

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of August 13, 2025
9:00 am, Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

Commissioners Present: Chair Cindy Timmons, Vice-Chair Dan Dorran and Commissioner John Shafer

Commissioner Absent:

County Counsel Doug Olsen

Guests Present:

Robert Pahl, Umatilla County Chief Financial Officer; Sage DeLong, Umatilla County Emergency Management; Bob Waldher, Umatilla County Community Development Director; Megan Davchevski, Umatilla County Planning Commission Manager; Dale Primmer, Community Corrections Director, Captain Karen Primmer, UCSO Dispatch; Cody Bowen, Union County Sheriff; Riley Wortman, Umatilla County IT Manager; Alisha Lundgren, UCo Health Deputy Director; Tierney Cimmityoti, Wade Robertson; Calvin Dudney; Wayne Navian; Wyatt Navian; Gary Goodwin; Mary Jo Goodwin; Sarah Sherman, Vale District BLM, Baker Field Manager;

Video link or Calling in: Jennifer Blake, Rowen Hayes, Gary Humphreys, Bradley Reid, Karie Walchli, Susan Byrd

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Timmons called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. She reminded all that the meeting is a public forum and there is a call-in option provided. There is time on the agenda to provide input (or for hearings) to provide comment. The meeting is being video and audio recorded and minutes will be taken. Also, meetings are now live-streaming. Comments will become part of the meeting record and ask that they be three minutes or under. If persons wish to speak before the Board, please identify yourself and state where you live in order to be heard on the record – also note if you are speaking on behalf of others.

Pledge of Allegiance - led by Chair Timmons.

Awards/Correspondence/Recognitions – Commissioner Dorran recognized National left-handers day.

A letter of commendation written by Sergeant Teri Lauricella, Umatilla County Dispatch, recognized the exceptional performance from dispatcher Kim Winnett during an armed subject call August 7, 2025. Her immediate and decisive action was instrumental in preparing the responding officers. She maintained a remarkably calm and clear demeanor on the radio. Her outstanding dispatch skills and ability to manage a high stress situation are a testament to her dedication, professionalism and the critical role that she plays in public safety. Job well done Dispatcher Winnett!

Commissioner Shafer thanked the Fair Board, Sale Committee and volunteers on a successful, well done Fair. He acknowledge Captain Primmer and staff also for doing an amazing job. Chair Timmons commented that is was great to see so many people and called the Fair highly successful.

Minutes – Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the minutes from July 16, 2025 and July 22, 2025 Board meetings. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3 - 0.

Additions to Agenda – None

Public Comments and Recognition of Visitors – None

Business Items

1. **Vale BLM Update** – Presented by Sarah Sherman Baker Field Manager BLM, 22267 Oregon Hwy 86 Baker City, OR. The office did relocate as of June 23, 2025. She presented quarterly reports to the Board.

Ms. Sherman informed the Board that the South Fork of the Walla Walla Area of Critical Environmental Concern project is open for a 30-day public comment as of August 11 and will be closing September 10, 2025. The draft analysis for the project includes road construction on the BLM Road 7699 to the trailhead and some recreation and non-recreation access. A virtual public information meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 8 pm.

BLM has shifted priorities to focus on mineral production including lithium, geothermal and high scale gold mining. A couple of small scale gold mining operations in Baker County are wrapping up in the near future. A decline in renewable energy has shifted focus towards energy development.

The Bureau is looking for ways to improve, streamline and complete projects in a timelier manner by incorporating other agencies and their processes regarding routine work. Larger projects with public involvement may look different, scoping periods open to public timelines could go away or could be reduced in an attempt to streamline the process and decrease longevity of the projects.

Commissioner Timmons has concerns with reducing timeframes for public comment while also understanding the attempt is to decrease the longevity of projects.

