



Board of Commissioners' Administrative Meeting  
April 28, 2020 ~ 1:00pm ~ Room 214

4/28/2020 - Minutes

**1. To Watch A Live Stream Of This Meeting, Click The Link Below Or Go To  
Www.klamathcounty.org**

**2. Call To Order & Those Present**

Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Morris, Commissioner DeGroot; Haley Huffman / Admin Staff; Glen Gregory, Molly Fitzgerald (WebEx) / Maintenance Brandon Fowler /Emergency Management; Amanda Van Riper / Human Resources; Jennifer Little / Public Health; Paul Stewart (WebEx) / Sky Lakes; Marcus Henderson / County Counsel; Dr. Wendy Warren / Public Health.

**3. Approve Minutes From Last Meeting**

Approved.

**4. Amanda Van Riper - Human Resources**

**1. Department Request - Maintenance FTE Increase**

Commissioner Boyd said, this says we are creating a position but we aren't, we had Glen, he moved up and this position is lower than before.

Commissioner DeGroot said, this is a reclass of a position? Amanda Van Riper said Glen would like to leave the HVAC Tech position vacant, add a Tech 3 position and move one of his current workers into the Tech position. Commissioner Boyd said he's not ready to do that with the budgetary constraints. Commissioner DeGroot said, why don't we let him reclass it and then add this other HVAC position back in later. Commissioners agreed to postpone this item to next week's Administrative meeting.

**5. BOCC**

**1. Gating Criteria/ Reopening**

Commissioner Morris explains the Commissioners are working on a reopening document to submit to the Governor. She asked for everyone's feedback and input to make a plan moving forward. Mr. Stewart said he has reviewed the document and has a couple issues regarding reopening and until those are resolved he's not ready to certify that the hospital is ready for a community reopening. They've done modeling and based on that modeling they are short approximately 9,230 N95 masks in order to have a 30 day supply on hand. Commissioner Boyd asks what other PPE are you

short in. Mr. Stewart said, eye protection and disposable gowns. Surgical masks and gloves are in good supply. His second concern is the two-day turn around for testing requirement. He said, we do not have in-house testing. We have a machine to do it but we do not have the test kits for that machine. He said, those tests are being rerouted to hot zones and many of the larger systems across the country so we are sending our testing to commercial labs and they are backed up to a 3-4 day turn around currently. he said, they've made formal request to the state for a waiver to be classified as a small rural hospital which would change the required turn-around time to 4 days. he said, if we get that waiver, we'd meet that requirement and he'd be comfortable certifying. Commissioner DeGroot asks, what can we do to help with the hospital obtaining that waiver? Mr. Stewart said, they've made a request and there isn't a formal waiver it's just a matter of them changing the language. Mr. Stewart asks about sending a letter to the Governor's Office and copy the other parties. Commissioner Morris said we could team up with Douglas and Coos counties on a letter. Jennifer Little asks, for the N95 projection, is that regular or extended use? Mr. Stewart said that is tier 1 use. He said they have made an application for an FDA approved resterilizer for N95 masks but they do not have the ability to do that yet. If that does come in this week, then they would be ok. Mr. Stewart said they are in the process of holding conversations with facilities that have a larger stock pile than we do and he is in hopes that they will be able to borrow a number of masks to help us meet the criteria. Mr. Fowler said, one concern is we received 3000 yesterday from the State stockpile and they are more of the KN95 variety and he is concerned that from here on out that's what we are going to see and that is the variety the hospital has issues with the fit among other things. Mr. Stewart said they ordered 12,000 N95s but there is no delivery date yet. Mr. Fowler said we have 2000-3000 conventional N95 masks that we could deploy. He said, keep in mind we still have our EMS providers that transport folks as well. Mr. Stewart said, if he has 2000-3000 and an additional N95's from you and 3000 borrowed from their sister facilities, he is comfortable certifying with the order they have in the pipeline. He hopes to have confirmation by tomorrow. Mr. Fowler said he can deliver the 2000-3000 masks to the hospital today. Mr. Fowler said, talking to our EMS providers and agencies, everyone is generally on board and comfortable moving forward. Dr. Warren discusses the downturn in cases. She said the antibody testing has been interesting, we have not seen very many positive tests in people that we did not expect to see them on and among the people that did have antibody testing that we expected to see them on we tested their family members and a number of them were also positive eventhough they didn't have any symptoms and tested negative for COVID. She said antibody testing is not on the criteria but she feels we should have it available. She said we've seen a week of downtrend. Ms. Little said the numbers at the drive-through site have gone down. She said she'd feel more comfortable if we could provide off site testing to other areas around town such as Mills Elementary School and Merrill Community Center. She said if we could ramp up testing, she would feel more confident in the numbers. She said she has been begging the State for epidemiology help but she hasn't gotten anywhere. She has a meeting with the State tomorrow. She said the State model now is so broad, she'd love to see the local data modeled out. Dr. Warren said there is discussion at Sky Lakes about doing more offsite testing. Mr. Stewart

