

State of the County Presentation, 2010

Public Safety:

“Protecting the people, property and economy of Marion County through a balanced, collaborative and coordinated public safety system,” is not only a county goal, but from year-to-year a budget priority with 65 – 75% of general fund going to the Sheriff, Juvenile, the District Attorney’s Office and the courts.

The MCPSCC is instrumental in achieving this goal as was demonstrated through the town hall series, “Making Our Communities Safe, Strong & Successful” that we conducted county-wide, from community to community.

It is impossible to separate the issues of public safety from healthy families and a strong economy. When one link breaks, the whole chain fails, and causes a myriad of problems for our local communities.

These challenges don’t exist in a vacuum. Community input is critical to good decision making. The success and outcomes of these community meetings have shaped the MCPSCC updated Strategic Plan.

A key element of our Plan is the collection of data in a standardized format to monitor, track and assess trends. This will help us to plan, prioritize and respond more cost effectively to changing trends and community needs. Sharing this information with the community will help us to build confidence in how their tax dollars are spent, increasing the transparency and openness of county government.

The importance of collaboration was also highlighted when the MCPSCC and the Marion County Children and Families Commission held an historic joint meeting in 2009. Mutual goals and a set of key actions were identified and work began on supporting parenting, jobs for youth, and the availability and access to healthy choices and activities for youth.

Marion County Risk Management Program

The goal of the Marion County Risk Management Program is to protect the county's human resources and financial assets by reducing potential for liability and minimizing adverse effects of unpredictable events and contributing to the health and safety of employees.

This goal responds to the county goal of ensuring efficient, effective and responsive government. Issue statement: operational efficiency and quality service

Through a comprehensive risk management and wellness program, Marion County recovered over \$250,000, a quarter of a million dollars, in costs last year. In addition to recovering direct costs, we were able to reduce our occupational injury rate and time away from work due to workers' compensation claims. Our claims frequency and severity are on a downward trend.

In response to rising health care/benefits costs, we implemented an employee wellness program. Through programs and data collected from our wellness program, we were able to work with our health care providers to keep premium increases low, as well as promote healthy lifestyle changes for our employees.

In Oregon, two thirds of all deaths are due to chronic disease. DHS estimates 61% of Oregonians suffer from at least one chronic disease, any of which is linked to physical inactivity, poor nutrition and tobacco use.

When the county program began, more than half of all employees participated in the first promotion, a walking competition. After ten weeks, 45 million steps were clocked.

Over the past year, some 100 employees have participated in at-work weight-loss programs losing more than 1,950 pounds.

Additionally, five employees have quit smoking.

Making these lifestyle changes result in lower cholesterol and blood pressure medications which results in reducing health care costs and lowers absenteeism.

The Buena Vista Ferry

Receiving the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money to replace the 50-year old ferry tied in so nicely with Oregon's 150th sucesquentennial.

Riding the ferry is like riding a piece of history. This ferry route dates back to 1851. It has been continuously used by farmers and local residents. The Buena Vista ferry is of historical significance. The ferry also plays a significant role in transportation, tourism and recreation for both Marion and Polk Counties. It is a valuable part of our local economy.

As the new ferry is under construction we will continue to work with local groups and agencies to raise awareness of the new ferry not only to solidify its historical and economic significance, but to increase community support and ridership. (New ferry in water Sept to Nov, 2010.)

“Striking Out Meth in Marion County”

After four years, this family-friendly event held at Volcanoes Baseball Stadium celebrating the successes in the fight against meth continues to grow in support, participation and popularity.

We continue to meet our goal each year, bringing more foster kids and parents to the event for an evening of baseball, interactive displays with positive messages, t-shirts and souvenir baseballs.

“Striking Out Meth” continues to be one of the most successful annual events in Marion County, bringing together the business community, law enforcement, emergency responders, military, non-profits, government service providers, civic groups, families, baseball fans, and, of course, Volcanoes Baseball for a common cause and celebration. The fifth annual ***“Striking Out Meth in Marion County”*** will be July 16, 2010.

Economic Development

It's all about the economy, now, isn't it?!

Government does not create jobs, but government does have a responsibility to work with local businesses and promote job creation.

It is an honor for me to serve on the SEDCOR Board of Directors and I am so pleased with the continued, solid working relationship we have between Marion County government and SEDCOR. As you have reached out, bringing new business to our area and worked so hard to retain employers and jobs here in our region, we have enjoyed working arm-in-arm with you.

Many of you here today are familiar faces. Through the distribution of lottery dollars, we at the county are pleased to have helped -- typically in a small way, sometimes as in the case of SANYO, in a big way. We are thankful you do business in Marion County and appreciate the role your business plays in our community.

Detroit is a good example of what happens when a community is in crisis, we respond to their needs. Summer flow schedules at Detroit Dam were putting the end-of-season recreation season in jeopardy at Detroit Lake. Called meetings of all involved agencies, state and federal legislators to find ways to solve problems. Without sufficient water levels through the Labor Day weekend, there would have been a drastic impact on the local economy. With so many federal regulations, we must be constantly vigilant with regard to the water levels and flow schedules at Detroit Lake and Dam.

Clear at the other end of the county is the Aurora Airport, now officially called Wes LeMatta Field. While the airport itself is a state airport, more than 75 small businesses employ close to 1,000 workers and a payroll of more than \$25 million annually. Additionally, revenues collectively produced by the businesses at the Aurora State Airport are in the 100's of millions of dollars coming from this small, quiet economic hub in the north part of the county annually.

And, of course, we can't talk about the airport and not mention the continued conflicts surrounding the potential negotiations between the Klamath Tribes and Langdon Farm Golf Course and potential development.

The BOC continues to hold strong with our position that we will protect productive farm ground in the French Prairie Area and North Marion County.

In 2009 we were involved in Urban Group Boundary public hearings and decisions in Donald and Hubbard. BOC went to the Donald community for a joint meeting. Economic Development is crucial to these small communities and local control and local decision making although often controversial, is the best way for our communities to be in charge of their own destiny.

"Some see private enterprise as a predatory target to be shot, others as a cow to be milked, but few are those who see it as a sturdy horse pulling the wagon," Winston Churchill.