

WALLOWA COUNTY
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
STATE of OREGON

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TERA ELLIOTT E.A.

COMMISSIONER LISA COLLIER
COMMISSIONER MIKE HAYWARD
COMMISSIONER JOHN HILLOCK

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October 1, 2025

Wallowa County Board of Commissioners (BOC)
Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
9:00 a.m. Thornton Conference Room
VIA Zoom Meeting
Wallowa County Courthouse

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Lisa Collier
Commissioner Mike Hayward
Commissioner John Hillock

STAFF PRESENT: Brenda Micka, Administrator
Amanda Piper, Admin. E.A., Policy Compliance Manager
Katy Nesbitt, NRAC/ERAC Director
Kyle Hacker, P&P – ZOOM
Brooke Langerman, Dispatch – ZOOM (9:20)
Tera Elliott, BOC Executive Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Stephen Bartlow, City of Joseph
Bill Bradshaw, W.C. Chieftain
John Williams, NRAC/WC Stockgrowers
Alicia Zinni

ZOOM: Tracy Christopher, Elkhorn Media
Tracy Eckstein (9:24)

9:00 a.m. – Commissioner Hayward opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer

Consideration and/or approval of Consent Agenda

Consisting of:

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| 1. Payment of Claims on County Funds | |
| 2. Minutes: | September 17, 2025 – BOC Regular Meeting |
| 3. Employee Action Notice(s): | Tony Boyd – Promotion & Job Class Change, Facilities & Fairgrounds Director |
| 4. Resolution(s): | None |
| 6. Order(s): | Order 2025-2505 – Adopting Unanticipated Revenue, WCSO, \$50,000 Order 2025-2506 – Adopting Interfund Transfer, WCSO, \$10,000 |
| 7. Contract(s): | None |
| 8. Easement(s): | None |
| 9. Agreement(s): | None |
| 10. Grant Initiation(s) | Mandy Decker, Justice Center – CIS Security Enhancement Grant, Camera/Intercom Upgrade, \$5000 Mandy Decker, Justice Center – CIS Public Safety Grant, |

Bollards & Exterior Lighting, \$5,000
Susan Moody, WCSO – 2023 Nat'l Criminal History
Improvement Grant (NCHIP), 2023 NCHIP Live
Scan, \$50,000

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 11. Letter(s) | None |
| 12. Policy/Plan | None |
| 13. Capital Expenditure Approval | None |

Commissioner Hayward noted a late item was added to the Agenda:
Employee Action Notice- Sean Cariss, WCSO – Separation from Service

*Commissioner Lisa Collier moved to accept the Consent Agenda as read
Commissioner Hillock seconded*

*The vote:
Commissioner Lisa Collier – aye
Commissioner Mike Hayward – aye
Commissioner John Hillock – aye*

The motion passes

Agenda Items:

Approval of Surplus Property Nomination, Road Department – It was explained that these same vehicles were offered for bid earlier this year, but no qualifying bids were received. Although some employees submitted bids, they were not eligible to participate in the bidding process. The items will be listed as follows:

- 1984 C30 PU – minimum bid \$800
- 2002 CK 25903 ¾ T PU – minimum bid \$2,500
- 1986 General Low Boy Trailer – minimum bid \$6,000

*Commissioner Lisa Collier moved to approve the items for sale with bids being
closed October 30, 2025
Commissioner Hillock seconded*

*The vote:
Commissioner Lisa Collier – aye
Commissioner Mike Hayward – aye
Commissioner John Hillock – aye*

The motion passes

Funding Request – W.C. Museum, TLT Funds – This request had been held over from the September 27, 2025, Board of Commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Hayward advised he contacted Casey Russell, a local plumber, for his advice on whether he would replace the water lines if this were his building. Mr. Russell's reply was "no" and he advised to cover the lines as they are. With that said, Commissioner Hayward advised his thoughts are that we are done with the project, except for covering the pipes and filling the hole. Commissioner Collier noted she was able to get the questions from last month answered and is now comfortable moving forward with this decision. Commissioner Collier also stated she is scheduling an appointment with our Facilities Manager to tour the Museum, identifying upcoming repairs/needs before our next budget session.

*Commissioner Collier moved to approve the funding request of the Wallowa County
Museum totaling \$2,000
Commissioner Hillock seconded*

Commissioner Hayward asked if this should be a "not to exceed" funding. Commissioner Collier amended her approval to include the following:

Not to exceed \$2,000 – paying for the water line repair and the Point & Pay

The vote:
Commissioner Lisa Collier – aye
Commissioner Mike Hayward – aye
Commissioner John Hillock – aye

The motion passes

Discussion and/or approval of Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Draft EIS Scoping Period Comment Letter

– Conversation included how the Revision draft came about, noting the multiple people who had a part in drafting the revisions, and format comparisons with other counties. Commissioner Hayward noted comments received from Alicia Zinni and discussion followed regarding whether the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (HCNRA) should be addressed concurrently with the Forest Plan Revision. Ultimately, it was decided that it would be best to exclude it at this time.

