

6-26-2013

Judge Gary Thompson opened the Tri-County Court meeting at 10:00 a.m. being held at the Steve Burnet Extension and Research Center- Moro, Oregon

County Court members present:

Sherman County: Judge Gary Thompson, Commissioner Mike Smith and Commissioner Tom McCoy

Gilliam County: Judge Steve Shaffer and Commissioner Dennis Gronquist

Wheeler County: Judge Chris Perry, Commissioner Anne Mitchell

Other attendees: Gilliam County Commission on Children and Families Director Teddy Fennern, NCESD Superintendent Mike Carroll, NCESD Early Education Kim Williams, Child Care Resource and Referral Nancy Patten, Sherman County Sheriff Brad Lowrey, Wasco County Juvenile Director Molly Rogers, Sherman County Juvenile Director Amber DeGrange, Sherman County Court Administrator Melva Thomas, Gilliam County Court Administrator Leanne Durfey, Gilliam County staff Marla Davies.

IN THE MATTER OF FRONTIER TELENET

Judge Perry and Judge Shaffer attended a meeting where the following items were discussed.

- Redundancy: Duplication of information telecommunications in order to reduce the risk of error. Fiber would streamline communications and eliminate crashes.
- Ability to communicate with existing and proposed towers. Noting importance of Fiber installation and high speed internet throughout counties.
- There are USDA grants/low interest loans available for Fiber installation. Possible project proposal for installation from Arlington, Rufus and The Dalles. Windwave has hired a grant writer and is working with USDA.
- Digital Switch has provided local area 911 center capability. Some partnering counties would like to be considered as a back-up for the 911 services. Concerned with lack of workforce personnel. Court members supported keeping 911 center local, noting Wheeler County could be option is fiber becomes available.
- Cottonwood Park needs internet/911 services for public safety issues. North Gilliam has fiber close to proposed Tower Wireless tower.
- Sheriff Lowrey reported the proposed Gooseneck Tower located on BLM land will provide internet service to most of Cottonwood Park, noting Hay Creek will not receive service. Discussion on electric service availability for tower and cost/funds of project.
- Sherman County has signed off on Cottonwood Canyon Park Intergovernmental Agreement. Gilliam County has not signed IGA noting local Fire Districts have asked for fire lines around park perimeter.

- Discussion on use of methane gas being produced at Columbia Ridge Landfill.

IN THE MATTER OF DEFENSE AIRSPACE PROPOSAL

Judge Shaffer reported the Air National Guard has a practice/training proposal which would allow pilots to fly over Gilliam County, above 11,000 feet. Pilots are now practicing as weather allows over the ocean. Moving practice to our counties will save the Air National Guard \$7-\$9 million annually.

Noise concerns were discussed and practice times will occur 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Judge Perry reported he had concerns with communications becoming jammed with air traffic, but has been assured by the Air National Guard this will not be an issue. Adding the low flying planes local residents have seen and heard have been Navy planes.

Judge Thompson added Sherman County has not been contacted about proposal. He had concerns the Navy will try and gain flight approval if this proposal is approved. Judge Shaffer added this agreement is for 11,000-18,000 airspace.

Matter is in the scoping process and will move to Public Hearings in November. Judge Shaffer will provide all information regarding this matter to all tri-county court members.

IN THE MATTER OF EARLY LEARNING EDUCATION HUB UPDATE

The County's received Healthy Start allocations to maintain services. Early Learning Hub Bills are moving through the Legislature to fund services, but numbers are not known at this time. It was noted the Healthy Start funds were for set for the biennium with the understanding when the Hubs are assigned Healthy Start Funds would roll over to Hub. If Hub not assigned the assumption is Healthy Start would continue status quo.

There are to be some funds available for counties to do the required paperwork: \$10,000 for Early Learning and \$10,000 Youth Development funds (multiple reports from school age to 20 years of age)

Youth Development committee has met three times and the Central Eastern Oregon Juvenile Justice Consortium-CEOJJC has invited them to meet and discuss the wide spread six to twenty age span and how services and limited funds will be best used. The Juvenile Crime Plan-JCP and Youth Development-YD definitions are included in the bills before the Legislature.

North Central ESD has communicated with Columbia Gorge ESD and Columbia Gorge Community College an interest in creating a Hub, noting the importance of an educational proponent. Court members added concerns with a service provider becoming the Hub, who would be acting as the fiscal agent. Fennern added the Hub would be more than a fiscal agent; they are responsible for outcomes which must be reported to State.

Williams reported the NCESD has been facilitating Hub discussion meetings for over a year and all three counties have been invited to participate and provide input. There are more concerns

with advisory committee dynamics and politics. The focus should be on how all three counties are going to provide early learning environments at a level acceptable to the State. How are outcomes to be recorded, what mechanism is in place to justify expenses.

It was acknowledged Commission on Children and Families provided documentation for outcomes and reported to County Courts for funding approval and other matters.

Lowrey reported the small county CC&F were providing reports and insuring funds were being allocated correctly. Unfortunately the CC&F is no longer an asset for the documentation or to act as a communication liaison for the counties. Adding it is important a Hub Intergovernmental Agreement be drafted and submitted to the Early Learning Council for approval very soon. If we do not pick our Hub, the State will place our county in a Hub of their choice.

It was noted NCESD and Sherman County could both submit a Hub IGA and let the Early Learning Council choose one. Concerns this weakens both parties submissions. Discussion on present county collaborations including: Norcor, MCCOG...

Sherman County will draft a Hub IGA which will be sent to: Sherman, Wheeler, Gilliam and Wasco counties to review.

Judge Thompson is planning to meet with CGCC Superintendent to discuss Hub. All parties are invited to attend and will be advised of meeting date and time.

IN THE MATTER OF TRICOUNTY VETERANS SERVICES

Judge Thompson asked if Veteran's Service Officer Bryan Hunt was meeting expectations or if there were any concerns. There were no complaints and a discussion on possible office space changes occurred.

It was noted Hunt was away from work for quite some time and counties were not advised of absence. Hunt had surgery and was unable to operate a vehicle.

IN THE MATTER OF EFSC MEETING

Judge Thompson attended the Energy Facility Siting Council meeting and reported the purchase assignment between PGE and Iberdrola for Montague and Leaning Juniper II properties has been negated.

Judge Shaffer reported he had not been contacted on the matter. Discussion on Iberdrola's amendment and assignment documents which were submitted and approved by Gilliam County Court as advised by Legal Council Will Carey. Gilliam will contact Carey and advised of change.

IN THE MATTER OF CREA MEETING

Judge Shaffer attended the CREA meeting and reported Umatilla Electric is drafting a petition for hydro-power to become a renewable energy resource. 1995 and newer hydro power

projects would be effected. This will hurt wind energy development and could cripple data center type businesses in Morrow County with projected electricity rate increases.

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSPORTATION BROKERAGE

Commissioner Smith reported MCCOG Transportation Brokerage has been contacted by Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization-EOCCO to discuss transportation needs for clients. EOCCO would like the transportation brokerage to be based in one of the counties they serve, which would require the existing brokerage to re-locate. Wasco County is not an EOCCO member and other parties may be interested in becoming brokerage providers.

IN THE MATTER OF NEXT MEETING

The next Tri-County Court meeting will be held in September 2013 in Gilliam County. All parties will be notified of date and time.

No further discussion items Judge Thompson closed the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

Gilliam County Court

By: _____
Judge, Steve Shaffer

By: _____
Commissioner, Dennis Gronquist

By: _____ Absent _____
Commissioner, Michael Weimar