BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
August 2, 2011

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
County of Lake County
State of Oregon

WORK SESSION

The Lake County Board of Commissioners met in Work Session on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. The following members were present: Chairman Dan Shoun, Vice Chair Bradley J. Winters and Commissioner Ken Kestner. Also present: Administrative Assistant Denise Thorsted.

Additions: Rural Post Office Support Letter
Resolution #2011-03 Correction
Deletions: None

8:30 a.m. – Secretary Salazar’s Request for Wilderness Areas, Bureau of Land Mngt.
Lakeview Resource Area Field Manager Tom Rasmussen and Environmental Protection Specialist Paul Whitman represented the BLM for this discussion.

Mr. Rasmussen confirmed that he had been in receipt of a letter from this Board requesting information regarding the recent direction from the BLM, Washington DC, for BLM State Directors to identify “crown jewels” worthy of congressional designation as Wilderness Areas. The information requested included: Areas containing “Wilderness Characteristics”, minerals (including common, locatable and leasable including geothermal), wind energy, transportation and grazing allotments.

Mr. Rasmussen presented to the Board a “Forage allocation and allotment summary” spreadsheet showing names of the allotments, the number of acres, Animal Unit Months (AUM) for wildlife and other pertinent information. The names of the permittees were not included but, could be obtained by utilizing the BLM’s new “RAS” database to obtain that information. Discussion followed.

Various maps were presented to illustrate the Wilderness Inventory process. Mr. Rasmussen confirmed that there had been few areas containing “Wilderness Characteristics” found in the Lakeview Resource Area. Mr. Rasmussen explained that for an area to have Wilderness Characteristics, it had to be either adjacent to a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and could be less than 5000 acres or it had to be 5000 acres and able to stand alone. Discussion followed on areas found with Wilderness Character and roads considered to be “unmaintained”.

Commissioner Winters expressed concern about these studies trying to make areas have characteristics even though they were being used by ranchers, hunters, or recreationalists. Commissioner Winters read a portion of a release from BLM Director Bob Abbe. It stated: “The BLM’s multiple use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of public lands for the future use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by
managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, energy production and by preserving natural historical, cultural and other resources on pubic lands.” Discussion followed.

Mr. Whitman confirmed that most areas were becoming less natural. Only one area reviewed to date had fit the criteria necessary to stand on its own. This area was however, already protected as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Discussion continued.

Discussion followed on the maps presented to the Board showing the characterization of areas to date.

Mr. Whitman agreed that this process was very subjective and that science did not play any part of this process. These findings were based on what the “casual observer” viewed to be natural. Discussion followed.

Mr. Whitman provided information on mineral potential. Maps showing mineral availability were provided. These maps included color representation that included the following: saleable, leasable and locatable. The greatest potential per Mr. Whitman was for geothermal (four leases had been issued in the Paisley/Summer Lake areas). Discussion followed.

Mr. Whitman explained that the information presented in regards to wind energy had been gathered from the Department of Energy. The highest potential areas were found to be on the ridges and rims (map was provided). Discussion followed on testing for potential wind energy and lease royalties.

Transportation information requested included a map showing roads through the areas being discussed. The conditions and locations of roads were discussed. Mr. Rasmussen confirmed that the BLM was in the process of developing a “Travel Management Plan”. This plan was expected to include not only roads but horse trails, ATV trails, hiking trails and others. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Winters asked for the definition of a road. Mr. Whitman stated that for it to be wilderness inventory purposes, the route had to have been constructed and maintained to the point of insuring regular and continuous use. Financial reasons for lack of maintenance were discussed.

Sage grouse issues were discussed. Mr. Whitman confirmed that a conference call had taken place the previous week. Information received from this call stated that the BLM was to be directed to analyze at least one (possibly two) alternatives that to provide protection in the core #1 or core #2 habitats. Mr. Whitman explained that this could be a very restrictive type of management that could make the wilderness area issue look small in comparison. If the BLM could not show sufficient effort for the protection of the bird, it could be listed. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Kestner confirmed that this Board would digest the information that had been presented today and then come forward with a written comment to Ed Shepard, BLM OR/WA State Director and Carol Benkosky USDI-BLM Lakeview District Manager on the concept of “crown jewels”.

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Board expressed their appreciation for all individuals involved with providing this data.

Break:  10:05 a.m.
Resume:  10:10 a.m.

10:00 a.m. – Lake County Road Department Equipment Purchase, Rick DuMilieu

Due to Mr. DuMilieu’s paving schedule this topic was moved to the beginning of the meeting.

The Road Department had been looking to purchase a loader for more than two years. The loader Mr. DuMilieu was looking to trade in toward this purchase was a 1983 model that was estimated to have over 2,000 hours of operation on it. This loader had major issues such as the front and rear differentials needing to be rebuilt, the planetaries were “bad” and the engine was warn out (estimated repair amount for this loader was $25,000). Trade amount for this unit with the proposed purchased of a new 2011 Caterpillar 966H Wheel Loader was $35,000.

