. The Board is doing the job they are elected to do and doing their best to consider all

citizens as our family - we take this job very seriously.

**The motion passed unanimously.}}**

**Agenda Item – State Risk Level Restrictions**

This item was cancelled as the presenter did not attend the meeting.

**Agenda Item – Drought Conditions**

NOAA Science and Operations Officer Ed Townsend reviewed the weather conditions and climate in the Gorge. March 2021 was the 9<sup>th</sup> driest on record; April 2021 was the 11<sup>th</sup> driest. Only 3 out of the last 16 months saw above normal precipitation. Records go back to 1893. In the southern portion of Wasco County, March 2021 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> driest on record; April 2021 was the 7<sup>th</sup> driest. He noted that we have never really recovered from the drought that began in 2020.

Mr. Townsend went on to say that areas of north central Oregon, including Wasco County, have seen below normal snowpack and below normal precipitation dating back through winter 2020 causing both meteorological and hydrological drought. Wasco County has had 50-90% below normal precipitation in the past 90 days. For the summer, they anticipate drier and warmer than normal conditions in central and north central Oregon.

Wasco County is currently designated from abnormally dry to extreme drought. Drought is expected to persist through at least July 31<sup>st</sup>. Since August is historically dry, not much relief would be expected through the end of August.

Mr. Townsend stated that the wildland fire potential is normal for the month of May but will be above normal for large wildland fire potential across the area June, July and August. Increased fire weather threat is anticipated. The tendency is for drought conditions to persist with the dry season ahead of us. Above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation are favored for June, July and August. Conditions are not helpful for the upcoming fire season with above normal significant wildland fire potential starting in June.

Chair Hege asked if 3 months is about as far out as they can go for accuracy. Mr. Townsend said that the further out you go the less accurate the prediction. However, even in a 3 month period an event can occur that vastly changes the outlook. We have to rely on short term patterns and long term trends.

Emergency Manager Sheridan McClellan stated that based on the current information and the Secretary of Agriculture's drought designation for Wasco County, he is requesting a drought declaration be approved by the Board. That action will make additional tools and resources available to our agricultural community.

Lissa Biehn, County Executive Director for the Wasco/Hood River County Farm Service Agency, reviewed some of the programs outlined in the fliers included in the Board Packet.

Chair Hege noted that most of our farmers know where the Farm Service Agency is; he asked how they can access the programs. Ms. Biehn replied that the first step is reaching out – staff is available for an appointment in person as trying to review a map virtually is difficult. With the recent COVID programs, even more of the agricultural community know about the agency and know to look to them for help. The emergency drought declaration will open a lot of programs.

Vice-Chair Schwartz asked how many consecutive years of drought we have had. Ms. Biehn answered that we had a drought in 2018 but not 2019. We have not left drought conditions since May of 2020.

**{{Commissioner Kramer moved to approve Order 21-032 declaring drought emergency for Wasco County, Oregon. Vice-Chair Schwartz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}**

#### Public Comment

Citizen Debi Ferrer said that she is sorry that the Board has received threatening and nasty messages. She said it is a sad time when people feel empowered to do that. She thanked them for the work they have done – it is hard work.

#### Discussion Item – Wildlife Management

Commissioner Kramer said it is the time of year that we typically consider a contract with APHIS for wildlife services. We have been requested to open this up to look at a local provider. In the packet there is a sample contract with Crook County. Wheeler and Jefferson Counties are also doing this same thing. He stated that he wanted to open it up for discussion. All of the producers use this contractor through an APHIS contract. We have \$10,000 in our budget for this. He said there is no need to decide today; he suggested that the other Commissioners talk with Mr. Stone and our neighboring counties. We may want to put out an RFP - this is just food for thought.

Vice-Chair Schwartz asked if there is dissatisfaction with the APHIS services. Commissioner Kramer replied that there is a 27% administrative fee off the top of the fees. We need to examine these things now and then. A positive would be it benefiting our local residents.

#### Discussion Item – Recycling Legislation

Commissioner Kramer noted that the last time they discussed this topic, the Board authorized him to continue to work on the legislation for recycling modernization. He has sent them an updated memo that outlines the changes from a meeting with AOC and others. There is more information on the DEQ website. The bill is in Ways and Means now and he hopes it will come back next week. A lot of good conversations are taking place to make it the best bill possible. More information will be coming.

