

General Discussion: June 14, 2016

9:00 a.m. – BCC Conference Room

Commissioners Cheryl Walker and Keith Heck (Simon G. Hare was unavailable); Wendy Watkins, Recorder

Chair Cheryl Walker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Due to guests present, agenda items were taken out of order.

1. Presentation on Public Safety Problem/Issue (Davis)

Nathan Davis, Graduate from OSU, did his thesis work on Public Safety in Josephine County and discussed **Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee (Exhibit 1)** with the Board.

2. Building Safety Director Position

Robert Rice, Building Safety Director, discussed that his department is the local program that follows the direction from the Building Codes Division and currently he does the administration work along with being a Building Official. Commissioner Walker submitted **Info on Building Safety function from comparable counties (Exhibit 2)** and discussed it with Mr. Rice. Commissioner Heck asked Mr. Rice his opinion on merging Building Safety with the Planning Department. Mr. Rice explained that administratively it makes sense but technically it does not work due to the job duties of a Building Official being a standalone position. *Staff was directed to place the item on the next County Administration Workshop.*

3. Strategic Plan for Economic Development

None reported.

4. Other (*ORS 192.640(1) “. . . notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects”.*)

Commissioner Walker discussed **Letter of Support for Roger Brandt (Exhibit 2)** and said attached is an email from Commissioner Hare stating he is in favor of signing the letter. *Staff was directed to put this in the signature file for full Board’s signature.*

Commissioner Heck made a motion to support the letter regarding the proposal to construct a footbridge over the West Fork of the Illinois River at Illinois River Forks State Park, seconded by Commissioner Walker. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 2-0, Commissioner Heck – yes and Commissioner Walker – yes.

Commissioner Walker mentioned tonight at 6:30 p.m. in Wolf Creek is the Marijuana – Planning Ahead Town Hall

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 – Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee

Exhibit 2 – Info on building Safety function from comparable counties

Exhibit 3 - Letter of Support from Roger Brandt

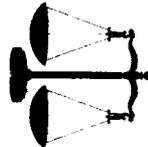
Exhibit 1

6/14/16

General Discussion
**Hugo Justice System
Exploratory Committee**

The following core values of the Committee are part of *Study Design*.

- All Citizens, Voters, Votes, & Values Are Legitimate, Pro & Con.
- Fair Representation of All Values.
- Neutral Point of View.
- Public Is Decision Maker.



Since 2000, and the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS Act), Congress had repeatedly sent messages that federal payments would be phased out, and this was intended to give O & C counties *time to plan for the change* in funding their own public services, especially PSS. The Committee's aspiration is that the final *Study* product of the *Study Design* project be considered part of this needed planning. The *Study* components include the following: 1. the publicly identified issues, range of alternative solutions, and affected conditions; and 2. analyzing the impacts of each alternative evaluated by condition indicators and standards, through a combination of citizen input and professional expert investigations.

Based on the last four levies, and one proposed city tax funding attempt, the following PSS are generally considered the major components of JO CO's historic public safety program: 1. adult jail beds, 2. juvenile justice center, 3. district attorney's office, 4. rural patrol deputies, 5. criminal investigations and related sheriff's office support services, and 6. animal/control protection.

Edited by the Co-Authors of *Study Design*
Jon Whalen & Mike Walker and Nathan Davis, OSU

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS Officers)

Wayne McKay, Chair
Liz Butowitsch, Treasurer
Rene Ford, Liaison HETC
Mike Walker, Education Chair
Jon Whalen, Chair, HSTP



Justice System Exploratory Committee
<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>

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**Citizen Values of Public Safety
Levies in Josephine County, Oregon**
Study Design: 2015
http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/JS/SS_Studies.htm

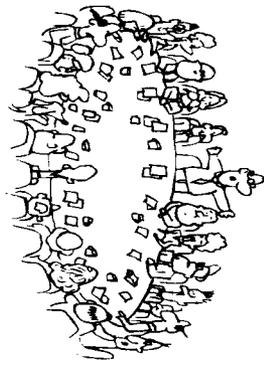
Nathan Davis, Master's of Public Policy Program
Rural Studies Program
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**Understanding Citizen
Motivations for Public Safety
Referenda in Josephine County**
(Public Outreach 3.3)

Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



"Championing An Informed Public"

**Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**

Rural Studies Program
School of Public Policy
Oregon State University

June 13, 2016

Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) Exploratory Committee

After four failed JO CO public safety levies and one proposed City of Grant Pass sales tax from 2012 - 2015, the public could be excused if it feels exhausted. What do the citizens really think about public safety?