said they are supportive of offsite testing and the numbers at the drive through site have rebounded again and are actually around 100 a day again. He said, antibody testing has been very robust, they did 900 tests last week. Commissioner Boyd said he understands what Jennifer is saying but the reality is Klamath County is doing more testing per capita than anyone in the state, people are getting tested even if they don't have transportation. Commissioner Morris said, we been working with the Chamber and KCEDA on reopening businesses and she feels Klamath in general has been doing a good job on not waiting on that piece. Ms. Little said she feels people have been doing a good job and as long as we keep reminding people to keep distancing. Mr. Stewart said, the mask encouragement that is mentioned in the letter, he recommends making that stronger for businesses that want to reopen. He feels there is a false sense of reliance on social distancing. He said, his employees are wearing masks not because the risk of getting it is greater here than anywhere else it is because it is a best practice. He said, his providers and employees are alarmed to see that, his guess is, less than 2% of people wearing masks in the community. He said, it doesn't need to be surgical masks or N95, any mask that helps knock down the droplets and the aerosol transmission will decrease exposure. Commissioner Morris asks, moving forward what are the next steps? She said, getting the masks over to Sky Lakes. Commissioner Boyd said he wants to know the exact number of masks we have. Mr. Fowler said, we have 7000 in inventory but he's not sure how many are N95 quality. Mr. Fowler explains the difference between N95 and KN95 there have been complaints from the medical community that the fit is not ideal and some other issues. Ms. Little said they are FDA approved. Dr. Warren explains how they do a fit-test with the N95 and the problem with the KN95 is they don't always pass that test. Commissioner DeGroot explains, the 10,000 masks we ordered, we received 5,000 and they are the KN95. Commissioner Morris confirmed, Mr. Fowler will get an exact count of masks. She asked Mr. Stewart to let the Board know when he gets information from his sister facility. She said, we will put stronger mask language in our proposal and on our social media. Commissioner DeGroot said, we need to have staff prepare a letter to the Governor related to the waiver. Commissioner Morris said, she will call Curry County and Commissioner DeGroot will call Douglas County. Ms. Little discussed staff requirements for contract tracing. Commissioner Morris gave kudos to Ms. Little's team and was thankful to them for doing the contract tracing. Commissioner Morris said, the plan, with consideration of Mr. Stewart's feeling of not being read to certify is that we'd like to send our plan and documentation in on Monday. Mr. Stewart said he'll know where they're at by Thursday at the latest. Commissioner Morris said the Board will schedule another Work Session on Friday. Ms. Little asks Mr. Stewart, is there a need for advocacy for a rapid test? Mr. Stewart said yes, but he's not sure how effective the advocacy would be as it's not an OHA issue it's a manufacturer issue. Dr. Warren said they'd like to see the Governor's Task Force put out more information as they keep saying it's coming. Dr. Warren said she feels we as a County are doing pretty well with this.

## **2. TIA Plan Documents**

Commissioner Boyd said he is not ready to do anything until he has time to

meet with the hoteliers. Commissioner Boyd and Commissioner DeGroot agreed they would like to push this out a month. Commissioner Morris said she respects why Commissioner Boyd wants to meet with them. Commissioner Morris asks about a 90-day deadline. Mr. Henderson said he doesn't know of a 90-day deadline. Mr. Henderson will let Civitas know the Board would like wait a month.

### **3. Letter To Secretary Of Interior**

Commissioner DeGroot said, this is more of a relationship letter than anything. He said, there are things going on that are straining the relationship now and it needs to be protected. Commissioner Boyd expressed concerns about the last paragraph of the letter concerning the water users. Commissioner DeGroot said, this doesn't exclude them. Commissioner Boyd said he's in favor of adding a line to protect the farmers and ranchers in the basin not just the water users. Commissioner DeGroot suggested adding a line supporting the off-project irrigators. Commissioner Boyd agreed. Commissioner DeGroot motions to sign the letter with the addition of the sentence and Commissioner Boyd seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved.

## **6. Other County Business**

Planning Meeting Tonight - Commissioner Boyd said there is confusion whether we are going with the 25 maximum people in the room, he had it in his mind that it was 10 people maximum. Commissioner DeGroot said, he worked with staff to move chairs to be 6' apart and 25 people will not fit in the room. He said, if more people show up than that, someone will be need to leave before another person can enter. Commissioner Boyd asks, who will monitor that? Commissioners agreed that Mr. Henderson will monitor the numbers for the meeting tonight.

Commissioner DeGroot said there is an additional letter to the Governor that we've been asked to sign from KID. He would like to read and review it first. Commissioner Boyd agreed.

Commissioner DeGroot reviewed the work that KCEDA has been doing to create FAQ documents for businesses to reopen. Commissioner Morris said, she'd like to attach all the documents to our packet going to the Governor.

## **7. Adjournment**

1:52pm

Audio recordings of all proceedings are available at the County Commissioners' office. The meeting facility is handicap accessible. Persons needing materials in alternate format or communication access, should telephone this office at 541-883-5100  (voice/TDD) or the ADA Coordinator at 541-883-4296  at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Klamath County Commissioners' Weekly Calendar is subject to change without notice.

305 Main Street 2nd Floor, Klamath Falls, OR 97601  
E-mail: [bocc@klamathcounty.org](mailto:bocc@klamathcounty.org) Website: [www.klamathcounty.org](http://www.klamathcounty.org)