

**MINUTES OF THE GOAL-SETTING WORK SESSION
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023
9:00 AM**

Present: Pat Malone, **Chair**; Xanthippe Augerot, **Vice Chair**; Nancy Wyse, **Commissioner**; Vance Croney, **County Counsel**; Rachel McEneny, **County Administrator**

Staff: Rick Crager, **Financial Services**; April Holland, **Health Services**; Tracy Martineau, **Human Resources**; Rebecca Taylor, **Health Services**, Julie Arena, **Health Services**; Don Rogers, **Undersheriff**; Amanda Makepeace, **BOC Recorder**

Guests: Cory Grogan, **Public Information Officer**; Libbi Loseke, **Coordinated Homeless Response**; Matt Wetherell; **Juvenile**; Brigetta Olsen; City of Corvallis; Jennfier Sanders, Linn-Benton Housing Authority

1. Opening

Chair Malone called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM, and introductions were made. There were no announcements.

2. Review and Approve Agenda

The Agenda was updated to include an Executive Session under Oregon Revised Statutes, 192.660(2)(d); Labor Negotiations.

3. Discussion Topics

3.1 Update and Discussion: Benton County Coordinated Homeless Response Office Implementation of HB 5019 Community Plan – April Holland, Rebecca Taylor; Health Services

Holland indicated HB 5019 strengthens the system with fewer barriers and aligns with the HB 4123 initiative. While there is a flexible housing subsidy pool, Holland stressed that the Coordinated Homeless Response Office did not yet have all of the answers. Holland provided updates regarding barriers, systems, and strategies. The governor's declaration on homelessness did not include investments with specific geographic boundaries, including Benton County (BC). Helpful feedback was received from elected officials in the county; equitable investment is needed in rural areas. There are significant increases in homelessness locally, though it is different from metro areas. Some progress has been made with HB 4123; several communities throughout Oregon are focusing on those as a conduit during the planning that goes into the budget. HB 5019 was to prepare a community plan for the identified geographic areas. A regional plan was prepared after a meeting that included Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties to identify which structure would be most

helpful to the plan. A community planning process will obtain data specific to BC rather than regional data. Three weeks were available to use the formula-based funding to rehouse 31 households; support staff worked through their funding needs and eligibility for competitive funding: \$1.2 million in funding is needed to help them re-engage the shelter beds. HB 5019 would expand opportunities for BC shelters to be utilized and provide close collaboration with the providers in the community. The Unity Shelter beds reopened this week; they are contacting individuals on the waitlist. The cold-weather shelter housed 114 people on a given night; additional beds will be a benefit to the houseless.

Arena noted that capacity was added at the women's shelter.

Augerot wished to address Corvallis' concerns about occupation.

Taylor explained one of the project's Health Services staff worked with the Sustainability Coordinator in the Board of Commissioners office and studied what improvements could be made to meet the code requirements and what capital improvements would be needed in pursuit of permanent beds.

Arena reported two local planning groups were pulled together in less than 30 days. There is data, but it is incomplete due to the complicating factors of individuals under the radar in terms of counts, and some groups may be overrepresented. The issues are around accuracy of the data capturing the big picture and the biggest barriers for entry into housing. Accurate and timely data helps focus energies on specific populations. Community partners were integral and provided qualitative data, though the data for certain groups is inaccurate. Native American and Black populations are overrepresented; they can be as high as 15 percent in shelters, meaning they are four to five times over-represented. For the 300 families with children who are engaged with the local school system, only 20 families are counted because many are doubling up, living in multiple family groups. There are high-need individuals who do not qualify as their needs cannot be met by one system or also provider alone. There also might be individuals who do not meet the qualifying factors, or there might be an individual who is over-supported.

McEneny asked about the threshold for county Behavioral Health (BH) involvement.

Taylor replied that the process is system by system, following the fidelity models; persons must meet certain thresholds, such as chronic illness and housing criteria. Providers heard about individuals who are just below the threshold but do not quite meet the criteria.

