

## MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

MARCH 30, 2016

The Malheur County Court met with Judge Dan Joyce presiding with Commissioner Don Hodge and Commissioner Larry Wilson present. Staff present was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois.

Also present was Shelly Dennis and Hilda Mejia.

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT - TOBACCO PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM (TPEP)**

Health Department Director Angela Gerrard and RN (Registered Nurse) Rebecca Stricker met with the Court to follow-up on previous discussion regarding the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP). Ms. Gerrard has not received a response from the Rede Group regarding how much it may cost to contract with them to provide the TPEP services. Ms. Gerrard did visit with the State (Oregon Health Authority) about possible consequences of discontinuing the Program. No financial penalties would be imposed by the State; however, temporary or permanent elimination of the program would result in losing the TPEP State funds (currently approximately \$61,000 is received annually from the State for TPEP).

Ms. Gerrard explained that the Health Department would still be mandated by law to do some parts of the work with no financial support or guidance from the State, such as Indoor Clean Air Act Compliance; as well as being professionally obligated to continue other aspects of the work, such as helping employers develop a tobacco free work campus or assisting health care providers seeking guidance about cessation services. Additionally, Malheur County would be the only county to refuse TPEP, leaving no local entity to provide comprehensive prevention work for a problem that is the leading cause of death and disease and economically burdensome. And, if the Health Department does not continue tobacco prevention work they will essentially have to start from scratch when public health modernization makes them responsible for ensuring it happens in the county (estimated to be in 2-5 years).

Mackenzie McCreary from the Argus Observer joined the meeting.

Ms. Gerrard reviewed the following three options for the Program:

- Make no staffing changes. Continue to put in time as best as possible with existing staff for the rest of the year or until the hiring freeze lifts, knowing that some money will need to be returned to the State. Or, Relinquish TPEP.
- Contract the work. Contract with someone to do TPEP using exclusively TPEP funds. The contract could be renewed yearly, or once the hiring freeze lifts, the job could revert to a regular position. Ideally the person would be local, and thus have the advantage of knowing, understanding, and having a stake in the community.
- Fill the vacancy as usual. Make an exception to the hiring freeze for this position, as there is substantial State funding to support it. This would be the most efficient use of resources, as efforts were already dedicated to the process of identifying a new staff person who is ready to start.

Commissioner Wilson asked how many Indoor Clean Air Act complaints the Department receives; Mr. Gerrard estimated the numbers as one per month.

Commissioner Hodge indicated he was not receptive to making a decision until the 2016-2017 budget process is completed; Commissioner Wilson concurred.

Commissioner Wilson asked if there was a certain deadline; Ms. Gerrard explained that the State will need to redistribute the County's funding to other entities as soon as feasible; and staff could continue to assist with the Program work as they have time for the remainder of this fiscal year. Larry Meyer of the Argus Observer joined the meeting.

The Court further discussed the Program with Ms. Gerrard and Ms. Stricker. Ms. DuBois indicated that the Program work should be completed utilizing existing staff for the current fiscal year as well as the next fiscal year. Judge Joyce requested Ms. Gerrard further discuss the Health Department budget with Ms. DuBois.

Ms. McCreary left the meeting.

### **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Road Supervisor Richard Moulton met with the Court regarding several matters. Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Residential Lease Agreement with Ashley Giacomo for the property located at 5688 John Day Highway, Brogan. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # [2016-1056](#)

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Local Agency Agreement Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Region 5 Local Jurisdiction Sign Upgrades 2016 Various County Roads Malheur County Key #19509, Misc. Contracts and Agreements No. 31233 with the State of Oregon, Department of Transportation. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Under the agreement the State will construct sign upgrades along Hyline Road, Owyhee Lake Road and Yturri Blvd. A copy will be returned for recording.

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve three Crossing Permits to Idaho Power: Permit #07-16 on Owyhee Lake Road #597 to replace recloser; Permit #08-16 on Owyhee Lake Road #597 to replace a pole and recloser; and Permit # 06-16 on Morgan Avenue to install an overhead transformer bank. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The original permits will be kept on file at the Road Department.

