

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

August 26, 2025

Present: Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Commissioner Brummer called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., determined a quorum and then proceeded with the flag salute.

Executive session: At 10:01 a.m., Commissioner Brummer announced that the Board would be going into executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) until 10:06 a.m. to discuss the Centralia landfill with Chief Civil Deputy David Bailey and outside counsel Matt Cockrell.

At 10:06 a.m., Commissioner Brummer extended executive session until 10:09 a.m.

Executive session ended at 10:09 a.m. Commissioner Brummer noted that no decisions had been made.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to authorize outside counsel to retain additional outside counsel regarding the Centralia landfill as discussed in executive session. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

FLOOD MITIGATION

Chehalis Basin Board Facilitator Ken Ghalambor and Office of the Chehalis Basin Board member J. Vander Stoep provided updates on dam and non-dam proposals being reviewed as the group looks for ways to protect the Chehalis Basin. They noted that proposals include a flow-through dam near Pe Ell, a system of local levees and floodwalls in and around Chehalis and Centralia or some combination of both.

They also invited the public to informational open houses planned for 5 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 25 at the Veterans Memorial Museum and Oct. 8 at Montesano City Hall. They said an online open house also will be offered Sept. 8 through Oct. 31 for those unable to attend in person.

SALMON HABITAT

Chehalis Basin Collaborative for Salmon Habitat (CBC fISH) representative Bob Russell and Watershed Coordinator Kirsten Harma provided updates on efforts to protect salmon habitat.

They noted that the group used 2025 funding to help improve fish passage barriers along Ripple Creek and Berwick Creek in Lewis County, design a stream restoration project and help with riparian planting and maintenance on 25 acres. They urged the commissioners to reach out to lawmakers to express support CBC fiSH's efforts.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve minutes from the August 19, 2025, Business Meeting as well as Resolution 25-232. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

DELIBERATION ITEMS

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Resolutions 25-233 through 25-241. Commissioner Swope seconded.

Resolution 25-233: Authorize the Director of Community Development to commence negotiations with the City of Chehalis for an interlocal agreement to annex territory within the urban growth area.

Community Development Director Mindy Brooks discussed the resolution. Mindy said the resolution authorizes staff to proceed with negotiations related to annexation within the Chehalis urban growth area (UGA).

Resolution 25-234: Approve SECO Coordinator Professional Development (CPD) Contract No. E26-036.

Interim 911 Director Liz Casteel discussed the resolution. Liz said the agreement provides state funding totaling \$64,617 for Professional Development.

Resolution 25-235: Declaration of surplus personal property.

Interim 911 Director Liz Casteel discussed the resolution. Liz said the resolution authorizes disposal of surplus property valued at less than \$5,000.

Resolution 25-236: Approve fourth amendment to Ground Lease Agreement with Pope Resources, L.P. (Storm King).

Interim 911 Director Liz Casteel discussed the resolution. Liz said the amendment extends the contract timeline and establishes rent at \$3,000 annually.

Resolution 25-237: Authorize placement of casual water lab Laboratory Technician on the current Lewis County Salary Grid (Grade 117 Step 5) for Non-Union Extra Help.

Public Health and Social Services Director Meja Handlen discussed the resolution. Meja said PHSS is requesting a higher rate to attract a qualified candidate who can quickly assume responsibility for lab operations and ensure continued compliance with regulatory standards.

Resolution 25-238: Approve Contract #H02-0258-25 between Housing Resource Center and Lewis County.

Public Health and Social Services Director Meja Handlen discussed the resolution. Meja said the agreement provides the Housing Resource Center up to \$87,500 to provide case management and rapid rehousing services from July 1 to September 30, 2025.

Resolution 25-239: Approve Contract #H04-0257-25 between Hope Alliance and Lewis County.

Public Health and Social Services Director Meja Handlen discussed the resolution. Meja said the from July 1 to September 30, 2025, agreement provides Hope Alliance up to \$61,280.50 to provide case management, rapid rehousing and shelter services for homeless individuals – or those at risk of becoming homeless – who are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence or sexual assault.

Resolution 25-240: Approve Contract #C16-0255-25 between Comunicativo and Lewis County.

Public Health and Social Services Director Meja Handlen discussed the resolution. Meja said the agreement provides Comunicativo up to \$58,811 to help prevent evictions by paying rent and utility costs for eligible Lewis County households from July 1 to September 30, 2025.

Resolution 25-241: Approve Contract #C06-0266-25 between Community Action Council (CAC) and Lewis County.

Social Services Supervisor Caroline Garibay discussed the resolution. Caroline said the contract provides the Community Action Council (CAC) funding to employ a fulltime Care Coordinator to help provide support services to child abuse victims and their non-offending family members throughout the forensic interview process and the duration of criminal and CPS investigations. In addition, the position will assist with implementing child abuse prevention education programs in Lewis County through CAC's Youth Advocacy Center (YAC). Caroline said funding will come from opioid settlement funds.

Motion passed 3-0.

HEARING

Ordinance 1366: Rescind and replace Chapter 8.40 - On-site Sewage Systems - of Lewis County Code.

Commissioner Brummer introduced the hearing.

Environmental Services Manager Kirsten Wecker gave the staff report. Kirsten said the ordinance updates county code to reflect changes to state law – WAC 246-272A – regarding on-site septic systems.

Commissioner Brummer asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Commissioner Brummer then closed the question-and-answer portion of the hearing.

Kirsten asked that her previous comments be adopted into the record.

Commissioner Brummer asked if anyone wanted to speak for or against the resolution. No one chose to speak.

Commissioner Brummer closed the hearing.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Ordinance 1366. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PRESS CONFERENCE

The commissioners responded to a question from Chronicle reporter Jacob Moore regarding the Forest Practices Board and fish buffers. Commissioner Pollock noted the governor also has not appointed a Lewis County representative to the Board of Natural Resources.

ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, September 2, 2025, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room (Room 223).

Minutes from the BOCC Business Meeting are not verbatim. The weekly Business Meeting streams live on YouTube (search for "LewisCountyWa" on YouTube or go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/LewisCountyWa/featured>). Video footage also is available at no charge at <https://lewiscountywa.gov/offices/commissioners/bocc-meetings/>.

[SIGANTURES ON NEXT PAGE]

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



ATTEST:

Rieva Lester, Clerk of the Board

Scott J. Brummer, Chair

Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Vice Chair

Sean D. Swope, Commissioner