The Exploratory Committee was established by the HNA&HS in 2013 to research public safety.¹ The Committee asked the question, "What can we do to shed some light on the public safety problem/issue?" In 2015, two of its members, Mike Walker and Jon Whalen, decided to document "listening" which wouldn't be scientific in the sense of random sample public opinion surveys, and targeted populations.²



Officers: HNA&HS

Jon, Liz, Wayne, Special Guest Janet, Rene, & Mike

What is the JO CO's JS&PSS Problem/Issue? Or, is there a problem, and, either way, judged by what standards and criteria?

Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015 (Study Design)

OSU Rural Studies Program On November 7, 2015 Nathan Davis, a 2nd year graduate student at Oregon State University (OSU), formally settled on tiering his Master's of Public Policy (MPP) Essay research paper to the Josephine County (JO CO) JS&PSS public safety issue. Nathan is in the OSU School of Public Policy which is part of the OSU Rural Studies Program.



Nathan Davis, Jon Whalen, & Mike Walker

Davis stated, "The importance of government hearing citizen voices is what attracted me to policy research and, inevitably, to this project in Josephine County." At OSU he expanded his knowledge of policy research and the role it can play in making government action more effective and more democratic. "This project not only affords me the chance to utilize this knowledge, but it also allows me to help create solutions for a practical policy problem," said Davis. His hope is that through this project, citizen values will be revealed, enabling JO CO to make more democratic decisions.

Rural Studies Program, School of Public Policy, Oregon State University

Citizen Opinions On Public Safety Through Content Analysis: 2015 - 2016 The Exploratory Committee is pleased to announce Davis has completed his research paper which addresses the question: *What Do Josephine County Citizens Really Think About Public Safety?* Davis' MPP researches what the citizens think about public safety, by relying on citizens to identify problems, and formulate their own goals and solutions for the future. His database for the research paper is the voting history of the last five referenda from 2012 - 2015 in over 800 letters-to-the-editor in The Grants Pass Daily Courier (JS&PSS Press Release 2015-1).

Championing Informed Voters

June 14, 2016, 9:00 a.m. Davis' Presentation of MPP's Findings to JO CO Board of County Commissioners Josephine County has been struggling to raise funding through taxes for public safety services since 2012. Referenda in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 all failed to garner the support of the public, suggesting a vital need for a greater understanding of Josephine County citizen motivations for supporting or opposing levy referenda. This project took an objective look at citizen opinions through an analysis of letters to the editor to The Grants Pass Daily Courier to determine citizen opinions of the public safety levies. Through this analysis, this paper determined that ideological concerns over policy instruments, the riskiness of policy, and the trust of individuals in the government all played a role in determining citizen engagement decisions regarding Josephine County public safety property tax levy referenda.

1. Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee, January 1, 2016, *Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015*, Public Outreach 9.1. Hugo, OR.
2. Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee, Draft 2015, *Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015*, HNA&HS, Hugo, OR.

Exhibit 2

6/14/16

General Discussion

County Commissioners

Info on Building Safety function from comparable counties

06/13/16

In order to help determine the best course of action, I did a comparable study of how the Building Safety function is handled in comparable counties. I looked at eight counties which included Coos, Douglas, Klamath, Lincoln, Linn, Polk, Umatilla, and Yamhill. Both Coos and Umatilla have outsourced this function to the State.

In looking at the comps, I came to a few conclusions on how other counties function.

1. Douglas County operates in the same manner that we do. Building Safety is an independent department with a Director heading it.
2. Klamath, Linn, Lincoln, and Yamhill have either a Community Development department that includes Building Safety, or a Planning Department that oversees Building Safety. The individual in charge of Building Safety is not a director of an independent department, but is titled Building Official and oversees that division of the department.
3. Polk has the same hierarchy structure as Klamath with a Community Development Director overseeing Building Safety, but the Building Official and Inspector are contracted out and are not employees.
4. In looking at salary, the five counties that had an employee serving as Building Official averaged within 1% of our Building Safety Director.