Arena indicated the Oregon Cascade West Council of Governments (COG) as a resource to help seniors and veterans to meet thresholds if they do not meet the criteria.

Augerot mentioned The Oregonian published an article on this topic; if a provider assists an individual who becomes stabilized, it appears the individual is able to help themselves and the qualification becomes a knife edge that might lead to disqualification from the program.

Arena noted that for rental assistance programs, recipients need an eviction notice in hand which can become a barrier, leading the individual to borrow from neighbors or relatives, and then the individual does not qualify for rental assistance.

Taylor reported there were large, local planning group meetings a week apart with 31 individuals representing different disciplines. There were extensive one-to-one conversations on types of interventions and strategies in the planning element of HB 5019 to

demonstrate how to respond to those who need assistance. There are over-represented groups and issues of community inclusivity. When individuals are navigating and approaching different service organizations, they want to feel they belong in the community. Through the entire navigation journey when applicants have access to peer support and a wide range of intensive support services, the individuals' levels of need can change, similar to the idea of housing navigation needs which includes the right fit and placement for permanent housing solutions. There is limited scope, funding, time, and resources to accomplish these large steps while attempting to build capital for sustaining services. Exploration of what can be done with existing housing stock, how to engage landlords and recruit private housing market as a strategy, finding interim solutions, locating available units, and then receiving services and working toward stabilization will contribute to the housing success of an individual or family. There was an assessment of community issues in BC; supportive housing, affordable housing, and supportive services were priorities. Individuals are not being connected with services, so focusing on better communication between service providers would also contribute to housing outcomes. Current barriers include service providers experiencing different levels of funding, and systems for interservice cooperations that are complex and difficult to navigate. There is interest in a way to assist both those receiving services and the service providers in order to better service the unhoused.

Arena noted the service organizations are operating on limited budgets. They wish to identify the most effective way to have a collective impact and lean into the best practice of housing first, though it is challenging to apply this as a practice. Though flexible funding assists many different kinds of people, a person who is not experiencing a specific type of challenge cannot get into housing. Affordable housing is on the market for short periods of time, so the question becomes how to deploy flexible housing and the landlord, the voucher, there needs to be an extremely rapid response.

Wyse stated this should be a priority and asked if this is aspirational or feasible.

Augerot replied that after more than two years of dealing with land use issues, the capacity has not yet been developed.

Olsen said the desire is to get much of this communication process online in the coming years, there is support for partnership between local service providers, Samaritan Health Services, and BH.

Taylor mentioned leveraging landlord engagement and incentives to locate existing housing stock in BC that can be used for these intensive programs. Locating housing often depends on being at the right door at the right time, and many roadblocks frustrate those looking for housing. This is a systems-level problem, and the next step is how to improve these systems to support the removal of roadblocks. Housing opportunities should not be based on luck.

There is a concept called wrong pocket where there is an ultimate cost savings in placing people in housing rather than shelters. Investment in housing service programs will yield benefits across multiple sectors of public health concerns. Overhauling the systems will avoid the competition between local programs searching for housing for their clients. People with health issues or mental illness need higher prioritization in the system. Rapidly rehousing individuals and families depends on the creation of a shared idea and the development of a central location with different funding sources to accommodate shelter

barriers or levels. The operator can identify needs and find the funding in the moment rather than the individual being responsible for locating housing.

Sanders explained this process might fill in some of the gaps in coverage experienced by many houseless individuals.

Taylor said the Housing Authority provides good resources and vouchers; roughly \$3 million a month in subsidies is paid to landlords. However, the program is lacking in that all it does is provide a subsidy; for many people with high needs there are high barriers to locating housing. The process can take up to two years to find an affordable unit; there are requirements for damage deposits, an inspection, and first month and last month's rent. It would be much easier and more effective to move from a waiting list to using a voucher in a one-stop setting rather than across multiple agencies. Just as important are the services provided post-housing. High-barrier families are often unsuccessful due to unaddressed needs or a complicating situation: an unhappy landlord, damage to a unit, non-approved individuals on the lease, or rent payments fall behind or cease altogether. Being able to utilize multiple resources and services at once rather than a piece at a time would help individuals and families stabilize and pursue a successful outcome.