Mr. DuMilieu discussed the search for the loader that had taken place for both new and used units. Mr. DuMilieu felt that the purchase of the new loader made more sense than purchasing used because of the price and hours on the available used units. Another factor for purchasing new rather than used was the government discount available.

Mr. DuMilieu confirmed that the purchase price for this unit with zero hours on it was $301,496 less trade allowance ($35,000) for a total of $268,296 (plus freight) from Western States.

Decision on this topic was scheduled for 8-3-11.

Other Business:
Mental Health IGA #13420 Amendment #1, Director Jack Breazeal

Mr. Breazeal explained that this was a standard amendment. This amendment was due to the change in the expected State budget on funding of various services for this fiscal year. This amendment lowered the revenue anticipated (and provided to balance the County budget) by only $338.00. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Winters was pleased to see that the amount anticipated by Lake County Mental Health had been calculated so accurately.

Mr. Breazeal confirmed that this amendment had been reviewed by Legal Counsel with no issues found.

Decision on this topic was scheduled for August 3, 2011.

CCSF Request for Proposal Recommendations, Director Ronne Lindsay

Mrs. Lindsay explained that the recommendations before the Board for consideration had come out of the five Request for Proposals (RFP) received. The grading of the funding requests was discussed. Mrs. Lindsay explained the formula used for the grant stream dollars in this recommendation and confirmed that there had been no funds available for the fifth applicant (Lake County Mental Health). Discussion followed.
Mrs. Lindsay confirmed that the grant stream dollars received from the Great Start funding received (0-8 programs) in the amount of $4,975 had not been allotted. None of the RFP’s received had covered the requirements needed for the 0-8 category to receive these funds. Mrs. Lindsay stated that she was working to find somewhere for these dollars to be allotted to.

Commissioner Winters asked if during this process, had there been discussion of splitting certain dollars in order to provide at least some funding to Lake County Mental Health. Mrs. Lindsay confirmed that there had been discussion of splitting dollars between the Mentoring Program and Mental Health. During this process, CC&F verified that criteria ensured that a program could be able to be run by the funding received. It was determined that the Mental Health program could not. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Kestner asked Mrs. Lindsay to explain how the Inner Court Family Center (ICFC) services were inclusive of the entire County. Services provided by ICFC included: Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, a food share program (which included Paisley, Summer Lake) that coordinated with the North Lake and Lake County Food Share programs, and a literacy program. Discussion followed on CASA funding.

Commissioner Winters asked what Lake County Mental Health could do to move up on the scoring of this RFP. Mrs. Lindsay felt (in her own opinion) that the “new look” of Lake County Mental Health would aid in their ranking although she did not wish to speak for the CC&F Commission.

Commissioner Winters confirmed with Mrs. Lindsay that what was needed at this time was for this Board to either accept the recommendation as presented or to “rearrange” it. The Board of Commissioners did have the authority to change this request if it saw fit to do so. Discussion followed on the decrease in funding amount over recent years. Mrs. Lindsay informed the Board that she was not expecting to receive the actual funding from the State of Oregon for these requests until possibly September.

Final decision was scheduled for the August 3, 2011 Regular Session meeting.

Mental Health Facility discussion:
Commissioner Kestner explained that the owner of the facility where Lake County Mental Health was located had expressed their desire to sale this location. Commissioner Kestner expressed his concern for there to be continued discussions on the topic of a facility for Mental Health as the current facility could potentially be sold.

Commissioner Winters asked about the space at the current location and asked if Mr. Breazeal felt this department was able to “get by” with this space for the time being. As this department began to grow, Commissioner Winters stated that the current facility had space to either add on to or reconstruct to meet future needs. Mr. Breazeal stated that this department was getting by but that there was a need to have a group room separate from the conference room/kitchen. Commissioner Kestner added that there was also a need for “sound proof” rooms for privacy. Discussion continued.
Commissioner Kestner asked about other locations where group sessions could be held. Mr. Pardee confirmed that although he was not sure to the type of setting needing for this type of service, Memorial Hall could be scheduled and utilized. Mr. Breazeal added that he had been offered the use of an area used by Adult Probation as well.

Commissioner Winters felt that even though this was a building constructed in the 1970’s, this was a sound good building with opportunities for adding space on to it. Conceptually, if there was to be consideration of purchasing this location, possibly some of the rent that had been paid over the years could be considered. Commissioner Kestner felt that there needed to be a decision made. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Shoun asked to come have a closer look at the current facility and felt that it would be possible to sound proof the rooms and add on to this facility. With the potential of a rebate for past rent and Host Crew potential from Warner Creek Correctional Facility (mentioned earlier by Commissioner Winters) this project could be completed at a low cost to Lake County. Discussion followed on the potential of utilizing a Community Block Grant.

Mr. Breazeal added that he was currently researching the purchase of equipment for Electronic Medical Records (EMR). Mr. Breazeal confirmed that there was a potential of being able to go through Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. (GOHBI) for this service. There were also grants available that were being researched. Discussion followed.

Mr. Breazeal agreed to come back before the Board August 23, 2011 for further discussion on facility and EMR transition.