2. **Dispatch Payable - RIMS** - Presented by Karen Primmer, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office. Due to the amount, the payable for the yearly maintenance and support services is needed to be approved by the Board of Commissioners for the RIMS CAD program. There will be a portion that is reimbursed from Morrow County Sheriff's Office and Boardman PD. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve payment to Sun Ridge Systems for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$99,547.00. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
3. **Dispatch Payable - Hermiston** – Presented by Karen Primmer, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office. Due to the amount, the payable for the yearly maintenance and support services is needed to be approved by the Board of Commissioners. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve payment to Sun Ridge Systems for RIMS for Hermiston PD for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$13,982.00. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

4. Community Corrections Plan – Presented by Dale Primmer, Community Corrections Director. Every two years Community Corrections agencies must submit its biennial plan to the Department of Corrections. This plan then enables the County and the State to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement to fund Community Corrections for the biennium. The plan has been made available for the Board to review for fiscal years 2025-27. The plan has been approved by the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council. Chair Timmons commended the agency's efforts in ensuring community safety. A great deal of unseen work is involved. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the biennial plan as approved by LPSCC and authorize chair to sign approval letter. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**
5. ATV Road Use - Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. The possibility of opening County Roads to the use of all-terrain vehicles is before the Board for discussion. A draft of an ordinance was prepared, based on the 2016 ordinance that expired in 2017. The ordinance has been revised after internal discussions with staff. The matter is before the Board for direction on how to proceed.

Commissioner Shafer clarified that this ordinance would only apply to County roads. The cities that have approved ATV/UTV use within the city limits would not be affected by this ordinance.

Cody Bowen, Union County Sheriff's Office, 1109 K Ave La Grande. Union County enacted a county-wide ATV/UTV ordinance a few years ago. Being in law enforcement he had concerns with increased traffic on the roads. There have been zero injuries or incidents as a result of the ATV/UTV ordinance. It has been good for tourism, it has been a positive for locals to access the recreation areas.

Wade Roberts, 2487 NE Valley View Dr., Hermiston, OR 97838. He recently purchased some property in Ukiah. He relayed that as a prior ATV patrol for Umatilla County Sheriff's Office he had very few incidents in regards to irresponsible driving or DUI. He asked for a comparable for damage to the roads caused by ATV use versus normal vehicle use.

Gary Goodwin, 311 SE 15th Ave, Milton-Freewater, OR. He commended Chair Timmons for bringing this forward, but proposed separating Class I, Class II and Class IV. He felt that Class IV hours of operation should be extended past daylight hours and states that his Class IV vehicle has a roll bar and there shouldn't be a requirement for helmets use with a roll bar. Mr. Goodwin would like the ordinance map expanded to include Ukiah and to include access to trails.

Susan Byrd, PO Box 236 Ukiah, OR (online). Ms. Byrd emailed a detailed letter in opposition of the ordinance this morning and provides a summary to the Board. Over the last 5 years riders have driven illegally on Hideaway Springs Road, she has interacted with law enforcement many times. It is difficult to identify and contact offenders, by the time law enforcement arrives they have left the area. Ms. Byrd states that her property is zoned EFU with a critical wildlife overlay and she is the largest landowner on this road. She is concerned that she has not been contacted as a stakeholder in the matter.

Other concerns include increased pollution, noise pollution, lights, dust, the spread of invasive weeds and increased risk for human caused wildfire. She speculates that alcohol, guns and

additional passengers will accompany the rider and states that the ordinance interferes and conflicts with existing zoning. She concludes with “Umatilla County has places to safely and legally ride.”

Randy Norton, 404 N Pendleton Ave Ukiah, OR. He feels that allowing access to forest lands in the Ukiah area would greatly benefit the area not hinder it.

Commissioner Dorran asked if the goal is recreation based, this was confirmed. There is no objection to recreation use on recreation roads from him, but the objection comes into play with recreation vehicles on agricultural roads. He recommends, if this moves forward to designate recreation roads. The current draft of the ordinance reflects roads with 40 mph speed limits where neighboring States’ ordinances are based on 35 mph speed limits and feels that should be considered. Vehicles with tracks should be prohibited and no passengers allowed under the age of 5. In addition, phases of implementation should include; establishment of a map showing locations for allowed use and creation of a budget for signage. Commissioner Dorran is opposed to ATV/UTV travel on paved roads and has concerns with parking trucks and trailers along the roads. Lastly, Umatilla County is invested in Transportation System Plan (TSP) and Safe Streets for All (SS4A), Commissioner Dorran would like the ATV/UTV use implemented/integrated into these programs if it is going to move forward.