Based on this research, I would recommend either keeping the status quo and replacing Mr. Rice, or put Building Safety under Community Development and hiring a Building Official at the current wage. This would just require a minor adjustment to the job description, and an order from the board changing the designation of Building Official.

JJ Scofield

HR Director



Exhibit 3

6/14/16

general discussion

Josephine County Board of Commissioners
Cherryl Walker, Chair K. O. Heck, Vice Chair Simon G. Hare, Commissioner

June 14, 2016

Dear Program Decision Committee;

The Josephine County Board of Commissioners support the proposal to construct a footbridge over the West Fork of the Illinois River at Illinois River Forks State Park in southwest Oregon and encourage you to provide funding for a feasibility and engineering plan as a first step to move this project forward.

The installation of a footbridge would create a significant and sustainable economic benefit for Josephine County by increasing our ability to attract travel spending and create a positive image that will appeal to retirees, entrepreneurs, and business owners who are looking to move to a community with outstanding quality of life values. These all represent sources of cash flow into the local economy that is identified in the Bureau of Land Management's recently published Western Oregon Resource Management Plan (2016) as a poverty community.

We are also very supportive of projects that provide low impact and wheelchair accessible recreational opportunities for our residents and the traveling public. A wheelchair accessible footbridge would provide an opportunity for viewing migrating salmon, wildlife, and the scenic beauty of the West Fork. More important, the bridge would provide access to a gently sloped part of the park where a wheelchair trail could be developed through heavily forested landscapes located in the western part of the state park and adjacent Bureau of Land Management land. This trail would provide low impact walking opportunities for senior citizens as well as provide a suitable surface for young parents to take their infants through the forest in a stroller. A footbridge is the only option for development of a wheelchair access trail to these recreational resources.

Thank you for supporting our economic development efforts in Josephine County.

Sincerely,

Board of County Commissioners

Cherryl Walker, Chair

K. O. Heck, Vice Chair

Simon G. Hare, Commissioner

COURTHOUSE

500 N.W. Sixth Street, Dept. 6, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Phone: (541) 474-5221 Fax: (541) 474-5105

Terri Wharton

From: Simon Hare
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 9:08 AM
To: Terri Wharton
Subject: Fwd: Letter of support request - West Fork footbridge

I'm in favor of moving this forward...

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Roger Brandt" <rpbrandt@frontier.com>
To: "Cherryl Walker" <CWalker@co.josephine.or.us>, "Keith Heck" <KHeck@co.josephine.or.us>, "Simon Hare" <SHare@co.josephine.or.us>
Subject: Letter of support request - West Fork footbridge

Request for letter of support

A letter of support is needed from the Commissioners to help obtain funding for a feasibility study and engineering plan for a foot bridge across the West Fork of the Illinois River at Illinois River Forks State Park. A draft letter is included at the bottom of the page.