Implementation of the Home Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE) policy in the community would encourage rapid rehousing and prevent incidents such as an eviction that could have been avoided with better communication between agencies. The Situation Table is a recommendation from the HOPE Advisory Board and was adopted by the City of Corvallis. This is a model present in Canada and on the East Coast; Corvallis is the first city on the West Coast to implement it. A front-line worker, such as a public safety officer or volunteer, might encounter individuals at acutely elevated risk who lack the ability to engage with multiple providers. Without intervention, there might be a bad outcome. The Situation Table allows for an intervention via a meeting of multiple providers who discuss these encounters and gain consensus that the person is experiencing elevated risk. Corvallis has convened six times and discussed 12 situations; service providers self-identify as being able to help with a case. Homelessness is identified as the leading risk factor. This model creates a starting point; once a team is formed, it engages with the individual over 48 hours. While 12 cases is not statistically relevant, it has served women and families. A lack of immediate resources has been noted locally: between assessments, applications, and wait lists, it might take two years before culminating in an individual being housed. Temporary housing and better funding would provide for better outcomes for those at acutely elevated risk levels. If the Situation Table gets involved with an individual, it can work with the most at-risk persons.

Olsen explained the City of Corvallis is in the unique position of being able to purchase buildings and land. It is one percent of available housing. The goal is to stabilize the person and then locate long-term shelter. This is not a suggestion to build new, but to work together to create housing.

Rogers is looking for pathways to reentry to the community for justice-involved individuals. While apartments can be rented for individuals, if stable, sober living could be provided, individuals are more likely to be successful. This is an exciting opportunity around housing availability; upon demonstration that the individual was stable for 30, 60, or 90 days, landlords would be more likely to rent to them. Regarding two of the 12 situations heard by the Situation Table, the outcomes were incarceration of the individuals at that time, and

available shelter would have assisted with a better outcome. It is common for persons who are custody for a period of time to achieve some stability; once released, then will likely return to previous habits if shelter cannot be located. Coordinated care would help resolve much of these less desirable results.

Taylor explained the HOPE recommendations could have a positive impact on vulnerable populations; housing options are identified in policy recommendations and reviews, landlords will build more housing, how is the housing we have now being used, train intensive right-fit housing navigation case managers to share loads across programs, making sure there are positive relations with landlords, and not straining service providers. Creating redundancy across programs working toward a common goal of housing individuals would also prevent a situation where the departure of one staff person who was a key connector of different programs creates a long-term ripple effect and lowers the positive outcome probability. The Situation Table minimizes the complexity for the individual and the frustrations of the multiple service organizations. A key element is the data that coordinated entry systems require to enable decision-making resulting in person-centered outcomes.

Augerot said the Vina Moses community program does all of this, but numbers are few, and they are not set up for case management. Augerot inquired whether community service programs are part of the Situation Table. While it is not possible to have the perfect situation, it is important to have something. Augerot expressed enthusiasm for the Situation Table idea.

Holland explained there are talks with the Community Services Consortium (CSC) and developments with the InterCommunity Health Network (IHN) to connect them soon. There will be larger meetings where all these providers could be incorporated into the Situation Table. The issue is how to weave these services together and have them available. There is an opportunity after scaling to reinvest rental payments into programs that support tenants and ensure continued revenue savings to systems and partner-owned units.

Taylor shared this is a starting point; a pilot House Bill where we need to see more investment, including integration of health management systems and coordinated re-entry programs to understand the impact.