Commissioner Kramer said that in the packet is a draft letter in support of HB2955; he has sent out an updated version of the letter for the Board's review. He said that he is hoping to

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MAY 5, 2021  
PAGE 16

add our name to that letter. HB2955 is about the household hazardous waste program for producer accountability. The Tri-County Hazardous Waste Steering Committee is very interested in this legislation.

Vice-Chair Schwartz thanked Commissioner Kramer for all the work he is doing on this – it is important work.

**\*\*\*The Board was in consensus to sign the revised letter of support for HB2955.\*\*\***

**Consent Agenda – 4.21.2021 Minutes; Vacation Policy Amendment**

**{{Vice-Chair Schwartz moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Kramer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}**

**Commission Call**

Vice-Chair Schwartz commented that as we begin to plan for staff returning to the office, we need to discuss how we will proceed with BOC meetings. Mr. Stone said that the target date for office openings is June 1<sup>st</sup>; they will continue to monitor risk levels and adjust accordingly.

Brief discussion ensued. Vice-Chair Schwartz agreed to continue conversations with the Information Services Director and bring a plan forward for consideration.

Chair Hege said that he wants to make sure that the properties pulled from the auction list at the last Board Session are moving forward. Vice-Chair Schwartz stated that she has met with staff. We will not have policy to consider for the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Statutorily, the Board has the authority to relinquish properties to the housing authority for low income housing. The discussion now is around the criteria for doing so; we could set some criteria that will keep the district whole. Mid-Columbia Housing Authority Executive Director Joel Madsen is getting information from the County Assessor to see what the cost will be; that will determine the feasibility of the project.

Chair Hege announced that he would be meeting with the Governor's staff today and asked if there were any questions or comments he could pass along.

Vice-Chair Schwartz stated that our businesses cannot continue to ping pong back and forth – it is not sustainable. Commissioner Kramer agreed, saying that it needs to be forcefully stated.

Vice-Chair Schwartz said now that everyone has the opportunity to get vaccinated, by the summer, most of us who want to get vaccinated will have done so. For those who do not want to get vaccinated, she hopes they remain healthy and continue to observe guidelines. We need to get the economy open and stay open.

Chair Hege adjourned the session at 12:21 p.m.

Summary of Actions
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**MOTIONS**

- **To approve Resolution 21-001 in the matter of increasing expenditures/appropriations and decreasing contingency within a fund.**
- **To direct Planning Staff to proceed with the incorporation of Gorge 2020 revisions into the Wasco County National Scenic Area Land Use and Development Ordinance.**
- **To approve Order 21-032 declaring drought emergency for Wasco County, Oregon.**
- **To approve the Consent Agenda: 4.21.2021 Regular Session Minutes; Vacation Policy Amendment.**

**CONSENSUS**

- **To direct the Administrative Officer to distribute the Extreme Risk Category state grant funds quickly through a simple and easy process that targets those most impacted by the closures.**
- **To sign the revised letter of support for HB2955.**

Wasco County  
Board of Commissioners

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Scott C. Hege, Commission Chair

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Kathleen B. Schwartz, Vice-Chair

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Steven D. Kramer, County Commissioner



## AGENDA ITEM

### CAFFA Application Amendment

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[STAFF MEMO](#)

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[APPLICATION AMENDMENT](#)

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[MOTION LANGUAGE](#)

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## MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT: CAFFA Grant (County Assessment Function Funding Assistance Grant) Amendment**

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**TO: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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**FROM: JILL AMERY**

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**DATE: 5/11/2021**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The information before you today is an addition to the grant request previously submitted to you for the upcoming 2021-22 cycle. We were recently informed by the Department of Revenue that our OR Map Grant funds approved for the next round of work in the amount of \$50,700 are approved expenditures that can be included in our grant request. The grant document has not changed other than the addition bringing the total request from \$1,164,882 to a total of \$1,218,117.

### **Program Overview**

County Assessment Function Funding Assistance Program is an annual funding program through the Oregon Department of Revenue that provides financial assistance to Counties to carry out their statutory duties to administer the property tax program.

In the 1980's Counties could not maintain Real Market Values, maintain minimum service levels and the then mandated six year appraisal cycle could not be maintained. The property tax system was in jeopardy of disintegration. House Bill 2338 was enacted, creating the CAFFA grant in 1989 to provide additional funding for approved A & T programs by increasing delinquent interest and recording fees.