Funding source

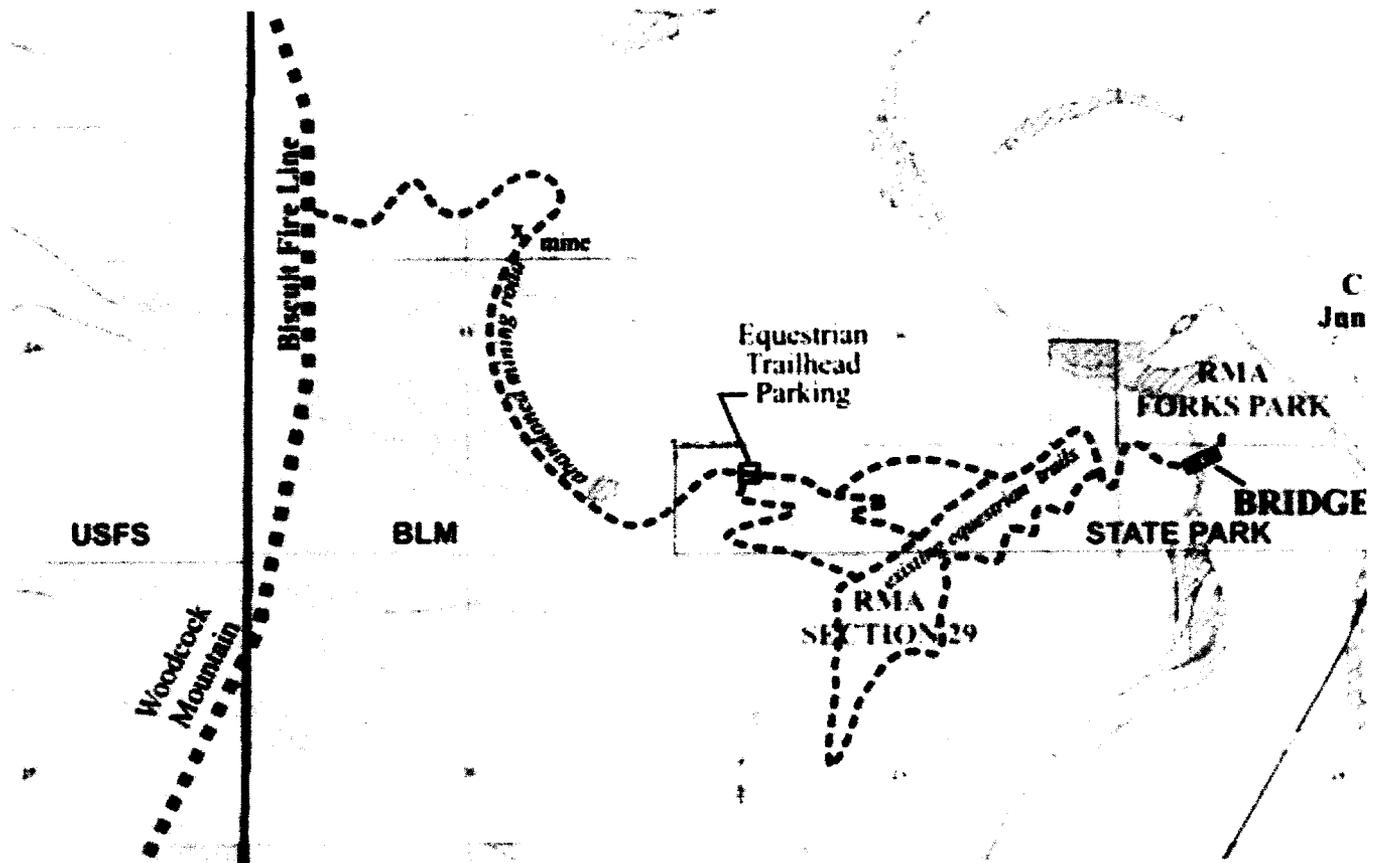
The fund request would be for \$100,000 through the Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) with matching coming from Oregon State Parks. The FLAP funds are designated to be used for repair or improvement of existing roads and bridges or development of new facilities to improve access to federal lands. These proposals are the first step to get in line for funding, which is expected to be available in 2020.

Why a letter from the Commissioners?