Commissioner Shafer asked Sheriff Bowen if Union County had designated parking for trailers hauling ATV/UTV’s. Union County has very few designated parking areas. Legal counsel clarified that parking a trailer on a county road is not illegal as long as it is not hindering traffic or the area is marked as no parking.

Commissioner Timmons clarified that the ordinance requires drivers to be age 16 or older. The State has online trainings, the 4-H program has an ATV/UTV training. Safety is important, keeping the kids safe is important. Recreation includes being able to ride safely to other areas and events in the local vicinity. The Forest service is working to open additional roads to complete loops for ATV trails. **Commissioner Shafer recommends continuing with modifying the current draft to include topics discussed today. Commissioner Dorran recommends inclusion into SS4A and TSP programs.**

6. Records Payable - Presented by Riley Wortman, IT Manager. A payable for the Helion recording system maintenance is before the Board for approval. The invoice is \$10,206, which is over \$5,000 and requires commissioner approval. This is a yearly routine expense for the Records Department and has been budgeted. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve and sign the payable to Helion Software Inc. in the amount of \$10,206.00. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Security Fingerprint Computer – Presented by Riley Wortman, IT Manager. Security’s fingerprint machines at both Pendleton and Hermiston Courthouses need to be updated. The quote to upgrade just the computer is \$2,941.85 per computer for a total of \$5,883.70. This purchase includes remote installation and configuration of the specialized fingerprint scanning software. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the purchase of two replacement computers for the fingerprint scanners at security in the amount of \$5,883.70. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**

8. ODOT Acquisition – Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. As part of its ADA curb ramp project, ODOT will be replacing the sidewalk at the southwest corner of the Courthouse. This will require ODOT acquiring a permanent easement, and a temporary easement for a work area. The area being acquired is 17 square feet, along with 122 square feet for the temporary construction easement. There is a sprinkler head and lawn in the area being acquired. The offer from ODOT for the easements and damages is \$1,800. The department does not have any issues with the proposal. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve offer, sign easement and offer. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
9. Public Health Contract – Presented by Alisha Lundgren, Deputy Director for Public Health. Our current Spanish language advertisement contract expires at the end of August. We have been working through the same group we have been working with in the past. We are switching up the radio stations, these new ones provide good direct coverage for most of Umatilla County (Hermiston, Stanfield, Milton-Freewater, Umatilla). This year we are also expanding into some TV ads on Spanish language stations for providing public health related messaging in that area. This is a reduction in overall contract price from previous years; this was at our request due to tightening budget outlooks. All funding for this contract would come from Program Element funding provided by OHA, with the main bulk coming from Modernization funding. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve annual contract with Guru Multimedia and approve the expense in the amount of \$50,700. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**
10. Community Wildfire Protection Plan - Presented by Sage DeLong, Umatilla County Emergency Manager. The Umatilla County Wildfire Protection Plan for the eastern portion has been drafted and is before the Board for review and approval. The plan was originally adopted in 2005. The county received a grant to update a portion of the plan for the eastern side.

Some key improvements include data-driven risk mapping with advanced GIS and wildfire modeling to pinpoint high risk areas. This plan had not been updated since 2005 and an updated plan is a key component to qualify for federal funding for risk reduction and forest treatment projects. This plan is strictly for the East side of the County, Emergency Management will work on the West end once funding is retained for that. **Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Order No. BCC2025-035 and sign plan. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**
11. Tourism Contract – Presented by Bob Waldher, Umatilla County Community Development Director. The renewal of the contract for tourism assistance is before the Board for approval. An itemization of the budget and plan are also provided. One item that has been added is the Bounty of Umatilla County event. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the contract for tourism assistance. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
12. Bounty of County Event - Presented by Bob Waldher, Umatilla County Community Development Director. Umatilla County Tourism is seeking approval of a budget for Farm to Square – Highlighting the Bounty of Umatilla County, a vibrant new event that brings the flavors of Eastern Oregon to the heart of Portland. In partnership with the City of Portland and the James Beard Public Market, this celebration will take place on Saturday, September 20, 2025 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Pioneer Square in downtown Portland. Designed to align with the mission of the James Beard Market—set to open in 2026—this event will foster connection between Oregon’s rural and urban communities through a shared appreciation of food and agriculture. Attendees can look forward to