Functional areas of approved A & T expenditures are as follows:

- Assessment administration
- Assessment valuation
- Clerk/Board of Property Tax Appeals
- Tax collection and distribution
- Cartography and GIS Administration
- A & T data processing



# Form 1 Grant Application Staffing

2021-2022

County	Column 1 Approved FTE current year (2020-21)	Column 2 Budgeted FTE coming year (2021-22)	Column 3 Change (Column 2 less Column 1)
WASCO			
<b>A. Assessment administration</b>			
Assessor, deputy, etc. ....	0.60	0.60	0.00
Assmt. support staff, deed clerks and data entry staff	1.90	1.60	(0.30)
Total assessment administration staff .....	2.50	2.20	(0.30)
<b>B. Valuation and appraisal staff</b>			
Chief appraisers/appraiser supervisor .....	0.90	0.95	0.05
Lead appraisers.....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Residential appraisers .....	2.45	2.45	0.00
Commercial/industrial appraisers .....	0.30	0.30	0.00
Farm/forest/rural appraisers.....	0.40	0.40	0.00
Manufactured structure/floating structure appraisers	0.15	0.15	0.00
Personal property appraisers.....	0.40	0.40	0.00
Personal property clerks.....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sales data analyst.....	0.15	0.15	0.00
Data gatherers and appraisal techs.....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total valuation and appraisal staff .....	4.75	4.80	0.05
<b>C. Board of Property Tax Appeals (BoPTA)</b>	0.13	0.13	0.00
<b>D. Tax collection and distribution administration</b>			
Administration, deputy, etc.....	0.49	0.50	0.01
Support and collection .....	1.77	2.02	0.25
Tax distribution .....	0.53	0.48	(0.05)
Foreclosure and garnishment.....	0.10	0.10	0.00
Total tax collection and distribution .....	2.89	3.10	0.21
<b>E. Cartography and GIS administration</b>			
Cartographic/GIS supervisor.....	0.40	0.50	0.10
Lead cartographers .....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cartographers.....	0.00	0.00	0.00
GIS specialists.....	0.10	0.00	(0.10)
Total cartographic and GIS staff .....	0.50	0.50	0.00
<b>F. Dedicated IT services for A&amp;T</b>	0.50	0.50	0.00
<b>G. Total assessment and taxation staffing</b>	11.27	11.23	(0.04)



## Form 2 Explanation of Staffing Issues

2021-2022

County WASCO

In this section, explain any difference between approved staffing for the current year and staffing for the budgeted year. Explain why any funded positions were unfilled for the current year. Use this form to describe the intended use of nonpermanent workers (temporary help, project temporaries, and contractors) by A&T function, along with their cost. Note any special or unique aspects regarding who accomplishes the work and how they accomplish it related to Forms 4, 5, and 6. For example, if you use staff to perform personal property functions, other than those reported on Form 1, Section B, note that here and include the FTE.

A shortage of experienced appraisers is resulting in a challenge to fully staff our office with experienced workers to complete the complex work we are responsible for. Wasco County hired their last three appraisers with no appraisal experience and have invested resources to train these employees while performing the work. Wasco County has been without a Chief Appraiser for more than a year now. We are unable to fill this role. The vast principles of mass appraisal takes time and training to become proficient. In smaller counties such as Wasco where the appraiser is required to be competent in more than one principal is a daunting task.

Wasco County is currently thinking outside the box and working more collaboratively for ways to complete the appraisal work and recruit, train and succession plan for the future. This is not a challenge that will be put to rest in short order. Solutions and intensive investment will take time. In the meantime staff is working together to accomplish the work needed. This is providing great opportunities for additional professional development as well as succession planning for the future.

Form 5 note: tax collection is a combined roll and function with Assessment Functions. We are a dual role office.



## Form 3 General Comments

2021-2022

County WASCO

Use this form to describe any issue in your budget that needs further clarification. Examples include significant changes on Form 7, purchase of a new data processing system, salary increases, new car purchases, personnel services, costs for mapping, etc. You can also use this form to document any miscellaneous comments about this grant application.

