

**CROOK COUNTY COURT MINUTES  
OF AUGUST 9, 2023, WORK SESSION  
Open Portion**

**Be It Remembered** that the Crook County Court met in a regularly scheduled Work Session on August 9, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Conference room located at 203 NE Court Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754.

Court Members Present: Judge Seth Crawford; Commissioner Brian Barney; Commissioner Jerry Brummer

Absentees: None

Others Present in Person or Via Zoom: Legal Counsels Eric Blaine and John Eisler; Administration Executive Assistant Sarah Puerner; Tim Deboodt; Jeff Hurd; Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly; Finance Director Christina Haron; Commander Bill Elliott; Airport Manager Kelly Coffelt; Director Will Van Vactor; Andy Parks; Library Director Sarah Beeler; Wanda Smith; Mike Ervin; Skyler Vold, and members of the public.

**WORK SESSION**

The meeting was **called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

**Public Comment:** None

**Discussion Item #1:** Crook County ODFW Sage Grouse Presentation:

**Requester:** Skyler Vold, Sage Grouse Coordinator

**Details:** Skyler Vold, ODFW Sage Grouse Conservation Coordinator, attended the work session to present the Court with a PowerPoint regarding draft sage grouse maps in Crook County. Mr. Vold provided an overview of the life cycle of the sage grouse, highlighting that the birds live more than five years and exhibit lekking behavior in which they return to the same location for each nesting season. Mr. Vold highlighted that sage grouse have the highest survival rates in the winter when they feed primarily on sagebrush. ODFW is inviting public comment and partners can review the revised maps and upload input including photographs.

**Discussion Item #2:** State of Oregon Grant Funding Contract:

**Requester:** Casey Daly

**Details:** Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly attended the work session to discuss a State of Oregon grant funding contract for improvements to the Jockey Room. The contract was reviewed by legal counsel and some stipulations were noted in the agreement. Concerns include the requirement for a twenty-year commitment from project completion, no clear mechanism to shorten the period, and the requirement to administer the agreement under the terms of IRS revenue procedure 2017-13. Mr. Blaine wanted the Court to review these details before proceeding. The Court agreed that there is no anticipation of moving the location of the fairgrounds.

**MOTION** to approve the agreement with the State of Oregon for grant funding of \$277,777.00. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Discussion Item #3: Review of Landfill Operations Report:**

**Requester:** Jeff Hurd

**Details:** Jeff Hurd attended the work session to review the Landfill Operations report. Mr. Hurd reported that with recent staffing changes at the Landfill, it is important to ensure that operations are not lacking in terms of staff or compliance procedures. An environmental consultant was engaged to review operations and provide a report with recommendations. Recommendations included updating the training program for people identifying prohibited waste, updating the solid waste management plan, and considering permit levels for special waste such as dead animals. Another key issue is methane monitoring, which has been performed quarterly to date, but if thresholds are exceeded, a gas burn-off system will need to be added.

**Discussion Item #4: Letter of Support – Central Oregon Disaster Response Study:**

**Requester:** Jeff Hurd

**Details:** Jeff Hurd attended the work session to discuss with the Court a letter of support for the Central Oregon Disaster Response Study. The Department of Transportation has a grant opportunity through the PROTECT discretionary grant program. The grant funds projects that address the climate crisis by improving the resiliency of the surface transportation system. The City of Bend, Deschutes County, and Jefferson County are proposing a region-wide assessment grant application in which COIC will take lead on the grant application and administration.

**MOTION** to sign the letter of support for the Central Oregon Disaster Response Study managed through COIC and to be signed outside of Court. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Administrator Report:**

- Andy Parks and Commissioner Barney met with John Eisler and Nick Lilly to prepare for a meeting with Department of Justice officials related to capital and operational funding for the new Justice Center. The state will provide \$16 million for capital development, but an additional \$500,000 to \$700,000 will be required to operate the center annually. The County will request funding for these costs and, ideally, funding for facility security. The meeting with the Department of Justice is anticipated to occur on August 17 or 21, 2023.
- The museum board held a goal-setting session and provided details of their expectations for an executive director. The museum board is agreeable to continuing with Sean Briscoe as director of the museum and library for the next few months while the board develops a budget request for the role.
- Andy Parks and Judge Crawford met with a solar developer to discuss a proposal to the County with significant pilot potential. The proposal is anticipated in the next 60 to 90 days.
- IT issued a request for proposal for a managed service provider (MSP) to oversee network services and the intake and delegation of work orders and tickets.

- A network architectural design with preliminary cost estimates and a rollout schedule is anticipated in the next few weeks to consolidate services and provide data redundancy.

Court Member Updates: None

At 9:50 a.m. the Court read into Executive Session under the following statute(s): ORS 192.660(2)(h) Consulting with Counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the County Court convened back into Open Session, inviting members of the public into the meeting room.

**MOTION** to direct staff to correspond with the counter parties as discussed in the Executive Session. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

**MOTION** to direct staff to correspond with the counter parties as discussed in the Executive Session. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business before the Court, the meeting was **adjourned at 11:15 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Sarah Puerner**