



## Board of Commissioners' Work Session Meeting April 12, 2023 ~ 3:00pm ~ Room 214

4/12/2023 - Minutes

**1. To Watch A Live Stream Of This Meeting, Click The Link Below Or Go To  
[Www.klamathcounty.org](http://www.klamathcounty.org)**

**2. Call To Order & Those Present**

Commissioner Henslee, Commissioner Minty, Commissioner DeGroot; Haley Huffman / Admin Staff; Natalie Parker, Vickie Noel / Finance; Mike Reeder, Scott White / Steen Sports Park; Eric Fey / Fremont-Winema; Amanda McCleary-Moore / Moss Adams; Brett Golden, Hollie Cannon / Wood River Improvement District; Adam Johnson, Jeanne Spaur / US Fish & Wildlife.

**3. Approve Minutes From Last Meeting**

Approved.

**4. Natalie Parker - Grant Administrator**

**1. Steen Sports Park ARPA Funding Distribution Discussion**

Natalie Parker addresses the Board. The property purchase is hung up at Amerititle for clean title. Scott and Mike asked if we could provide funding out of the allocated ARPA amount and I need some guidance, we don't know if the property is a viable transaction at this point. They are looking for funding for irrigation today. Commissioner DeGroot asks, so a portion of the funds is needed for operations, how much is needed? Scott White addresses the Board and explains the need for irrigation related to the bathroom remodel, needing to do the irrigation piping before it's covered up with concrete. The quote was around \$15,000.00. We're not looking to necessarily irrigate the fields but to get the piping done. Commissioner Henslee asks, how do we guarantee that the money is used for that project? Mr. White said, I could send you the invoices. Mr. Parker asks, can you send me the estimates?

Commissioner Henslee said, I'm super concerned. We can't be the problem, the County needs to do things ethically and morally. I'm really concerned that this is a work around because you are in a financial position and you need to pay payroll, take the garbage out, something like that. I don't want someone to say you keep floating them ARPA funds for operations and that's not ethically correct. If this is another bump to get you by say so, but if this is to put pipe in the ground say so. I've told you not less than twice, we can't keep floating

Steens. Mr. White said, I get it and I'm not asking for that. If I came across with that impression that's not the case at all. Steen Sports Park is on the right track, the fact of the matter is it's the time of year to get the pipe going.

Commissioner Henslee said, I'm ok if you have a bill that's part of that project and we pay it. I would rely on Natalie because of the risk we need to double down to make sure the regulatory requirements are being met. The Board was in agreement for Ms. Parker to get the estimate and pay the invoice.

#### **5. Erik Fey, Fremont-Winema Forest Supervisor - Meet And Greet**

Erik Fey addresses the Board to introduce himself.

#### **6. US Fish And Wildlife Service Team - OR Spotted Frog Recovery Plan Presentation (30 Mins)**

Adam Johnson and Jeanne Spaur address the Board to give a presentation on their draft recovery plan for the Oregon spotted frog. She asked the Board to submit comments regarding the draft plan by May 1st. Commissioner Henslee asks, could a landowner reintroduce the frogs? Mr. Johnson said, we could certainly consider that but don't have a reintroduction plan, however there is funding in place to work with private landowners on private lands to reestablish habitat. Commissioner Henslee asks about federal land. Mr. Johnson explains. Commissioner DeGroot said, I get nervous when we start talking about endangered species especially when they rely on water. I would like to talk with folks and tailor some comments. This makes everyone nervous, wanting to know what the impacts will be. Commissioner Henslee said, I'll be so bold to say as there's a lot of movement to put water downstream to protect endangered species, but there's not movement to put water through ag land that ends up at the refuges to protect endangered species. Mr. Johnson said, completely heard and understood. I think a more expansive conversation around water management and how we could do things differently is certainly warranted but probably not in this form. The Board thanked Mr. Johnson and Ms. Spaur for the information.

#### **7. Amanda McCleary-Moore, Moss Adams - Audit Letter Review (30 Mins)**

Amanda McCleary-Moore addresses the Board to present the audit letter. The Board thanked Ms. McCleary-Moore for the excellent review.



#### **8. Wood River District Improvement Company 2 Million Dollar Congressionally Directed Spending Application**

Commissioner Henslee asks can you go forward on this project on your own or if the County needs to be the applicant, what type of administrative fees does the County get to retain for staff to do the work? Brett Golden and Hollie Cannon address the Board to explain the situation. Natalie Parker addresses the Board, they applied on behalf of Wood River, couldn't get it to go so they changed the application to Klamath County's name but without Klamath County's permission. We have yet to see the completed application. The EPA is now asking Klamath County to correct some of the forms that FCA, Brett's company had created but we haven't see the forms. Mr. Golden said, we can pull the forms if needed. Commissioner Henslee said you have two options, run with it on your own

or start over with Natalie from the beginning and we re-encumber any expenses our tax payers pay for Natalie's service. Mr. Golden and Mr. Cannon agreed. Commissioner Henslee clarified said, what I mean by starting over is starting at square one with Natalie.

## 9. Adjournment

4:34pm

Audio recordings of all proceedings are available at the County Commissioners' office. The meeting facility is handicap accessible. Persons needing materials in alternate format or communication access, should telephone this office at 541-883-5100  (voice/TDD) or the ADA Coordinator at 541-883-4296  at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Klamath County Commissioners' Weekly Calendar is subject to change without notice.  
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