Wasco County Assessment & Tax Team has navigated the year of the pandemic well. With implementation of new protocols for field work, both new construction and reappraisal were accomplished. New efficiencies have been found in remote work for most of the appraisal team, the deed clerk and manager of A & T. We have been short staffed for a year with the Chief Appraiser seat remaining vacant which is impacting our output.

We are revisiting the A & T software purchase with our new IT Director. It is my goal to have a decision and contract signed by end of this physical year as discussed in the current year grant documentation. The pandemic has placed an emphasis on remote working capabilities, digital field optimization, desktop appraisal needs and technology as a needed tool to accomplish the work. Processes put into place last year continue to contribute to accomplishing the work. Consistency has been a benefit and as you will see, there is minimal change in the grant submission this year. We continue to be committed to providing quality data to our customers in new and innovative ways with a focus on quality of service to our customers.



# Form 4 Valuation and Appraisal Resources

2021-2022

County <u>WASCO</u>	Number of accounts by activity		Number of FTE by activity	
	Actual (2020-21)	Estimated (2021-22)	Actual (2020-21)	Estimated (2021-22)
<b>Activities</b>				
<b>1. Real property exceptions, special assessments and exemptions</b>				
New construction.....	923	1,000	1.50	1.75
Zone changes.....	0	0	0.00	0.00
Subdivisions, segregations, and consolidations..	142	125	0.15	0.15
Omitted properties .....	0	0	0.00	0.00
Special assessment qualification and disqualification	5	0	0.15	0.25
Exemptions.....	8	0	0.10	0.10
Subtotal.....	1,078	1,125	1.90	2.25
<b>2. Appeals and assessor review</b>				
Assessor review and stipulations .....	13	40	0.10	0.10
BOPTA .....	22	30	0.10	0.10
Department of Revenue.....	0	0	0.00	0.00
Magistrate Division of the Oregon Tax Court.....	3	5	0.05	0.05
Regular Division of the Oregon Tax Court .....	0	0	0.00	0.00
Subtotal.....	38	75	0.25	0.25
<b>3. Real property valuation</b>				
Physical reappraisal.....	1,078	1,000	0.50	0.50
Recalculation only—no appraisal review .....	16,072	16,150	0.50	0.50
Subtotal.....	17,150	17,150	1.00	1.00
<b>4. Business personal property (returns mailed) .....</b>	1,517	1,400	0.10	0.10
<b>5. Ratio .....</b>			0.30	0.30
<b>6. Continuing education .....</b>			0.20	0.30
<b>7. Other valuation—appraisal activity .....</b>			1.00	0.60
<b>8. Total valuation and appraisal staff (FTE) .....</b>			4.75	4.80



# Form 5 Tax Collection and Distribution Work Activity

2021-2022

County WASCO

Number of accounts  
by activity

Actual (2020-21)	Estimated (2021-22)
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1. Number of accounts requiring roll corrections

Business personal property .....	5	8
Personal property manufactured structures .....	3	5
Real property .....	48	55

2. Number of accounts requiring a refund

Business personal property .....	11	10
Personal property manufactured structures .....	5	8
Real property .....	110	120

3. Number of delinquent tax notices sent

Business personal property .....	31	35
Personal property manufactured structures .....	118	130
Real property .....	997	1,100

4. Number of foreclosure accounts processed

Real property only .....	40	65
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5. Number of accounts issued redemption notices

Real property only .....	9	12
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6. Number of warrants .....	119	130
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7. Number of garnishments .....	0	0
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8. Number of seizures .....	0	1
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9. Number of bankruptcies .....	35	40
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10. Number of accounts with an address change processed .....	1,004	1,000
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11. How many second trimester statements do you mail? .....	2,017
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12. How many third trimester statements do you mail? .....	1,991
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13. Does the county contract for lock box service?..... ☒ Yes ☐ No

14. Does the county use in-house remittance processing? ..... ☐ Yes ☒ No

15. Is tax collecting combined with another county function? ..... ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe that function on Form 2.