Mr. Breazeal provided an update on the new employee at Mental Health. This employee was a Master-degree student and as such was not a (QMHP) and could not provide certain services (such as therapy). A waiver could be obtained from the State in order to allow such services. The application for this waiver had been completed and Mr. Breazeal confirmed it was awaiting signature. He expected it to be in hand by the end of the week. Discussion followed on reimbursement amounts from the State.

Mr. Breazeal confirmed that he was in the process of soliciting applications for the vacant Alcohol/Drug Program position. These services were continuing to be administered in the interim with the assistance of Adult Probation. Mr. Breazeal also touched on the “On Call Policy”.

Amendment to Connect Oregon II Railroad Grant Agreement, Bob Pardee

Property and Land Manager Bob Pardee confirmed that this Amendment would extend the completion date to October 31, 2011 and changed the scope of the project for more specific work at locations different than originally proposed. Total project amount remained the same. Discussion followed.

Mr. Pardee confirmed that this amendment had been reviewed by Legal Counsel with no issues found.

Decision of this topic was scheduled for the August 3, 2011 Regular Session meeting.
Department Updates:

Business Services Manager Jay Collins and Mr. Pardee addressed the Board to review timelines for projects to be completed by Mr. Pardee. Mr. Collins asked the Board to address any desired changes to the proposed plan on an individual basis. Commission Shoun felt that this could be finalized at the August 3, 2011 Regular Session meeting.

Mr. Collins stated that there were three items of information that needed to be touched on. Those included: IT (clerical change), meeting minutes (change from 10 sets of minutes to seven per week) and the incubator building (surplus, Mental Health Department items). Discussion followed. Commissioner Kestner agreed, as the Mental Health liaison, to work with the department head and Mr. Pardee on this matter. An update on this matter was expected to come before the Board in one month's time.

Additions:

Rural Post Office Support Letter:

A support letter was presented for signature. Four of the counties rural post offices were at risk of being closed by the United States Postal Service. These included: New Pine Creek, Adel/Plush, Summer Lake and Fort Rock. Letters were to be sent to our Congressmen and Senators expressing the support of this Board for those services to remain in Lake County.

By consensus of the Lake County Board of Commissioners, the rural post office support letter submitted was approved and signed.

Resolution #2011-03 correction:

Treasurer Ann Crumrine explained that an error had occurred at the time the Resolution to appropriate the 2011/2012 budget. This was a clerical error in which the wording detail for the Surveyor Department was omitted from the General Fund detail.

Mrs. Crumrine confirmed that she had discussed the matter with the auditors to find the best course to resolve the issue. This clerical error needed to be noted and have the revision approved at a Board meeting. The dollar amounts had been included at the time the budget had been adopted only the written information had been left out. Budget totals would remain the same.

Decision for this revision was added to the August 3, 2011 Regular Session.

Break: 11:18 a.m.
Return: 11:20 a.m.

Liaison Updates:

Commissioner Shoun addressed a letter received from the Town of Lakeview stating that an agreement between the Health District, School District and the Town of Lakeview had been reached. The Town stated that one of the remaining matters was the possible use of the County’s railroad right of way for the purpose of bring geothermal hot water to initial customers.
Mr. Pardee confirmed that there would be need to verify that there was no residual right of prior operators for gas transmission lines and utilities. That information had not been previously readily available so this had been tasked to the Town Manager to investigate.

Direction was given by the Board to Mr. Pardee to work with Legal Counsel to forward a response letter to the Town stating that once proof was provided that this was an allowable use of the railroad’s right of way, consideration of this use and negotiation could take place. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Kestner confirmed that the Lake County Airport had inadvertently run out of aviation fuel. The Airport was under contract with Chevron to provide fuel. Chevron had not been able to confirm a date for delivery of additional fuel so the suggestion was made by the Airport Manager to purchase fuel from Ed Staub and Sons until Chevron could provide fuel. Potential contract violations were discussed. This fuel was considered to be a high necessity due to the time of year and the risk of wildfires.

Commissioner Kestner confirmed that Representatives Mike McLain, Bill Garrard, Cliff Bentz and possibly Senator Doug Whitsett were considering a visit to the area later this fall. Commissioner Kestner explained that redistricting for the State had recently taken place that had changed the Representatives for our district. Commissioner Shoun confirmed that with this change, our area was represented by five members of the legislature. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Winters confirmed that Emily Ackland from the Association of Oregon Counties had been in contact with him regarding the tentative date of August 30, 2011 to host the Southern Oregon Clean Energy Alliance (SOCEA) meeting in Lakeview. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Winters confirmed that there was a Southern Oregon Area Commission on Transportation meeting scheduled for August 18, 2011 in Klamath Falls. The South Central Oregon Economic Development meeting had however been changed to August 26th. Discussion followed on the topics to be talked about.

Commissioner Winters confirmed that there was a Town Hall meeting in Paisley scheduled with Senator Merkley on August 28th from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

There being nothing further to come before the Lake County Board of Commissioners, the meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Thorsted
Administrative Assistant

Board Approval,

Dan Shoun
Chairman

Bradley J. Winters
Vice Chairman

Ken Kestner
Commissioner

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