Crager noted strong support of this plan but cautioned that creation of affordable housing opportunities and supportive services requires a plan to make them sustainable as there are so many different aspects. There needs to be a nimble and flexible way of serving this population. Having seen investments that have no sustainability in funding sources, this is the opportunity to pursue these flexible investments. The question becomes how to invest in the system; bring enough partners together who can determine how to braid the services together. If there are savings, the funds can be re-invested. A key consideration with \$1.5 million in funding is what happens three, 10, or 20 years from now.

Wyse asked about the people who have been housed; there were 31 families mentioned earlier.

Taylor explained that federal rehousing methods were previously followed, which does not fit Corvallis. It is left up to local communities to define their programs, but it is acknowledged that whatever is built, it has to last beyond two or five years. The goal is not just about creating a program, but creating one that is self-sustaining.

Wyse appreciated Crager's optimism and noted his ability to develop long-term solutions and identify pitfalls.

Augerot said those aspects that fall between service organizations can unlock the most critical needs; the next step is to determine who holds the key. Regarding the flexible funding pool descriptions, is there a nonprofit entity, and have there been discussions about who plays that key role?

Holland replied that the Coordinated Homeless Response office would play that key role. Currently a nonprofit is being formed with potential for CSC involvement.

Crager mentioned a quasi-nonprofit at the state level that was able to be established to serve a particular mission. Other opportunities could open up; state government is there to help, and the entity can then take on the funding with an eye to sustainability.

Taylor shared there have been conversations with CSC for a more county-based homeless management information system (HMIS), placing tri-county priorities on a tri-county level, establishing service providers, creating infrastructure. There is an inquiry out to Rural Oregon Continuum of Care (ROCC), and a dialogue has begun around intentional engagement and establishing oversight.

Arena noted that Pegge McGuire of CSC and Sean Collins from Unity Shelter were invited to the Benton County Board Meeting on December 20, 2023.

Malone said rapid housing makes sense. Adults in custody may lack a plan upon release; a proactive way to reintegrate them into the community is a wise strategy.

Augerot shared that 30 days of Medicaid eligibility are granted before release to make it easier to continue with health care needs.

Crager relayed that Governor Kotek has announced new affordable housing opportunities. The more support shown affordable housing in general in the county, the more local developers will pursue tax credits. A demonstrably sustainable integrated service model will avoid competing services and encourage further development.

Taylor explained that HOPE is working with the Oregon League of Cities, which is spearheading HB 5019 and additional investment opportunities. BC showed an example of how to coordinate those funds; the conversation now is that funds are being redirected or bypassing the League of Cities. Taylor recommended having conversations about creative funding methods at the local level and noted pending queries out to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) about funding.

Augerot said the HB 4123 counties submitted reports to the state legislature; BC asked for an extension to submit as the desire was to be thoughtful and provide information that could be used/moved forward. This iterative process may not be quickly checking the box but it is important to represent transparency and awareness of service. There was interest at the Oregon Association of Counties (AOC) and the League of Oregon Counties (LOC) around expanding the models, though Augerot was unsure if there is a legislative champion. Augerot asked Taylor to inform the Board of Commissioners for assistance around the search for models or engaging with the Situation Table. Creation of a flexible funding pool model would be a companion piece to AOC colleagues.

Arena said that HB 4123 would build the foundation of local capacity to address homelessness. The community feedback is positive, and Arena praised Taylor for doing an incredible job.

3.2 Ratification of Letter of Acceptance with Benton County Deputy Sheriff's Association-Teamsters – Tracy Martineau, Human Resources; Rick Crager, Financial Services

Martineau announced a tentative agreement was reached through the grievance process.

Crager explained that in August 2023, relatively new employees at the Sheriff's Office had no paycheck to pull from for health insurance payments. Retroactive payroll adjustments were made, and a reconciliation was done. The union said a retroactive payroll adjustment was unlawful. After a cordial conversation, there will be retroactive adjustments within 60 days for these new employees, and the county will bear the cost of these premiums on behalf of the new employees going forward. The county wants to provide good service; payroll adjustments do happen and are not unlawful. Crager acknowledged there could have been better communication with new employees around this topic.

