

Union County Board of Commissioners
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 11, 2025

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

On behalf of Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, Allison Moore, read out loud a staff report regarding Ballot Measure 31-101.

The staff report stated 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 2nd 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 October 9, 2024 & February 12, 2025.

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

Public Comments

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

Allison Moore read out loud the first public comment submitted by email from Anita Metlen, 65208 Hull Lane, Imber. Ms. Metlen is in opposition of moving the border. She provided a list of reasons why she feels the movement would be disastrous for the state of Oregon.

Allison Moore read out loud the second public comment submitted by email from Maxine Hines, 307 2nd Street, La Grande. Ms. Hines is in opposition of moving the border. She stated that holding these meetings is a waste of the Commissioners time and is much opposition to moving the border.

Commissioner Anderes read the third public comment submitted by email from Les Ruark. Mr. Ruark is in opposition of moving the border. He believes there are bigger items that the Commissioners should be focusing on rather than hold these meetings even though required.

Matt McCaw, Executive Director of Greater Idaho, Powell Butte, provided a brief update to the Commissioners for their information. There have been 13 counties that have passed some form of the Move Oregon Border measure over the past 5 years. There are bills introduced in the current Legislative session on both the House and Senate side requesting a state level task force be formed to explore what would be involved in a border change. No hearing has been scheduled on the bill and it is not likely to move. They are being told more support is needed at the elected leader level to move anything forward and he suggest EOCA support would be helpful.

Curt Howell, Greater Idaho Captain, La Grande, provided a copy of his comments to the Commissioners. Mr. Howell spoke in favor of the movement and provided a list of reasons why moving Oregon's border would be beneficial to the state. He also went over several bills that would negatively impact the state of Oregon which are in the current Legislative session. Most impact Union County citizens in a very negative way.

Commissioner Anderes closed the public comment period.

Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Seavert believes it is a difficult situation for citizens of Union County to be in. It is a struggle to see the off balance of policy within the state. He does not want to put Union County in a position to not receive any state funding. Is a very concerning problem.

Commissioner Anderes thanked Mr. McCaw for bringing up House Bill 3488 and agreed his summary of legislative process on it and SJ-7 was spot on. There is also a bill from Representative Evans, which is legislation that requires counties to sign an affidavit stating they will remain part of the state of Oregon if they received state funding. That bill has not moved forward either.

Next Meeting Date

The next special Commission meeting on this topic will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 9 am.

Adjournment

Commissioner Anderes adjourned the meeting at 9:58 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Moore
Senior Department Specialist