



**WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
JULY 13, 2017**

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

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

At 11:40 a.m. Chair Runyon opened a Work Session for the Board of Commissioners.

Discussion – Deschutes Rim Clinic Request

It was noted that the Deschutes Rim Health Clinic recently contacted the Board asking for representation on their Capital Campaign Committee. The Commissioners shared an opinion that it is a private enterprise; having County representation on their Capital Campaign Committee would not set a good precedent. However, each Commissioner is free to participate as a private citizen rather than a representative of the County.

Discussion – Community Calendar

Chair Runyon noted that an internal community calendar created to encourage Department Directors to participate in more community meetings, appears to be cluttered by the addition of daily radio broadcasts; the sheer number of postings to denote the broadcasts, makes it more difficult to see other community activities. He suggested that only those broadcasts already scheduled for County participation be added to the Calendar. Mr. Stone proposed that the daily event be kept as an all-day, top-bar item while the

scheduled County participation broadcasts remain in the body of the calendar.

Discussion – Boater Passes for Lower Deschutes

Discussion ensued regarding the decline in sales of boater passes for the Lower Deschutes River. BLM is currently using recreation.gov for on-line sales. The free portal is not as user friendly as it might be, but no one has funding to support an alternative site.

Discussion – AOC Reorganization

It was noted that, due to budgetary considerations, two AOC staffers are being let go and another is retiring and will not be replaced. AOC is reorganizing committees to streamline work-efforts being managed by fewer staff. The practical logistical details of how that will work have not yet been fully determined. There will be more discussion regarding this reorganization at the upcoming AOC Legislative Conference.

Discussion – MCCOG Programs

Discussion ensued regarding a recent assessment report delivered to the MCCOG Board by Interim Executive Director David Meriwether. Vice-Chair Kramer reported that due to Mr. Meriwether's planned absence in July, the July MCCOG session was cancelled and the August session moved up to August 8th. He explained that he has asked MCCOG Board members to submit questions and comments regarding the report to the MCCOG secretary by the end of July; she will compile those items for Mr. Meriwether to review and respond to at the August 8th session. He stated that he has asked MCCOG Board members to be prepared to vote at that session on the recommendations outlined in Mr. Meriwether's assessment.

Further discussion ensued regarding the various programs housed at MCCOG and possible alternative parent agencies. However, the overall consensus was that those discussions are secondary to the question of MCCOG's viability as an efficient, cost-effective administrative organization that can provide the highest possible service quality at the lowest cost. Vice-Chair Kramer stated that he will be casting a vote at the August 8th meeting and wants to be able to represent the County's position in both the discussion and vote at the MCCOG meeting.

The overall unanimity of opinion was that it would be very difficult, time consuming and expensive to reorganize MCCOG's bureaucracy to adequately

meet the needs of the populations served by the various programs it administers. Therefore, the County could support a decision by the MCCOG Board to find other agencies where the individual programs could thrive and be improved; agencies whose overall focus would align with each program's stated purpose.

Discussion – Gorge Commission 2020 Plan Update

Chair Runyon complimented Mr. Stone, Wasco County Senior Planner Dustin Nilsen, Port of The Dalles Executive Director Andrea Klaas and Hood River County's Community Development Director John Roberts for the work they are doing to partner with the Gorge Commission on their 2020 Management Plan update. Mr. Stone explained that land use partners throughout the Gorge should have a voice in the plan as they are the ones who will be implementing the plan once completed. This collaborative effort is beginning to have some impact on the Gorge Commission's perspective. He stated that the goal is to streamline the process to make it easier for citizens to navigate. The Gorge Commission has asked for more specific input; Hood River County and Wasco County are going to work collaboratively on a "suggested rewrite" of the existing plan to provide more detail and a starting point for constructive dialogue.

Discussion – Urban Renewal

Chair Runyon stated that he has heard discussion that would indicate that one of The Dalles City Councilmembers is working to assist Sunshine Mills raise revenue and therefore should recuse themselves from any decisions made regarding Sunshine Mill's Urban Renewal loan. Vice-Chair Kramer, who sits on the Urban Renewal Committee, stated that there must be some confusion; Councilwoman Curtis and Councilman Elliot have been charged with negotiating a repayment plan with Sunshine Mill. He said that there is not conflict, Councilwoman Curtis and Councilman Elliot represent the Urban Renewal Agency.

Discussion – Plane Tree Acquisition

Mr. Stone stated that staff is currently looking at the space and how it might be used in both the short and long term. For the short term, the two plans being considered would be to move Information Systems and Facilities into part of the space and lease the remaining space or to move Information Systems, Facilities and the Commissioners to the space and use the remaining space for a training

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area, conference room, or other County uses. He noted that a local realtor has advised that the space would be worth approximately \$1 per square foot as a rental. He reported that there has not been time to pull the Cross-functional Team together for a discussion.

Further discussion ensued regarding the length of time space would be leased and the impact of that arrangement should that scenario be followed. Chair Runyon voiced some concern about parking if any of the space is leased. Commissioner Hege expressed his confidence in staff's ability to determine the best course of action. Chair Runyon suggested that the team be brought together to make a recommendation.

Chair Runyon adjourned the session at 1:40 p.m.

Wasco County
Board of Commissioners


Rod L. Runyon, Board Chair


Steven D. Kramer, Vice-Chair


Scott C. Hege, County Commissioner