Martineau said the letter of ratification is a modified agreement and added the conversations were very productive as they clarified interests rather than positions. Overall, it was a good resolution to the situation.

McEneny cited the need for standard operating procedures for collective bargaining units and non-union representatives. Regular communication is key.

Augerot asked if there are financial analysts for the Sheriff's Office.

Crager advised financial analysts are not assigned to the department. However, Dawn Dale in the Sheriff's Office does everything an analyst in the Financial Services Department would do. Crager confirmed discussions with Human Resources and the Sheriff about how positions are classified, future meetings on represented staff, and reaching out to the Sheriff's Office.

Wyse was glad the situation had been addressed and asked if steps have been taken to prevent this in the future. Taxpayers should not have to cover the costs due to missteps from the county.

Crager explained that paying for healthcare premiums is done with new employees, but the issue really is that services start on the first of the month. The new setup is now more automatic. This process has taken six months, and the county will approach this situation differently going forward.

Rogers added the new employees' insurance is guaranteed and the costs known; the premiums must be paid.

Crager indicated that it is a matter of getting the deduction from the first pay period.

Augerot asked if this will be communicated to new employees.

Crager confirmed it will be discussed at new employee orientation.

Martineau made this part of the orientation with multiple points to remind presenters to discuss it.

MOTION: Wyse moved to ratify the Letter of Agreement with the Benton County Deputy Sheriff's Association-Teamsters. Augerot seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

3.3 Designation of Management Representatives Team for Association of Federal, State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Contract Negotiations – Tracy Martineau, Human Resources

Malone announced the agenda item number and asked if there was any additional information to discuss prior to a motion.

McEneny asked Martineau to announce the names on the proposed management representatives team for the AFSCME contract negotiations.

Martineau said the proposal is to appoint Ricky Garcia, Tracy Martineau, Debbie Sessions, Gary Stockhoff as management representatives, and Jo Missler as an alternate/observer.

MOTION: Augerot moved to accept the appointments of Ricky Garcia, Tracy Martineau, Debbie Sessions, and Gary Stockhoff as management representatives, and Jo Missler as an alternate/observer. Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

Malone asked if there was any other business to discuss.

Augerot noted the lack of an agenda item for Commissioner sharing and County Administrator updates, noting its importance on a routine basis. It is one of the only opportunities available to discuss topics in a conversational way.

Augerot wanted to discuss two items: the first to put forth a Resolution to support the re-entry act and eliminating the Medicaid exclusion of individuals that are in pretrial status in our correctional facilities; bring the Resolution to the Board, and then send it to the Congressional delegation, particularly Senator Wyden because of his role as the Finance Committee Chair. For any negotiations that NACO and the lobbying team do on that topic, Wyden will be a critical person. Augerot wanted to bring forth to the Board the idea of possibly taking a position on Measure 110 (M110). The Lane County (LC) Board of Commissioners, which has more staff, has a really good process for their registered advocacy and put together a white paper on this topic. Their behavioral health, law enforcement, and justice staff all participated. The white paper explains the current situation with M110, how it affects Oregon counties, and states a desire for a reintroduction of the misdemeanor schedule of punishments for possession. This kind of moderate stance could be very important moving into the legislative session, because there are many people advocating either for repeal or to do nothing, which ignores the fact there are real problems. The LC position also indicates where the systems issues are around M110 that need to be addressed which a repeal would not address. Augerot expressed interest in bringing the resolution and an official M110 position to a regular Board meeting for consideration.

Augerot noted a desire to check with other Commissioners before proceeding unless there is interest.

Malone noted having heard opinion expressed at the November 2023 AOC meeting to repeal M110 altogether.

Wyse said it was surprising to hear many other county commissioners saying that fixing M110 was preferred over repealing it. Wyse expressed recent frustration with the measure but is willing to support efforts to fix it.

