
BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

**March 11, 2026
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Avery Parks Building
360 SW Avery Ave**

Committee Members Present: David Smith, Phil Hays, Bryce Downey, Dave Conca, Carol Walsh, and Ben Watts.

Committee Members Absent: John Turner, Elizabeth Spatafora & Alexis Maxwell.

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

I.

Introduction of Guests

II. BUSINESS

A. Approval of February Meeting Minutes (5min)

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

B. Disc Club Update - Bryce (15min)

Bryce shared that he has discussed the possible golf course at Ft. Hoskins and advised that he has a great deal of support from the Disc Golf Club for this new project.

C. OSU Projects for McBee - Adam (15min)

Adam shared that he has been working with three 400 level classes at Oregon State. He gave them a background on the McBee project, and the groups are going to focus on signage, long term planning goals and trails. He showed the map that the class will be using for the project planning.

D. McBee Campground Update - Jesse (15min)

Jesse advised that the department is in the process of completing the site amenities. Adam shared the site map for McBee that will be the base map for developing all site features, reservation numbers and way finding system. The department is also working with MSS Engineering on the stamped plans for the new restrooms.

Then they will move into the procurement of the build of the restrooms. Jesse also talked to the Commissioners about the rehabilitation or preservation of the long table out there. Jesse shared that the project is still operating completely under grant funds.

E. JFW Boardwalk - Jesse (15min)

Jesse shared that the department has run into a wall of red tape when it comes to the rebuild or even a partial rebuild of the boardwalk. Jesse has a meeting with a few Senators and their staffers regarding some possible congressional spending money. Jesse is also looking into a possible cost review of the project as well.

F. Community Paths Project - Jesse (15min)

Jesse and John Turner went to an ODOT planning meeting regarding by the conceptual ODOT trail that would connect Jackson Fraiser Wetland, the Lancaster Natural area and Hwy 99. They discussed where it would be located and the impact of that. Jesse showed a couple of slides that gave everyone an idea of where the pathway would be.

G. County Update - Jesse (15 min)

Jesse shared that the County is hiring a new County Administrator and the current Assistant County Administrator, Rick Craiger, is currently acting in capacity until the hiring process is finished. The County is in the process of also hiring a new Community Development Director and just hired a new County Counsel Attorney as well.

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

Jesse shared that the department has been delaying the Phase II project at Beazell. It's the last major cycle on the Stewardship plan for Beazell. This project will be starting soon.

David went over everyone's terms to make sure everyone was aware of when each of their terms expire. 4 board members' terms are up in June of this year.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT ~ 7:34pm

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