**Form 6**  
**Assessment and Administrative**  
**Support and Cartography**  
**Work Activity**

**2021-2022**

County WASCO

**Assessment and administrative support  
work activity**

	<b>Numbers by activity</b>	
	Actual (2020-21)	Estimated (2021-22)
1. Number of deeds worked .....	<u>1,339</u>	<u>1,472</u>

**Cartography work activity**

	<b>Numbers by activity</b>	
	Actual (2020-21)	Estimated (2021-22)
1. Number of new tax lots .....	<u>75</u>	<u>80</u>
2. Number of lot line adjustments .....	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
3. Number of consolidations .....	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
4. Number of new maps .....	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>
5. Number of tax code boundary changes .....	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>





# Form 7 Summary of Expenses

2021-2022

County WASCO

	A. Assessment Administration	B. Valuation	C. BOPTA	D. Tax Collection & Distribution	E. Cartography*	F. Dedicated IT services for A&T	Totals
<b>Current operating expenses</b>							
1. Personnel services	182,964	372,635	16,751	206,963	47,209	55,836	882,358
2. Materials and services	5,387	18,765	1,357	32,436	65,700	151,108	274,753
3. Transportation	750	2,000	0	250	0	0	3,000
4. Total current operating expenses (Total direct expenses)	189,101	393,400	18,108	239,649	112,909	206,944	1,160,111

\* Include approved grant funding for ORMAP

## Indirect expenses

5. Total direct expenses (line 4) .....	1,160,111
6. If you use the 5 percent method to calculate your indirect expenses, enter 0.05 in this box. ....	0.05
<b>Total indirect expenses</b> (line 5 multiplied by line 6) .....	58,006
6A. If you use a percent amount approved by a federal granting agency to calculate your indirect expenses, enter that percentage in this box.....	0.00000
<b>Total indirect expenses</b> (line 6A multiplied by the direct expense amount for the category/categories that your certificate allows)	0
7. <b>Total indirect expenses</b> .....	58,006

## Capital outlay

	Assessment Administration	Valuation	BOPTA	Tax Collection & Distribution	Cartography	Data Processing Support (IT, AT)	Total capital outlay without regard to limitation
8. Enter the actual capital outlay without regard to limitation.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9. Total direct and indirect expenses (sum of lines 4 and 7) .....							1,218,117
10. Direct and indirect expenses multiplied by 0.06 .....							73,087
11. The greater of line 10 or \$50,000.....							73,087
12. Capital outlay (the lesser of line 8 or line 11) .....							0
13. Total expenditures for CAFFA consideration (sum of lines 4, 7, and 12) .....							1,218,117

## Form 8

### Grant Application Resolution

WASCO \_\_\_\_\_ County is applying to the Department of Revenue to participate in the County Assessment Function Funding Assessment Program.

This state grant provides funding for counties to help them come into compliance or remain in compliance with ORS 308.232, 308.234, Chapters 309, 310, 311, 312, and other laws requiring equity and uniformity in the system of property taxation.

WASCO \_\_\_\_\_ County has undertaken a self-assessment of its compliance with the laws and rules that govern the Oregon property tax system. The County is generally in compliance with ORS 308.232, 308.234, Chapters 309, 310, 311, 312, and all requiring equity and uniformity in the system of property taxation.

WASCO \_\_\_\_\_ County agrees to appropriate budgeted dollars based on 100 percent of the expenditures certified in the grant application. The total expenditure amount for consideration in the grant is \$1,218,117. If 100 percent isn't appropriated, no grant shall be made to the county for each quarter in which the county is out of compliance.

**The County designates** the following individual as the contact for this grant application.

JILL AMERY	(541) 506-2510	jilla@co.wasco.or.us
_____ Name	_____ Phone	_____ Email

#### County Approval

By selecting the "I Accept" checkbox, you are signing this Resolution electronically and certifying the Resolution has been approved by the board. You agree your electronic signature is the legal equivalent of your manual signature.

☐ I Accept

COMMISSIONER SCOTT HEGE	BOCC CHAIRPERSON	
_____ Chair/Judge or Appointee	_____ Title	_____ Sign Date