Commissioner John Hillock moved to submit the two letters to the forest supervisors of the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla Forest Service

Commissioner Lisa Collier seconded

Commissioner Collier asked for clarification on the decision regarding the HCNRA. Given the anticipated complexity of involving other forests and states, it was felt that including the HCNRA at this time could delay the current process if the Forest Service were to agree to its inclusion.

The vote:
Commissioner Lisa Collier – aye
Commissioner Mike Hayward – aye
Commissioner John Hillock – aye

The motion passes

Katy Nesbitt advised she will send the letters today.

Commissioner Hayward noted letters were sent regarding the Morgan Nesbitt project as discussed last month. After the comment closing period on October 6th, the Commissioners will have opportunity to meet directly with the Forest Service. John Williams noted the Forest Service could choose not to comply with our submitted plan, only if they could explain why it is illegal for them to do so. Their explanation could be based on the broad use of the Endangered Species Act. Commissioner Hayward did note that both Forest Service supervisors have verbally committed to our plan.

Commissioner Hayward asked Ms. Nesbitt about the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Minam Plan. Ms. Nesbitt advised she will have a document ready for the Commissioners by the October 15 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Hayward noted his appreciation for the "active management" he has observed by the ODFW on the Troy land which had burned and is hopeful for that same active management in the Minam Plan.

Other Business:

Brenda Micka, County Administrator, requested the county move forward with the Point & Pay option at the landfill. A product will need to be found that will work through a cell phone, without internet connection.

Ms. Micka also asked for permission to place a Donation Box at the County's Recycle Center with the proceeds going to our Solid Waste department. Commissioner Collier suggested utilizing a QR code for payments/donations, although internet would still be required at the land fill. Commissioner Hayward would rather see a plan which includes reviewing tipping fees and amounts being charged at the land fill. Commissioner Hillock has requested a detailed report from Solid Waste of their fees and upcoming

needs for a new hole. Commissioner Hillock also has advised Rahn Sanitary of a possible increase in tipping fees. It was agreed this financial information is necessary for the plan going forward.

Commissioner Hillock has been working to procure four large compressor-type containers for use with recycled materials. It appears La Grande will be able to pick up and empty the containers as needed. The process of receiving the containers may take as long as six months to one year. These containers would allow for un-sorted recycling at our current location.

Ms. Micka also noted the ongoing battle of Styrofoam from cardboard boxes being left on the grounds at the Recycle Center. She offered the solution of using a dumpster which is already located on the grounds for Styrofoam to be collected in. Discussion followed of the risks of household garbage being placed in the dumpster among other things.

There are many issues to be addressed and reviewed – our current recycle system needs reviewed, including budget issues. There are also solid waste needs that must be actively considered and solutions pursued.

Commissioner Collier noted the City of Enterprise's "Trunk or Treat" event scheduled for October 31, 5-7 p.m. Volunteers are wanted and entries are encouraged.

Commissioner Collier noted Wallowa County hosted the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) District One meeting this week. Our county was able to welcome people who have not visited Wallowa County before. Commissioner Collier noted the importance of our involvement with AOC – giving a collective voice for the county commissioners of our state and noted appreciation for Commissioner Hillock's role as a Member at Large committee member.

Commissioner Hayward noted the three Ordinances passed by our commission on June 18th, which have now become active. Commissioner Hayward specifically noted the Nuisance Ordinance and the complaints which may come before the Commissioners. A process/procedure for addressing complaints received will need to be developed.

Commissioner Hayward has recently reviewed our 20-year Transportation System Plan which was written in 2001. Commissioner Hayward noted the plan is badly out of date. Commissioner Hayward advised it is up to the Commissioners to initiate the update of this plan and requested they consider this and discuss options at the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

Public Comment:

Joseph Mayor Steven Bartlow requested his City Counsel be able to review the Intergovernmental Agreement between his City and the County regarding the sewer treatment plant upgrading well before January and before the agreement is finalized by the County. It was noted the previous agreement was poorly written, causing delays in the completion of the new document.

Mayor Bartlow also asked for his fees to be waived for a Records Request he made to the County regarding Transient Lodging Tax. The Commissioners advised that the records that are allowable for public viewing should be easily available from the Treasurer's office. Commissioner Collier agreed to work with Mayor Bartlow in obtaining this information.

Allcia Zinni thanked the Commissioners for their review of the Transportation Plan and specifically noted the portion related to the railroad. Ms. Zinni stated the Refinement Plan proposed by the City of Wallowa applies to the Minan-Wallowa portion of the rails. Ms. Zinni gave a brief recap of the Planning Commission meeting last evening and the desire of some to amend the Transportation Plan to make landowner grazing a priority, cutting off the opportunity of those desiring a trail along the railroad. Ms. Zinni wanted the Commissioners to be apprised of active issues while considering the updating of the Transportation Plan.

Adjournment:

With no further comment or discussion, Commissioner Hayward adjourned the meeting at approximately 10.15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: *Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant*

WALLOWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Commissioner Lisa Collier



Commissioner John Hillock



Commissioner Mike Hayward



ATTEST: Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant