

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting of July 2, 2025
9:00 am, Room 130, Umatilla County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

Commissioners Present: Chair Cindy Timmons, and Commissioner John Shafer

Commissioner Absent:

County Counsel Doug Olsen

Guests Present: Tom Fellows, Umatilla County Public Works Director; Dan Lonai, Umatilla County Administrative Services Director; Gina Miller, Umatilla County SWAC; Josie George, Umatilla County Finance Accountant; Kristian King, Umatilla County Finance Accountant; Joe Fiumara, Umatilla County Public Health Director; Kevin Miracle, Sanitary Disposal District Manager; Mike McHenry, Umatilla County SWAC Chair;

Video link or Calling in: Vice-Chair Dan Dorran; Derek Ranta, Representative for Sanitary Disposal; Mark (Darren) Cole, Eastern Oregon Alcoholism Foundation; Morgan Linder, Umatilla County Community Health Supervisor; Shaina Lilley, Financial Representative for Sanitary Disposal;

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 Shafer wished a happy belated birthday to Chair Timmons.

Chair Timmons announced that three local little league teams (different ages) are district champions. It's great to see kids do great things!

Minutes – Commissioner Dorran moved to approve the minutes from June 18, 2025 and June 30, 2025 Board meetings. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3 - 0.

Additions to Agenda – None

Public Comments and Recognition of Visitors – None

Business Items

1. **Road Jurisdiction Transfer – Public Hearing** – Chair Timmons opened the public hearing at 9:04 am. Staff report given by Tom Fellows, Umatilla County Public Works Director. As part of the Rees-Goad project, the City of Pendleton has annexed property and planned improvements to a portion of Juvenile Detention Center Road. To assist in the development of the road, jurisdiction

of the road should be transferred to the City of Pendleton. The initial step to transfer is before the Board. Notice of a public hearing has been posted, and the public hearing is to allow anyone to provide input on the transfer. Following the public hearing, the order can be adopted. Chair Timmons asked for public comment. There was none. . Chair Timmons closed the public hearing at 9:07 am. **Commissioner Dorran moved to adopt Order No. RD2025-02. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

2. Sanitary Disposal Rate Increase - Presented by Gina Miller, staff liaison for Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC), Mike McHenry, Chair of SWAC and Kevin Miracle, PO Box 316, Hermiston, OR 97838, Sanitary Disposal. Ms. Miller presented background information, Waste Connections of Oregon, Inc. dba Sanitary Disposal has submitted a request for a rate increase to be effective July 1, 2025. The SWAC met on April 8, 2025 and again on May 6, 2025 and voted to recommend the 30 % rate increase to the Board of Commission for action (approval or denial). A 14-day public notice was published in the East Oregonian on May 28, 2025. The Planning Department did not receive any responses to this proposal. The public notice was also posted in three public locations on May 28, 2025.

Mr. Miracle outlined several key factors in support of the request for 30% rate increase; including rising labor, medical, and benefit costs. Labor costs have risen due to market pressure and the need to remain competitive in an effort to retain and attract qualified employees. Sanitary Disposal's operations have been running with figures in the red over the last three years in Umatilla County. Inflation has caused the cost of parts, repairs, and equipment investment to rise.

Mr. Miracle informed the Board of capital investments made in an attempt to provide higher quality, modern services along with facility improvements needed to improve safety and compliance. Umatilla County's service territory includes large rural areas with low customer density leading to a less cost effective process than more densely populated areas. He testifies that a 30% fee increase would bring rates in line with that of other haulers in the area.

SWAC has reviewed the financials for Sanitary Disposal and recommended approval of rate increase. If this is approved, the recommendation for future increases would be tied to the annual CPI with the exception of any additional requirements stemming from the Oregon Statewide Recycling mandate.

Commissioner Shafer asks for clarification on "other haulers in the area"?

Mr. Miracle explains that to include Wasco County, Morrow County, Pendleton, Umatilla County and Ukiah.

Commissioner Dorran thanked them for being here today and providing additional information. He predicts that a 30% increase would really dissuade people from signing up for garbage service.

According to the reports provided recycled materials have decreased, while the annual report discusses an increase in recyclable commodity revenues as compared to prior years due to increase in commodity values. He asks for an explanation as to the discrepancy. Mike McHenry explained that the report includes the whole county with other agencies. There are also errors and DEQ is supposed to be releasing a corrected report.

The financial report provided is the Waste Connections, Western District Annual Report. Commissioner Dorran points out that the annual statement reports that 31% is allocated to corporate. Derek Ranta, Waste Connection, 9411 NE 94th Ave, Vancouver WA, explained that corporate allocations are typically 2.5-3% of total revenues, covering insurance, legal fees and general overhead.

Further financial discussions continued, the result was that Sanitary Disposal's financials were not available today. Mr. Miracle agreed to discuss and provide his financial records off the record.

Several new trucks have been purchased. Some of these trucks are larger and heavier making it difficult and even unsafe to navigate down some of the rural roads. This is an inconvenience for customers that have had the service for many years, now having to take their receptacles down the road. It is difficult to reduce services and increase rates.

Commissioner Dorran points out that the financial reports provided today show labor costs increased by only 3.25% over the last year. Fuel charges are lower due to lower fuel prices, maintenance expenses and monthly container expenses have also decreased. Mr. Miracle testifies that parts and materials have increased in price contradictory to what the report shows. It becomes difficult to justify a 30% rate increase when services are less than before. Mr. Miracle explains that the newer trucks are larger, improving production but decreasing safety and ease of access and to some of the private roads.

Commissioner Timmons researched the financials and faults the \$7.6M expenditures on new equipment as part of the reason for operating in the red in Umatilla County over the past few years. She reviews the net income gross profit \$3.7B over the last three years profit has increased \$1.3B, these numbers make it difficult to justify a 30% rate increase, especially when many residents are on a fixed income.

Commissioner Shafer asks for clarification on the rates of others in the area and how to get Sanitary Disposal to a place where they don't need to keep requesting these large increases. Mr. Miracle explains that if the 30% is approved then the future requests would be minimal to cover CPI.

Commissioner Dorran concludes that the financials provided do not support the necessity for a 30% rate increase. Chair Timmons requests to see the financials pertinent Sanitary Disposal. Mr. Miracle is willing to disclose Sanitary Disposal's financials in a private meeting. **Commissioner Shafer moved to table the discussion until the appropriate financials for 2024-25 are reviewed. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**

3. DD Payable – Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. A payable is before the Board for approval due to the amount. The cost is reimbursed by the State and budgeted. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve payable to Specialty Mobility in the amount of \$42,000.00. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**
4. IT Purchase – Presented by Dan Lonai, Administrative Services Director. Request for increased storage capacity at the Justice Center data center is being submitted. This is necessary due to the rising volume of images and documents uploaded by Morrow and Umatilla County law enforcement agencies. A quote from The Davenport Group for \$15,440 for this upgrade is attached.

This expense is included in the IT budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. In addition, other agencies involved pay a portion of the cost. **Commissioner Shafer moved to approve the purchase of additional storage in the amount of \$15,440.00. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**

5. Mosquito Control District Appointment - Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. The term for David Trott on the West Umatilla Mosquito Control District Board of Trustees has expired. He is willing to serve another term. The reappointment is before the Board for approval. **Commissioner Shafer moved to adopt Order No. BCC2025-031. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**
6. Fair Board Appointment – Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. Due to the resignation on the Fair Board and appointment of the Board Elect to that vacancy, there is a vacancy for a Board Elect to the Fair Board. The recommendation is to appointment Karra Van Fossen as a Board Elect for the 2025 fair, with the formal term beginning January 1, 2026. **Commissioner Dorran moved to adopt Order No. BCC2025-032. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
7. Board LUBGWMA Payment – Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. The County has been participating in the costs for a third-party liaison to enhance coordination of efforts between the state agencies and counties in the LUBGWMA. In January 2024, the Board approved a contribution of \$8,500 as part of the cost of the first and second phases. Phase 3 is now underway and the County share of the cost is \$5,708.25. Funding is paid through economic development. **Commissioner Dorran moved to approve memorandum of understanding and contribution and authorize the Chair to sign. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**
8. Detox Center – Presented by Commissioner John Shafer. The County received a letter from the Eastern Oregon Alcoholism Foundation (EOAF), the current provider for detox services. EOAF is requesting to terminate the detox program and use the facility for other treatment purposes. The matter is before the Board for discussion. Commissioner Shafer announced that he had received an email from EOAF's Board Chair, that is unable to be here today, but wanted to let it be known that this item is supported by the EOAF Chair.

Darren Cole, EOAF Director, explained that over the last 10 years it has become increasingly challenging to make the Detox Center sustainable due to increased salaries and insurance costs and a decrease in census. Baker and Ontario have built detox centers, recruiting some of the patient load that would have previously chose to come to Pendleton. He described other services that EOAF provides and his desire to shift the focus to a residential program. There is not currently another detox program in Umatilla County. Usage is about of 1/3 of what was 10 years ago. The plan is to convert this building to residential treatment, teaching individuals life skills. Detox is becoming unsustainable, looking at other options,

Commissioner Timmons reached out to Promise Inn and they have not had success in getting a response from EOAF. There is some confusion as to what services are provided.

Mr. Cole informed the Board that GOBHI put a pause on the facility causing some loss of staff. **Commissioner Shafer moved to retain Detox Center as is. Seconded by Commissioner Dorran. Carried, 3-0.**

9. PATH Shelter – Presented by Doug Olsen, Umatilla County Counsel. Authorization is sought for the issuance of an invitation to bid for installation of an outdoor structure, including countertops, at the PATH project. This is part of the CDBG grant received for PATH. The structure will be purchased separately, this is just for the installation. **Commissioner Dorran moved to authorize issuance of invitation to bid for installation of PATH outdoor structure. Seconded by Commissioner Shafer. Carried, 3-0.**

10. Executive Session – Employment/Real Property – ORS 192.660(2)(a,b,e,h) – None

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Shafer: Wishes a safe and happy 4th of July to all and safe travels!!

Commissioner Dorran: Happy birthday to madam Chair. Enjoy the 4th of July and the long weekend!

Commissioner Timmons: Happy 4th of July!

Meeting adjourned by Chair Timmons at 10:10 am.

Kelsey Bailey

Executive Secretary – Board of Commissioners