# Form 1 Grant Application Staffing

2021-2022

County	Column 1 Approved FTE current year (2020-21)	Column 2 Budgeted FTE coming year (2021-22)	Column 3 Change (Column 2 less Column 1)
WASCO			
<b>A. Assessment administration</b>			
Assessor, deputy, etc. ....	0.60	0.60	0.00
Assmt. support staff, deed clerks and data entry staff	1.90	1.60	(0.30)
Total assessment administration staff .....	2.50	2.20	(0.30)
<b>B. Valuation and appraisal staff</b>			
Chief appraisers/appraiser supervisor .....	0.90	0.95	0.05
Lead appraisers.....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Residential appraisers .....	2.45	2.45	0.00
Commercial/industrial appraisers .....	0.30	0.30	0.00
Farm/forest/rural appraisers.....	0.40	0.40	0.00
Manufactured structure/floating structure appraisers	0.15	0.15	0.00
Personal property appraisers.....	0.40	0.40	0.00
Personal property clerks.....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sales data analyst.....	0.15	0.15	0.00
Data gatherers and appraisal techs.....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total valuation and appraisal staff .....	4.75	4.80	0.05
<b>C. Board of Property Tax Appeals (BoPTA)</b>	0.13	0.13	0.00
<b>D. Tax collection and distribution administration</b>			
Administration, deputy, etc.....	0.49	0.50	0.01
Support and collection .....	1.77	2.02	0.25
Tax distribution .....	0.53	0.48	(0.05)
Foreclosure and garnishment.....	0.10	0.10	0.00
Total tax collection and distribution .....	2.89	3.10	0.21
<b>E. Cartography and GIS administration</b>			
Cartographic/GIS supervisor.....	0.40	0.50	0.10
Lead cartographers .....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cartographers.....	0.00	0.00	0.00
GIS specialists.....	0.10	0.00	(0.10)
Total cartographic and GIS staff .....	0.50	0.50	0.00
<b>F. Dedicated IT services for A&amp;T</b>	0.50	0.50	0.00
<b>G. Total assessment and taxation staffing</b>	11.27	11.23	(0.04)



## Form 2 Explanation of Staffing Issues

2021-2022

County WASCO

In this section, explain any difference between approved staffing for the current year and staffing for the budgeted year. Explain why any funded positions were unfilled for the current year. Use this form to describe the intended use of nonpermanent workers (temporary help, project temporaries, and contractors) by A&T function, along with their cost. Note any special or unique aspects regarding who accomplishes the work and how they accomplish it related to Forms 4, 5, and 6. For example, if you use staff to perform personal property functions, other than those reported on Form 1, Section B, note that here and include the FTE.

A shortage of experienced appraisers is resulting in a challenge to fully staff our office with experienced workers to complete the complex work we are responsible for. Wasco County hired their last three appraisers with no appraisal experience and have invested resources to train these employees while performing the work. Wasco County has been without a Chief Appraiser for more than a year now. We are unable to fill this role. The vast principles of mass appraisal takes time and training to become proficient. In smaller counties such as Wasco where the appraiser is required to be competent in more than one principal is a daunting task.

Wasco County is currently thinking outside the box and working more collaboratively for ways to complete the appraisal work and recruit, train and succession plan for the future. This is not a challenge that will be put to rest in short order. Solutions and intensive investment will take time. In the meantime staff is working together to accomplish the work needed. This is providing great opportunities for additional professional development as well as succession planning for the future.

Form 5 note: tax collection is a combined roll and function with Assessment Functions. We are a dual role office.



## Form 3 General Comments

2021-2022

County WASCO

Use this form to describe any issue in your budget that needs further clarification. Examples include significant changes on Form 7, purchase of a new data processing system, salary increases, new car purchases, personnel services, costs for mapping, etc. You can also use this form to document any miscellaneous comments about this grant application.

Wasco County Assessment & Tax Team has navigated the year of the pandemic well. With implementation of new protocols for field work, both new construction and reappraisal were accomplished. New efficiencies have been found in remote work for most of the appraisal team, the deed clerk and manager of A & T. We have been short staffed for a year with the Chief Appraiser seat remaining vacant which is impacting our output.

We are revisiting the A & T software purchase with our new IT Director. It is my goal to have a decision and contract signed by end of this physical year as discussed in the current year grant documentation. The pandemic has placed an emphasis on remote working capabilities, digital field optimization, desktop appraisal needs and technology as a needed tool to accomplish the work. Processes put into place last year continue to contribute to accomplishing the work. Consistency has been a benefit and as you will see, there is minimal change in the grant submission this year. We continue to be committed to providing quality data to our customers in new and innovative ways with a focus on quality of service to our customers.