Augerot suggested that before something is placed on the agenda, we will share a Benton version of the position statement as there is no need to redo LC's work. The LC position paper was already reviewed by Holland and Sands in Public Health; Augerot also shared the paper with McEneny and Crager.

Malone said that would be helpful as he did not have a great deal of information around repairing M110.

Crager suggested if the LC position paper was something that could be a model for a BC position paper, staff could engage LC in a discussion about their thoughts.

Augerot noted it will be a legislative decision. The LC position really does explain how M110 affects counties and the actual implications at the local level; a nuance often missed. Augerot believed it would be helpful to have BC add its voice to the M110 discussion.

Malone agreed it was a worthwhile effort and noted that if BC does write a position paper, it should be shared with CFM Advocates so they are informed of BC's position on M110.

Augerot also wanted to bring forward hearing from Jack Lehman on December 11, 2023, via email, about a conversation with Republic Services (RS). The email was sent to Augerot and McEneny but not Malone or Wyse; thus, Augerot wanted to bring it to this Goal-setting meeting. Augerot made a call to Lehman that same day to follow up because what Lehman was originally talking about was a conversation with RS. When Croney commented on having more than one Commissioner there, Lehman was talking about BC being observers to a conversation, and those are very different things. Augerot wanted to have a conversation today about which Commissioner should participate and how it should be done, and also noted it was important to have one of the Commissioners involved.

Wyse expressed significant discomfort with how this might be perceived, due to a lack of sufficient information from RS. There are already accusations the county is helping or aligning with RS.

McEneny inquired about BC pushing back.

Augerot said the reason why there was outreach to Lehman by phone and to Representative Dan Rayfield was to determine RS's intention for the meeting, because I know that Rayfield has supported machinists and the machine operators and has written letters with respect to environmental violations that RS has incurred. Augerot expressed a belief that Rayfield wants to take a hard line with RS is doing and reiterated BC also needs to be there. Perhaps McEneny needs to attend so it is not viewed as a political action.

McEneny responded affirmatively and asked about the date for RS meeting; Augerot responded it is December 20, 2023, at 9:00 AM.

Wyse said that if RS were to submit an application before then, BC would have to rethink its approach due to the lack of information regarding the labor dispute and expansion.

Augerot shared essentially that RS's main office envisions this meeting as an opportunity to hear directly from RS regarding the labor dispute and expansion plans, as well as any other aspect of their operation they want to discuss.

McEneny reported meeting with Bryan Lee from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC); a thoughtful conversation was had where preparedness and training were discussed. McEneny is and will be meeting individually with members of the Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC); its members have been sharing correspondence, and McEneny hopes for a fruitful conversation. McEneny met with the director of Community Development (CD) and should have recommendations at the end of January. There was a meeting with Dial A Bus on the December 11, 2023, where the focus was on working through some technical issues with the new dispatch system; the last system was 20 years old. McEneny and Crager spoke with those Dial A Bus employees struggling with the app to schedule pickups and recognize that change is hard and may need to come little by little. McEneny attended the AOC conference in Eugene in November 2023 with two Commissioners and learned a great deal about the Governor's vision and the legislative agenda. McEneny continues to work on the infrastructure plan and a buildings plan; IT has been brought in. Many of the employee pieces discussed with Martineau have also been taking some time. McEneny has also been meeting with employees on a case-by-case basis on some issues discussing ideas for how they would like to see the county operate. On December 8, McEneny toured the BC correctional facility with Commissioner Wyse, and then both visited many of the programs who receive state and federal funding. McEneny praised the Governor's Regional Solutions and noted some policy objectives to be worked on.

