

Crook County Board of County Commissioners Minutes of August 12, 2026, Work Session

Be It Remembered that the Crook County Board of County Commissioners met in a Work Session on August 12, 2026, at 9:00 AM in the Administration Conference Room, located at 203 NE Court Street, Prineville, OR 97754.

Work Session Agenda

Board Members Present: Seth Crawford, Susan Hermreck, Brian Barney

Board Members Absent:

Others Present in Person or Via Zoom: County Manager Will Van Vactor; Executive Assistant Breyanna Cupp; County Counsel Eric Blaine; Legal Assistant Alex Solterbeck; Finance Director Christina Haron; Assessor Jon Soliz; Community Development Director John Eisler; Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly; HR Director Meghan McKee; Systems Engineer Chelsea Watson; Library Manager Kim Bales; Assessment Technician Elsie Ray; Community Health Worker Shelby Fisher; Hunter Neuharth; Kates; Julie Thompson; Lorian Maxham; Jessica Barnes; Prineville Review; and members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 09:00 AM.

Public Comment

None

Discussion

1. Treasurer's Report for July 2026 & Investment Summary Report for FY2026

Requester:

Christina Haron, Crook County Finance Director

Presenter:

Christina Haron, Crook County Finance Director

Details: Finance Director Christina Haron attended the Work Session to present the Treasurer's Report, noting that it was the first report generated from the County's new system. She explained that the report format helps verify that bank balances, pooled general ledger cash accounts, and individual fund cash balances reconcile across reporting methods. She noted that a discrepancy of approximately \$300,000 had been identified and resolved prior to the report being finalized, underscoring the importance of the reconciliation process. Christina reviewed the report structure, including bank balances, pooled cash accounts, fund cash balances, allocation balances, investment reconciliation, and current account interest rates.

Christina also reviewed the FY 2026 Investment Summary Report from Government Portfolio Advisors. She stated that the County's investments continue to be guided by the County's investment policy under ORS 294, with investments generally held to

maturity to reduce risk and provide more predictable returns. She noted that the investment portfolio remains compliant with policy requirements and is managed by Government Portfolio Advisors. Christina reported that short-term U.S. Treasury markets were influenced by changing Federal Reserve expectations, inflation, and economic growth, and that the yield curve normalized during the fiscal year. As of June 30, the two-year Treasury yield was 4.18% and the five-year Treasury yield was 4.23%. She reported book income of approximately \$1.35 million for the year, similar to the prior year, and an overall return of approximately 3.8%. The Board had no questions. This item was informational only, and no action was taken.

2. Distribution Request of State Funded Wolf Depredation and Mitigation Funds

Requester:

Hunter Neuharth, Wolf Committee Chair

Presenter(s):

Hunter Neuharth, Wolf Committee Chair

Details: Wolf Committee Chair Hunter Neuharth attended the Work Session to provide an update from the Work Committee and request distribution of depredation and mitigation funds. The committee reported that all 2025 depredation matters and the 2026 mitigation project have been resolved. Additional state funding may be available for 2027, and there have been no recent depredation cases reported in the county. Hunter explained that because requests for state funding exceeded available funds, awards were reduced proportionally—approximately 50% for depredation and 65% for mitigation. Funds were distributed evenly among eligible applicants who had been vetted and were enrolled in identified areas of concern. The Board discussed approval of the distribution of 2025 depredation funds and 2026 mitigation funds. It was agreed that distribution approval would be placed on the consent agenda at the next meeting.

3. Discussion on whether to adopt CET Title VI plan or draft a County-specific Title VI plan

Requester:

Eric Blaine, County Counsel

Presenter(s):

Eric Blaine, County Counsel

Details: County Counsel Eric Blaine attended the Work Session to present options for renewing the County's Title VI Plan, which expires at the end of the calendar year. The options include developing a new county-specific plan or adopting Cascade East Transit's (CET) existing plan. Counsel recommended adopting the CET plan, noting that it is functionally similar to the County's current plan, meets the County's needs, and would significantly reduce staff time and effort. The CET plan also includes a recent demographic and Limited English Proficiency analysis that the County could rely upon rather than completing a separate review.

The Board discussed the transportation-focused nature of the CET plan and confirmed that the plan appropriately addresses Title VI requirements related to transportation services. Counsel noted that the County could adopt the CET plan through an order

and could develop its own plan in the future if desired. The Board indicated support for moving forward with adoption of the CET Title VI Plan. Eric advised the Board that the matter would be brought forward on an agenda in early September for consideration and adoption.

4. 210 NE 3rd Street Building Discussion

Requester:

Will Van Vactor, County Manager

Presenter(s):

Will Van Vactor, County Manager

Details: County Manager Will Van Vactor attended the Work Session to discuss County-owned property located at 210 NE 3rd Street, next to Subway. The property is currently partially occupied by CASA, while the remaining space had previously been used by Facilities for a shop and storage. Those County uses are no longer needed, and Will indicated the property would be better suited for private retail or commercial use. Will advised that he has discussed the potential sale with CASA and identified an alternative location that should meet their needs. He requested confirmation from the Board that there is no long-term strategic County use planned for the property. The Board expressed support for moving forward with the sale and listing the property.

Manager Report

Will Van Vactor provided an update on Finance Department operations, noting that the department is currently understaffed while also managing the ERP implementation. As a result, Finance will be closed to the public on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, while maintaining normal public hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and remaining open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The limited hours are expected to remain in place through September 11th, at which time the schedule will be reassessed. He also mentioned an update regarding the ongoing fires and the County's efforts to assist affected residents. Staff are gathering available resources and information to share with the public, including guidance on contacting the Assessor regarding lost structures and available assistance through the USDA. The County will continue compiling resources and plans to make information available to help residents navigate available assistance and services.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Barney had no report.

Commissioner Hermreck had no report.

Commissioner Crawford reported on a recent presentation with Breyanna at the PERK regarding County College. Applications are currently being accepted, with nine applicants received as of Friday. The County will continue promoting the program throughout the community, with a goal of approximately 20 participants. Commissioner Crawford highlighted County College as an opportunity for participants to learn more

about County government, including the roles of various departments, how decisions are made, and the limitations and responsibilities of County government. Commissioner Crawford also noted that Congressman Bentz is scheduled to visit on September 27th to discuss resources available to ranchers and residents who have lost property or structures in the recent fires. The time and location for the event are still being finalized.

Public Comment

Julie Thompson asked if we had received her application for county college. Commissioner Crawford confirmed that it has been received.

Executive Session

At 9:25AM the Board of Commissioners convened into Executive Session under the following statute(s): ORS 192.660 2(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection and ORS 192.660 2(h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

5. ORS 192.660 2(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.

MOTION: Brian Barney moved to authorize legal counsel to correspond with the counterparty to decline, as discussed in the executive session. Seth Crawford seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 2-0.

6. ORS 192.660 2(h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

MOTION: Brian Barney moved to authorize legal counsel to begin to undertake the dispute resolution, as discussed in the executive session. Seth Crawford seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 2-0.

MOTION: Brian Barney moved to adjourn. Seth Crawford seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 2-0.

There being no further business before the Board of Commissioners, the meeting was **adjourned at 09:46 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,
Breyanna Cupp, Executive Assistant