chef-prepared food samples featuring farm-fresh ingredients from Umatilla County, live music, family-friendly games, and generous produce giveaways directly from local farms. It's a unique opportunity to showcase and promote the rich agricultural heritage of Umatilla County to a wider audience. **Commissioner Dorran moved to authorize a budget of \$10,000 from the County's Economic Development program fund to the "Bounty of Umatilla County" event. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

13. EFSC Connect Project Comment Letter – Presented by Megan Davchevski, Umatilla County Planning Commission Manager. Umatilla Electric Cooperative proposes a 230 kV transmission line to connect UEC's Highway 730 Switchyard (Morrow County) and Ordinance Switchyard (Umatilla County) to increase their system's reliability. The portion within Umatilla County is primarily located on lands owned by the Columbia Development Authority. Umatilla County Community Development Department, as Special Advisory Group, has conducted a review of the submitted preliminary application and has prepared a comment letter to be sent on behalf of the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve and authorize Chair to sign comment letter to be sent to Oregon EFSC. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0**

14. Mass Gathering License – Presented by Tierney Cimmiyoti, Umatilla County Planner. A permit has been submitted to the Planning Division for an outdoor mass gathering at Juniper Canyon Flower Farm. The event, a one-day summer market, is scheduled for August 23, 2025, from 3pm to 8pm. The maximum attendance is expected to be 400 people, with approximately 75 people at a time.

Bradley Reid, 81725 Muller Road Helix, OR 97835. This is his 5th year selling flowers and first time applying for a permitted event. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve license for outdoor mass gathering and authorize the Chair to sign ZP-25-172. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

15. Sale of Property – Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. Authorization is sought for the sale of property foreclosed on for delinquent property tax - Tax Lot 1S3217-AD-11402. The record owner has requested to purchase back the property. As provided under state law, the Board of Commissioners has the discretion to sell the property back to the owner/purchaser for an amount not less than the amount of property taxes that were delinquent. In this case, that amount is \$11,569.35. The county has received the funds for the purchase. **Commissioner Dorran moved to adopt Order No. TX2025-03. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0**
16. Walker Road Project – Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. In March 2024, the Board approved a contract for the construction of Phase 3 of the Central Pipeline project, which would include a water recharge project on the depot. Due to various factors, the location of the water recharge has been relocated to the Walker Road area. The County has obtained an OWRD limited license to test groundwater recharge at three sites in the area. The change in scope of the project is before the Board for approval. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve water recharge project in the Walker Road area and authorize the contracts for the revised project. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**

17. River Intake Project – Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. As part of the discussion on an additional water intake from the Columbia River, an investment analysis for the project was requested in April 2025. The report has now been delivered, documenting the potential impact of the project. Based on the report, the matter is back before the Board for further discussion and potential decision for proceeding with the project. **Commissioner Shafer made a motion to proceed with moving forward on the additional Columbia River water intake project. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**
18. Letter of Support for Legislation - Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. The County has been requested to provide a letter of support to federal legislators for the delisting of grey wolves in the State of Oregon. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve letter and authorize Chair to sign. Seconded by Commissioner Timmons. Carried, 3-0.**
19. Letter of Support for Project – Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. The Umatilla School District is seeking letters of support for its Columbia Vista Intermediate solar project. A letter of support has been drafted. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the letter and authorize Chair to sign. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
20. Executive Session – Employment/Real Property – ORS 192.660(2)(a,b,e,h) – None

Commissioner Reports: None

Meeting adjourned by Chair Timmons at 10:20 am.

Kelsey Bailey

Executive Secretary – Board of Commissioners