
BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

**April 8, 2026
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Avery Parks Building
360 SW Avery Ave**

Committee Members Present: Phil Hays, Bryce Downey, Dave Conca, John Turner, Carol Walsh, and Elizabeth Spatafora.

Committee Members Absent: David Smith, Ben Watts & Alexis Maxwell.

County Staff Present: Jesse Ott, Natural Areas, Parks & Events Director;
Adam Stebbins, Natural Resources Coordinator; Leanna Buck,
Recorder.

I. BUSINESS

A. Approval of March Meeting Minutes (5min)

Phil moved to approve the minutes as written and Carol seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Upcoming Outreach Events - Jesse (10min)

Jesse showed a slide show of upcoming events. The first was Planet Palooza on April 18th from 1pm to 4:30pm. He asked for volunteers from the committee to be there and run the NAPE booth at the event. Carol volunteered for the first half of the day and Phil will take the second half of the day. The second is Get Outdoors Day on May 30th from 10am to 3pm.

C. OSU Pre-K Day at Beazell - Jesse (15min)

The OSU Pre-K Day at Beazell Memorial Forest is on May 28th. Jesse advised that this is not a public event and then went on to explain our department's roll in it.

D. Ft. Hoskins Disc Golf Update - Bryce (10min)

Bryce showed a map of the possible Ft. Hoskins disc golf course. He advised that he sat down with Adam to create the map and discussed the best place to put the course. He then explained the direction of the proposed course. If built according to plan it will be a Gold level course that will work in tandem with Adair Disc Golf course and Willamette Disc Golf course making it a perfect trio for more tournaments.

E. JFW Funding Update - Jesse (15min)

Jesse advised that the congressional allocations all went to different projects and emergency agencies instead of the natural areas projects like he had hoped.

F. McBee Update and Local Government Grant - Jesse (15min)

Jesse reported that we got a local government grant for McBee. However, signage is going to be expensive. So Jesse will be applying for a small local government grant that will cover the signage. The engineering firm has finished the plans for the stick-built bathrooms. So the department will be moving forward with the RFP process to secure a contractor to build them. The department is thinking about relocating the table from the lower parking area to either a park in Monroe or a park in Alsea.

G. Dashboard Update - John (10min)

John passed around a handout that explained the concept that the committee came up with for the community dashboard.

H. Historic Courthouse (Update on what the Commissioners decided about the project) - Jesse (20min)

Jesse advised that the Commissioners had delegated the Courthouse Advisory Committee to the NAPE department. He reported that a feasibility study has to be done on it to help with securing grants to fund the seismic retrofit project.

I. Cemetery Memorial Day Event - Jesse (10min)

The Crystal Lake Cemetery Memorial Celebration will be on Wednesday May 20th at 9am.

J. Notable upcoming NAPE rentals and events - Jesse (10min)

Jess talked about some fun events that are coming up. One is Bike Rides NW, they will be starting out at the Fairgrounds. This will be in June. Squirrels Party is back for another year during Labor Day weekend at Adair Park. Also, the Juvenile Work Crew will be selling firewood at our Salmonberry campground.

K. Other Park Project Updates - Jesse (5min)

Jesse talked to the board about having one of our meetings out at the Adair Clubhouse so that everyone on the board can get eyes on it and get some ideas together on what to do with it.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Please visit us at: <https://nape.bentoncountyor.gov/>