### **EXTENSION OFFICE - PROGRAM UPDATES**

Extension Faculty Members Stuart Reitz, Sergio Arispe and Bill Buhrig met with the Court and gave a presentation of program updates.

Family & Community Health (FCH), Supplemental Nutrition Education & Non-traditional 4-H - Program Coordinator Barbara Brody

Critical Issues Related to Youth and Families

- Food Insecurity: Overall poverty rate is the highest in the state (Malheur County 27.4%/Oregon 16.2%). Highest child poverty rate in the state (Malheur County 37.5%/Oregon 21.7%).
- Obesity: Oregon now has the 34th highest adult obesity rate in the nation. Adult obesity rate in Malheur County is 29.7%/Oregon 25.6%. Low-income preschool obesity rate in Malheur County is 20.6%/Oregon 25.6%.
- Need for positive out-of-school activities for youth and families to engage in.

#### Family & Community Health - Better Bones & Balance®

- Research-based, targeted exercise program to reduce the incidence of falls. Improves functional outcomes; Greater leg strength, improved balance; Greater hip strength; increased muscular power. Secured \$5,000 in grant funds to implement this program in Malheur County.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) - Nutrition education, physical activity, and health living programs serving low-income families in Malheur County.

- Food Hero: Foodhero.org is a go-to-site for quick, tasty, health recipes and helpful tips. Food Hero messaging, marketing, and recipe information is available at Red Apple, Grocery Outlet, and Albertson's. Over \$80,000 in grant funds received to support SNAP-Ed programs in Malheur County

#### Non-traditional 4-H: School Enrichment and Afterschool Programs

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education at local schools
- SMILE (Science & Math Investigative Learning Experiences)
- Lego Robotics
- Aviation
- Entrepreneurship
- Financial Literacy
- Health Living
- Horticulture
- Teen Leadership

Accomplishments include securing approximately \$15,000 in grant funds to support new non-traditional local 4-H programs and youth camp experiences; \$80,000 in grant funds to support SNAP-Ed programming for youth and families in Malheur County; \$5,000 in grant funds to start a new exercise program to reduce the risk of falls; and production of over 3,000 pounds of fresh produce for the local pantry at the Four Rivers Community Garden in partnership with the Community Garden Team.

#### Traditional 4-H - Program Coordinator Melissa Sherman

##### 2016 Numbers

- 280 4-H members
- 48 volunteers
- 33 clubs
- 32 Cloverbuds (Clubs in Ontario, Adrian, and Vale)

The 2016 Kick-Off Awards Banquet was held. Cloverbud Day Camp will be in the summer; Next Level Livestock Camps are May 28-29; and the County Fair is August 2-6, 2016.

### Livestock & Rangeland - Field Faculty Member Sergio Arispe

#### Extension Programs:

- Western Juniper Field Day was held in Juntura and Ironside with 50 participants
- Cow-Calf BQA (Beef Quality Assurance) Certification Workshop - 31 Certifications
- Feedlot BQA Certification Workshop (Mr. Arispe is the State Coordinator) - Managers Workshop had 5 Certifications; Processors Workshop had 5 Certifications and was held in Spanish
- Artificial Insemination Certification Workshop - 22 Certifications
- Veterinary Feed Directive Workshop - 15 Participants
- Post-Fire Grazing Field Day - 36 Participants

#### Research Programs:

- Rehabilitating rangelands on degraded sage-grouse habitat in southeastern Oregon
- Alternative feedstuffs for rangeland-based beef producers
- Rangeland Monitoring using GIS (Geographical Information System) techniques and Google Earth Pro

### Crops - Bill Buhrig

- Pesticide collection was held in October 2015. 9959 lbs. were collected from approximately 15 producers; and three 10-wheeler loads of empty containers were collected.
- 2nd Annual Organic Production Seminar was held in December 2015; there is a lot of interest in the seminar and it was all sponsored; plans are underway for the 3rd Annual Organic seminar in December 2016
- Mr. Buhrig was the co-chair of the Treasure Valley Irrigation Conference held in Ontario last December; the 2016 conference will be in Nampa, Idaho.

