

**Union County Board of Commissioners**  
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

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Present: Commissioner Paul Anderes, Chair  
Commissioner R. Matthew Scarfo  
Commissioner Jake Seavert

Commissioner Anderes opened the meeting at 9:00 AM. and the Pledge of Allegiance was given with all three Commissioners in attendance.

**Staff Report**

Commissioner Anderes asked Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, to provide a staff report regarding Ballot Measure 31-101.

Administrative Officer Burgess reported that Ballot Measure 31-101 was referred to the voters of Union County on November 3, 2020 as a result of an initiative petition. The measure was passed by voters with 7,435 yes votes and 6,753 no votes, a difference of 682 total votes. The measure requires the Commissioners to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every February, June and October to discuss how to promote the interest of Union County in any negotiations regarding relocating the state border of Idaho to include Union County.

Civil penalties are provided for anyone who willfully prohibits, cancels or hinders any of the prescribed meetings of the Board of Commissioners. A civil offense against this measure is punishable as a class D violation, subject to a maximum fine of up to \$125 and is enforceable by any peace officer. In accordance to the approved measure, meetings had previously been held by the Board of Commissioners on February 10, June 9 and October 13, 2021, February 9, June 8, October 12, 2022, February 8, June 14, October 11, 2023, February 14, June 12 and October 9, 2024.

Public comment opportunities have been offered at each of the previous meetings and written public comments have also been accepted.

At the February 8, 2023 meeting, a motion was passed by the Commissioners to send a letter memorializing the Greater Idaho Movement ballot measure results to State Representatives.

On February 9, 2023, a letter was sent by the Commissioners to Representative Bobby Levy and Senator Bill Hansell officially informing them of the November 3, 2020 Ballot Measure results.

Commissioner Anderes read out loud two House Bills that will be presented in the 2025 regular session.

**Public Comments**

Commissioner Anderes asked that those providing public comment limit their comment time to 3 to 5 minutes.

Curt Howell, La Grande, addressed the Commissioners with his comments in favor of Moving Idaho's Border. He provided comments related to abortion rights. He also stated that the Commissioners were elected to represent the citizens of Union County, and they are not following their word by not facilitating discussions related to the relocation of the border. He also referred to the bills that were previously mentioned by Commissioner Anderes.

Beth Upshaw, Union, addressed the Commissioners in opposition to the relocation of the Idaho border. She was born in Burns, raised on a cattle ranch in Grant County and has lived in La Grande for 50 years. She loves the state of Oregon, and would like the Commissioners to be mindful in their research, as the comments Mr. Howell provided are false. Oregon is not the worse state related to education.

Andrew White, Bushnell Road, La Grande, addressed the Commissioners related to the relocation of the Idaho border. He believes there needs to be more local input and ideas, the state doesn't listen to us because they don't have to. He has been waiting for a set of blueprints for a building, and it has been months. He worked with the state related to Elk Depredation when Kate Brown was still in office and Governor Kotek has created another Elk Depredation program. He listed many reasons related to Salem being a mess.

Grant Darrow, Captain of the Greater Idaho Movement in Union and Wallowa Counties, 708 Poplar Street, Cove, Oregon, addressed the Commissioners with his comments in favor of the Greater Idaho Border Movement. He also welcomed Commissioner Seavert as our newest Commissioner.

Vivian Young, Union County, addressed the Commissioners in opposition to the relocation of the Oregon border. She would like to mention what was voted on was, "should the Commissioners meet three times annually to discuss promoting Union County interests in relocating Idaho's borders to include Union County". We were asked today to have an open discussion about moving the border – that is why we are here. I have attended numerous meetings and have heard one positive thing, and that is not paying farm workers overtime.

Matt McCaw, Executive Director of Moving Idaho Border, Powell Butte, addressed the Commissioners indicated that he is available if there are any questions.

Chris Heffernan, 63300 View Point Road, North Powder, addressed the Commissioners related to the relocation of Oregon's border. He provided statements related to the troubles landowners go through in Oregon..

Vivian Young, addressed the Commissioners a second time. She would like to know what the government is doing that is so awful, she would like the problems solved. Her great-

grandparents came on the Oregon Trail, she is a part of this community even though she didn't grow up here.

Commissioner Anderes closed the public comment period.

**Commissioner Remarks**

Commissioner Scarfo did not have any comments to provide at this time.

Commissioner Seavert indicated that he is still researching both sides of the story. With that in mind, please feel free to email or call him to have the conversation.

Commissioner Anderes just returned home from Salem with his fellow Commissioners, advocating for a number of things and working through the process of Association of Oregon Counties (AOC). AOC is taking on the fire map and the crafter of the legislation has abandoned his efforts with the fire map.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next special Commission meeting on this topic will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 9 AM.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Anderes adjourned the meeting at 9:58 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Moore  
Senior Department Specialist