

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Emergency Meeting of April 10, 2019
2:30 p.m., Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

Commissioners Present: Vice-Chair George Murdock and Commissioner John Shafer
Absent: Chair Bill Elfering

County Counsel: Doug Olsen

Members and Guests Present: Robert Waldher, County Planning Department Director; Phil Wright, East Oregonian; Tom Roberts, Emergency Manager; Tom Fellows, Public Works Director; Mayor Clint Barber, Ukiah (via phone in)

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Vice-Chair Murdock. The purpose/issue is widespread flooding in the county; biggest concern is infrastructure as well as the sewer/lift station at Pendleton. Commissioner Shafer asked Mayor Barber about floodwaters at Ukiah. He advised the water (Camas Creek) was going down some. Tom Roberts asked the Mayor about a flood declaration and Camas Creek. Mr. Roberts also talked about the Umatilla River--Reith area, and into Hermiston and Umatilla as well as in the Gibbon area, Yoakum Road and Nolan area. In addition, the Walla Walla River has flooding and Mill Creek area has issues – some road flood damage.

Regarding the Bureau of Reclamation (which oversees McKay Reservoir), the reservoir is near 100%. Cold Springs Reservoir is okay -- at 70%. McKay will have operational releases off and on within the limits.

Tom Fellows verified flooding at Meacham. His staff worked a late night; however, water was dropping. Current weather patterns are expected to put McKay to maximum capacity up to April 15. He added that Jones Bridge is of concern and repairs will be needed and done as time permits. His crew also worked on Xtulpa Bridge to divert water off the county road. Bar M Ranch Road had a plugged culvert and high flows (Conner Road) – that road will be closed. County roads are Fellows’ priority and focus. He also added that Harris Park looks good (by report from Chip Zessnin, Park Manager) and water is dropping there.

Commissioner Murdock talked about the National Weather Service report and the fact that more rain is coming. There is also prediction there will be some snow at higher elevations, which will help slow flood/high water.

There was more discussion by Mr. Roberts about emergency need/Board action, threshold amounts for federal/state assistance, assessment, etc.

Commissioner Murdock read Resolution Order No. BCC2019-030, a proclamation of flooding emergency, which included powers granted. **Motion to approve and adopt Order No. BCC2019-030 was made by Commissioner Shafer. Seconded by Commissioner Murdock. Carried, 2-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Slatt

Executive Secretary Umatilla County Board of Commissioners