2015 had a variety of "Funky Stuff" in the field

- Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus in wheat
- Stripe rust in wheat, a stripe fungus in beardless barley
- Lygus damage in forage alfalfa
- Problems related to: June heat wave; and Crop rotations that aren't because of the drought conditions

#### 2016 Efforts

- Pumpkin project continues
- Work relating to remote irrigation moisture monitoring
- Submitted a proposal to track the aphids that transmit Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus
- Quinoa growing at Experiment Station
- Herbicide and insecticide trials for Alfalfa Seed

The Good News!

- The drought: we are in a better place this year
- Discussions have turned towards old alfalfa stand removal
- Small acreage options also seem to be in demand
- Should be able to stretch crop rotations and relieve some disease pressure

### Cropping Systems - Stuart Reitz

Mr. Reitz explained that Extension staff is there to support the farmers, ranchers, and local community. The issues and priorities are always changing. Various issues are related to horticulture, insects, nematodes, weeds, economics, abiotic factors, food safety, and pathogens.

Priorities and Programs include Pesticide Registrations; finding new herbicides and insecticides or new uses for already existing materials. Training classes and workshops are offered – 360 persons have attended re-certification classes and 15 persons were trained for pesticide exams.

The Food Safety Modernization Act continues to be a priority. Research continues for "bullet-proof" evidence related to water and onion production. Educational programs will be held over the next few years related to compliance of the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Pest management issues continue - both old problems and new problems for growers.

Roundup Resistant Creeping Bentgrass may be challenging. An excerpt from an OSU (Oregon State University) study related to Creeping Bentgrass reads "*...it was unrealistic to think that containment or eradication of GRCB (Glyphosate Resistant Creeping Bentgrass) could be accomplished.*"

A Master Gardener Program may begin in the future; and OSU's Benny Beaver will again be at the Malheur County Fair.

Ms. Dennis and Ms. Mejia left the meeting.

### **WEED DEPARTMENT**

Weed Inspector Gary Page and Weed Advisory Board Chair Jerry Erstrom met with the Court. Mr. Erstrom and Mr. Page explained that the Weed Advisory Board has recommended the addition of genetically engineered Glyphosate Tolerant Creeping Bentgrass (GTCB) to the Noxious Weed List as a Class "A" weed; and the addition of Revenna grass as a Class "B" weed.

GTCB poses a threat to the economy and ecology of Malheur County as it cannot be controlled with Glyphosate (Roundup). The creator of this genetically modified plant has worked out an agreement with USDA APHIS (United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services) to stop control measures at the end of 2016; this will essentially leave control costs and efforts up to the landowners of Malheur County. Additionally, GTCB is known to hybridize with other related grass species; hybridization is a definite threat to the seed and export commodities markets throughout Oregon.

The Weed Advisory Board is concerned about the seemingly sudden appearance of Ravenna grass. There are at least seven known sites already present in the County and it is likely that more will be found. Ravenna grass has been problematic for irrigation districts in Washington and California. If left unchecked it will most certainly cause added costs and maintenance headaches for all irrigation districts in the County.

The Court requested a public hearing be scheduled to consider the addition of the two plants to the County's Noxious Weed List.

Mr. Page also presented a contract for weed spraying for the Court's consideration. Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Professional Services Contract for Weed Spray Application with The Plantworks, LLC. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #[2016-1055](#)

### **COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Court Minutes of March 16, 2016 as written. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **FAIR BOARD**

The Court received the written resignation of Bonnie Christensen from the Fair Board. The Court signed a thank you letter to Ms. Christiansen.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET**

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Resolution No. R16-7: In the Matter of Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Supplemental Budget by Resolution Under Local Budget Law ORS 294.471. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The supplemental budget resolution allocates the spending of rental funds which were received, but not anticipated when the adopted budget was prepared. The funds are to be used to cover expense of the Brogan rental property and to pay on the loan for the gravel pit. See instrument #[2016-1054](#)

### **BUDGET BOARD**

There is still one vacancy on the County Budget Board.

### **CHECK REGISTER**

Accounting Specialist Judy Bond met with the Court. The Court signed the Accounts Payable (AP) register for February 2016.

### **COURT ADJOURNMENT**

Court was adjourned.