Malone attended the leadership summit on December 11 and found it worthwhile. The highlight of the morning was Derek Thompson, staff writer for The Atlantic, who was high energy and had some provocatively different ideas about housing. Thompson speculated that we may not have the regulatory structure we need. From the early 1900s through the 1950s and 1960s, building and expansion occurred across the country, but it was not well-regulated which resulted in environmental distress. Malone noted the current regulations are 50 years old. Malone shared opinions about the venue for the leadership summit with Duncan Weiss; it was not nearly as effective a venue as the traditional coliseum. Last week Malone received email from the Albany Chamber of Commerce; has been to one

meeting in five years as it does not seem very germane. Malone stated the leadership summit was a worthwhile event and hoped Crager could attend the 2024 summit.

Augerot would like to remain a member of the Albany Chamber of Commerce; attends events after looking at schedule and determining that the topic is pertinent. It is important to maintain this relationship. Augerot noted the Albany Chamber of Commerce is a far different body, much more conservative than the Corvallis Chamber of Commerce. They are often diametrically opposed.

Malone wondered about the need for a motion to continue membership in the Albany Chamber of Commerce.

Augerot stated that traditionally, the Board votes on organization-wide memberships, but was unsure about this matter.

Crager affirmed the membership was built into the budget.

Wyse suggested bringing the matter back to a meeting if required.

Wyse agreed with Malone regarding the leadership summit's venue; the layout was not user-friendly and would have been challenging for attendees with physical disabilities. Due to the building design, Wyse was unable to meet with Kirstin Greene, Deputy Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and missed the last hour of the summit. Overall, it seemed as if the summit was Portland-focused. Wyse was not as impressed by Thompson; believing the writer misrepresented correlations as cause and effect. Wyse agreed there are systems that could be addressed; it is unlikely that regulatory permitting systems will be discontinued. Wyse was unsure about attendance and next year's summit.

Augerot noted it is important to provide feedback to the hosts of the summit. While Augerot was originally registered for the event, she chose to attend an event locally instead of the summit, partly because of the agenda. In the past, the leadership summit agenda included breakout sessions on different themes, and there have been philanthropic foundations, for instance, or other organizations putting together initiatives that have those breakout sessions. They were very interactive opportunities for people to engage on a topic. This year, there was none. The agenda was not as ambitious, and in the past, there was a dinner that focused on the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) and the county/business community relationship that did not happen. Providing feedback to Duncan Wyse and the Oregon Business Council would be worthwhile.

Augerot attended a meeting between the COG and Community Services Consortium (CSC). It was a facilitated meeting for the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice action plan for the two agencies; and it was conducted in parallel with workgroups for both COG and CSC. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan will eventually be a joint plan between COG and CSC with some parallel elements since the two entities are operating more and more closely together. It was very interesting, well-facilitated, and well-attended; everyone from line staff through supervisors and managers attended. Augerot noted it was great to see that kind of synergy and to investigate what is possible in terms of putting together this

kind of a plan and the fact that an assessment or a plan for the county's own work has not yet been developed.

Malone commented on the leadership summit, noting what is as is important as the conference are the conversations with other attendees. Jay Ward, who is retiring from the Energy Trust Board of Oregon, indicated they have some funding and suggested BC's EOC might qualify for funding to install backup batteries and other equipment. Malone will connect Ward with Gary Stockhoff from Public Works.

Augerot shared that BC connected with the DLR Group attendees at the AOC meeting in Eugene in November when Ward was in attendance.

Malone had a good conversation with former Representative Brian Clem on the Coos Bay plan for a major port, which is a several billion-dollar project. Clem is from Coos Bay.

McEneny noted that the port plan is competing with Interstate 5 bridge project it seems the Governor wants.

Malone indicted there are other ports clamoring for upgrades. Clem recently returned from East Asia talking with shippers, and a few are interested. Malone had some doubts about the port plan but noted they are still working on it. Senator Elizabeth Steiner, who is running for State Treasurer in 2024, has a wildfire fund concept that is not fully formed yet. It would take some of the pressure for fire suppression away from landowners, forestland owners, and those who pay property taxes.

Malone asked if there were any other items to discuss; there were none.

Chair Malone adjourned the meeting at 11:56 am.



Pat Malone, Chair



Amanda Makepeace, Recorder