



Observer Report January 2016
League Women Voters Rogue Valley

Thank you to Diane Shockey and Jan Craigie for their Observer Reports and a special thank you to Susan Orth who attended several Jackson County (JC) Board of Commissioner (BOC) meetings for me. First Printing LWV Rogue Valley Voters Voice Page 11 to February 2016 ~Joyce Chapman, Observer Corps Chairperson

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Jackson County Board of Commissioners 01/05/16: All present.

- (1) **Fair Board Applicants** – There was a lengthy discussion regarding the qualifications of two applicants, both of whom were deemed excellent candidates. The final decision was to appoint Gary Miller.
- (2) **Formation of a Wolf Committee** – There were members from the Cattleman’s Association present and one was asked to join the BOC at the table for the discussion. (See notes from the 12/17/15 BOC meeting.) It was discussed that when the issue for forming a Wolf Committee came up before, it was rejected due to cost and the fact that there had been no confirmed wolf kills. (Note: This discussion went on for over an hour so this is a brief recap). There have been no confirmed wolf kills but the ranchers fear there will be. The representative from the Cattleman’s Association insisted several times that he was not interested in the compensation from the state and acknowledged that whatever compensation there might be would be limited in nature and likely a small amount. He indicated that he wanted the Wolf Committee so that problems could be solved. D. Jordan and J. Benton pointed out that the make-up of the membership of a Wolf Committee is specified by law and requires one county commissioner, two from the livestock industry and two from environmental groups. That group would then select two neutral members from the business community. D. Jordan explained again what he explained on December 15 regarding cost and suggested that the BOC form an advisory Wolf Committee made up of members as specified under law but not go to the expense of actually participating in the state program since there have been no confirmed wolf kills. That way, if and when a confirmed wolf kill occurs, JC could quickly begin the paperwork to participate in the state program and would already have the Wolf Committee (which is the most time consuming part of setting up the program). The representative from the Cattleman’s Association indicated that the association would feel that the BOC did not care about them if no official Wolf Committee were set up. The BOC voted to move forward and participate in the state program and form an official Wolf Committee. D. Jordan suggested that the BOC advertise for participants and not just have individual commissioners suggest members. D. Breidenthal wants to be the commissioner on the committee.

[2016 01 05 BoC Work Session Minutes](#) posted 6/27/2016

Jackson County Board of Commissioners 01/07/16: All present.

- (1) **Water for Irrigation, Streams & Economy (WISE) Project Discussion** – WISE approved by prior BOC. There is a \$5,000 budget. C. Roberts does not want to be the liaison, feels landowners should have more input.
- (2 & 3) Discussion Re the **Objection Resolution for Motorized Vehicle Use on Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Project and Potential Creation of a Jackson County Natural Resource Plan**– An hour discussion with C. Roberts expressing dissatisfaction with current situation. Jackson County (JC) has no recourse except litigation which would be expensive with little to gain. J. Benton advised against “cutting and pasting” the Baker County Natural Resource Plan for JC. The Baker plan only refers to Federal land in Baker County. Benton



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was instructed to investigate the cost of doing a Natural Resource plan but then the issue was postponed until the BOC reviews the JC coordination code.

(5) BOC agreed that one of them should attend the Oregon County Emergency Response Plan Meeting on 1/14/16.

(6) **Liaison Reports** – C. Roberts – **Gold Hill** will vote on marijuana in the city limits. A large number of citizens in Gold Hill wanted to know how administration expects to pay for the three year contract for the Sheriff's services. Unresolved. A white water park was mentioned but the JC BOC has no interest in funding it. C. Roberts raised the issue of unruly behavior at a recent **marijuana meeting** but the topic could only be discussed in general. It was agreed that the Chairman should be tougher on stopping people from interrupting. D. Breidenthal has received concerns re choice for Fair Board, but the decision is made. Calendars were checked and all are going to a Chamber luncheon. An unresolved discussion was held on how to pay for the lunch. Eventually R. Dyer agreed to pay for all of them himself.

[2016 01 07 BoC Staff Meeting Minutes](#)

Jackson County Board of Commissioners 01/14/16: All present.

The agenda was light. C. Roberts raised concern over the cost of meetings with so few items. BOC directed that they get a cost estimate for the meetings. **Liaison Reports** – R. Dyer's only meeting was canceled. C. Roberts – Animal Shelter is reviewing its policy against euthanasia. C. Roberts mentioned a group (name not audible) who are concerned with water use and government overreach. Water use for **marijuana** was a further concern. D. Breidenthal advised that if the State/Courts decide that **marijuana** falls under the definition of a "farm crop" all of the controls currently being studied and planned by JC will be null and void. **Eagle Point** will pay for their own highway sign at off ramp 33 on the I-5. D. Breidenthal said that the Chamber Board raised the issue of county employee's paying their own insurance premium. D. Jordan advised that the issue has been raised many times and when it has been, the union demanded a 6% salary increase to cover it. An increase in payroll would increase payroll taxes, pension contributions, etc. and it is less expensive for the county to pay the premium. Thank you to Diane Shockey and Jan Craigie for their Observer Reports and a special thank you to Susan Orth who attended several Jackson County (JC) Board of Commissioner (BOC) meetings for me

[2016 01 14 BoC Staff Meeting Minutes](#) Posted on 6/27/2016

Jackson County Board of Commissioners 01/26/2016: All Commissioners present.

Mike McArthur, Executive Director of the **Association of Oregon Counties** (AOC) gave a legislative update. This was the only public agenda item. Also present was David Brocksmith, a Commissioner from Curry County. AOC is a lobbying group for Oregon Counties. Mr. McArthur pointed out that the state legislative session is only 35 days long and that things will happen very quickly. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the status of various bills including minimum wage, funds coming to the counties from the Justice Reinvestment Act, the proposal to increase the corporate tax, and the marijuana tax formula. Mr. Jordan speculated that Jackson County would only receive approximately \$30,000 a year from the marijuana tax. Due to the quickly evolving nature of the short legislative session, we have not included a detailed report on the discussion.

[2016 01 26 BoC Work Session Minutes](#) posted to Jackson Co web on 6/27/2016

Jackson County Board of Commissioners 01/28/16: All Commissioners present.

Discussion of Requested **Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RVMPO)** Vote – At the last RVMPO meeting a draft legislative concept was discussed that would allow for group funding (such as grants from the federal government) to the state for various transportation needs. Commissioner Breidenthal is



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primarily against it as he considers it a subsidy to local counties and he does not believe permanent subsidies are the answer. Mr. Jordan indicated that AOC is following this and appears to be in favor of it. At the moment it is not a bill and it will be clarified as the issue moves along. RVTD is in poor financial shape and this concept may provide some help. After further discussion the BOC voted to support the concept subject to continued review.

2. Discussion of **Senate Bill 1551 and House Bill 4147**. Commissioner Roberts expressed the opinion that these bills endanger Second Amendment rights and asked the BOC to oppose the bills. The other commissioners agreed and instructed Mr. Benton to draft a proclamation.

3&4. Nothing to report on 3 and on 4 it was mostly housekeeping issues.

5. **Liaison Reports** – Commissioner Breidenthal reported on the Public Safety County Committee (PSCC) which is concerned with preventative human services. The goal of routing offenders to services instead of jail appears to be working. Commissioner Dyer reported that the airport is on schedule to finish the snow removal building by August, that there is an historical display under construction and the next project is a reconfiguration of the taxi area.

6. Community Service Award Nominations – No decision was reached.

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