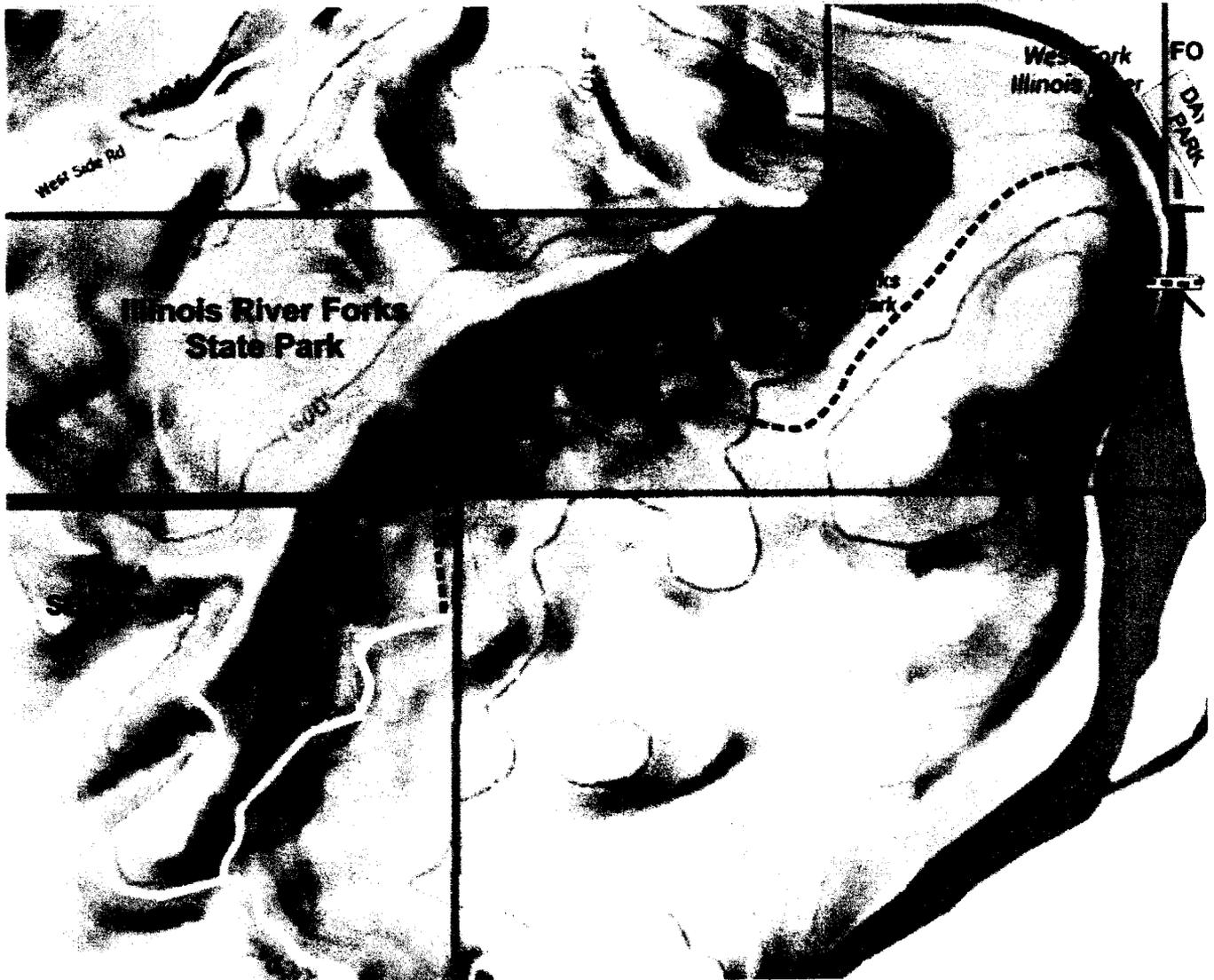
The decision on which projects to fund is done by a three person team that includes a representative from the Association of Oregon Counties (Emily Ackland). A letter from the JoCo Commissioners would have a positive influence on selecting this planning project for funding.

A bridge over West Fork would create three opportunities

1) The bridge is a necessary step to connect Cave Junction and the traveling public to eight miles of hiking trails on the west side of the park and a hiking trail to Woodcock Mountain. This represents an effort to increase travel spending and change the image of Cave Junction.



2) There is an opportunity to create a wheelchair accessible trail through the forest on the west side of the park. The map below shows how there is very little elevation gain from the bridge to BLM's Recreation Management Area land (Section 29 is currently used for equestrian trails).



3) The topography is ideal for replicating the terrain that was hiked by astronauts when they climbed the Cone Crater during the Apollo 14 mission to the moon (the mission that created the Moon Tree story). Hikers following the trail would experience the same distance and elevation gains as the astronauts experienced. Points would be identified along the trail where hikers would stop and look in a trail guide to see photos of the lunar landscapes that astronauts saw at each survey station (A, B, B1, etc) as they climbed Cone Crater. (LM= Lunar Module)



Draft letter of support

The application deadline for FLAP projects is July 1. It would be very appreciated if this letter of support could be received 4-5 days before that date.

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Thank you for supporting our economic development efforts in Josephine County.

Sincerely,

Find events, classes, and activities in Illinois Valley at www.illinoisvalley.com