# Form 4 Valuation and Appraisal Resources

2021-2022

County <u>WASCO</u>	Number of accounts by activity		Number of FTE by activity	
	Actual (2020-21)	Estimated (2021-22)	Actual (2020-21)	Estimated (2021-22)
<b>Activities</b>				
<b>1. Real property exceptions, special assessments and exemptions</b>				
New construction.....	923	1,000	1.50	1.75
Zone changes.....	0	0	0.00	0.00
Subdivisions, segregations, and consolidations..	142	125	0.15	0.15
Omitted properties .....	0	0	0.00	0.00
Special assessment qualification and disqualification	5	0	0.15	0.25
Exemptions.....	8	0	0.10	0.10
Subtotal.....	1,078	1,125	1.90	2.25
<b>2. Appeals and assessor review</b>				
Assessor review and stipulations .....	13	40	0.10	0.10
BOPTA .....	22	30	0.10	0.10
Department of Revenue.....	0	0	0.00	0.00
Magistrate Division of the Oregon Tax Court.....	3	5	0.05	0.05
Regular Division of the Oregon Tax Court .....	0	0	0.00	0.00
Subtotal.....	38	75	0.25	0.25
<b>3. Real property valuation</b>				
Physical reappraisal.....	1,078	1,000	0.50	0.50
Recalculation only—no appraisal review .....	16,072	16,150	0.50	0.50
Subtotal.....	17,150	17,150	1.00	1.00
<b>4. Business personal property (returns mailed) .....</b>	1,517	1,400	0.10	0.10
<b>5. Ratio .....</b>			0.30	0.30
<b>6. Continuing education .....</b>			0.20	0.30
<b>7. Other valuation—appraisal activity .....</b>			1.00	0.60
<b>8. Total valuation and appraisal staff (FTE) .....</b>			4.75	4.80



# Form 5 Tax Collection and Distribution Work Activity

2021-2022

County WASCO

Number of accounts  
by activity

Actual (2020-21)	Estimated (2021-22)
---------------------	------------------------

1. Number of accounts requiring roll corrections

Business personal property .....	5	8
Personal property manufactured structures .....	3	5
Real property .....	48	55

2. Number of accounts requiring a refund

Business personal property .....	11	10
Personal property manufactured structures .....	5	8
Real property .....	110	120

3. Number of delinquent tax notices sent

Business personal property .....	31	35
Personal property manufactured structures .....	118	130
Real property .....	997	1,100

4. Number of foreclosure accounts processed

Real property only .....	40	65
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5. Number of accounts issued redemption notices

Real property only .....	9	12
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6. Number of warrants .....	119	130
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7. Number of garnishments .....	0	0
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8. Number of seizures .....	0	1
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9. Number of bankruptcies .....	35	40
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10. Number of accounts with an address change processed .....	1,004	1,000
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11. How many second trimester statements do you mail? .....	2,017
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12. How many third trimester statements do you mail? .....	1,991
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13. Does the county contract for lock box service?..... ☒ Yes ☐ No

14. Does the county use in-house remittance processing? ..... ☐ Yes ☒ No

15. Is tax collecting combined with another county function? ..... ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe that function on Form 2.





**Form 6**  
**Assessment and Administrative**  
**Support and Cartography**  
**Work Activity**

**2021-2022**

County WASCO

**Assessment and administrative support  
work activity**

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# Form 7 Summary of Expenses

2021-2022

County WASCO

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## Form 8

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**The County designates** the following individual as the contact for this grant application.

JILL AMERY	(541) 506-2510	jilla@co.wasco.or.us
_____ Name	_____ Phone	_____ Email

#### County Approval

By selecting the "I Accept" checkbox, you are signing this Resolution electronically and certifying the Resolution has been approved by the board. You agree your electronic signature is the legal equivalent of your manual signature.

☐ I Accept

COMMISSIONER SCOTT HEGE	BOCC CHAIRPERSON	
_____ Chair/Judge or Appointee	_____ Title	_____ Sign Date



## **MOTION**

**SUBJECT: CAFFA Amendment**

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I move to approve the amended 2021-2022 CAFFA Grant Application.



## AGENDA ITEM

### White River Update

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[NO DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED FOR THIS ITEM – RETURN TO AGENDA](#)

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## AGENDA ITEM

### Executive Session

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[PURSUANT TO ORS 192.660\(2\)\(H\) CONSULTING WITH COUNSEL](#)

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[NO DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED FOR THIS ITEM – RETURN TO AGENDA](#)

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