



**Court Boice, Commissioner**

---

94235 Moore Street, Ste. 122

Gold Beach, OR 97444

Ph.: (541) 247.3229

**January 31, 2017**

**Plan for the "Curry Recovery," Court Boice, Curry County Commissioner:**

**It's time to go to work ...**

*It's really academic that unless our County comes together and works diligently we cannot rescue our own futures and the negative consequences could be immeasurable. I ask that everyone review this content with an open mind. I am only one Commissioner. Surely the other two have comprehensive plans of their own, but the time is now. We all must put politics and ego aside and do the right and best thing. I would appreciate any comments.*

**The following basic outline would of course require comprehensive review for regulatory and legal acceptance:**

*As a County Commissioner, I have every responsibility to seek ways to overcome the many difficulties we face. Should we fail, insolvency is inevitable and the State of Oregon will take control of local Government. Our citizens would have little if any say. No question the State would quickly raise taxes! I will do my part to make decisions that will help to not only grow and prosper Curry communities, but to steadfastly keep and improve on local control.*

**Accounting and Finances:** *Fiercely protect the interests of the tax payers. Every penny, every budget, every year working towards Zero Waste!! Always a reminder to challenge all County Departments to find ways to be more productive and develop additional efficiencies. My view; honorable and successful governments are those with good leadership that spend tax-payer dollars with frugal and stingy precision.*

**Issues and Problem Solving:** *Innovation and creativity in seeking solutions. The lack of revenue for our County is the problem, not the lack of a County Administrative Officer. With the exception of raising property taxes, everything has to be open for analysis and research to find additional funds. We must use extra time to our advantage until our and other Oregon rural Counties can obtain a higher level of timber harvest from public lands.*

**Top Goal for My Term:** *By January 1, 2020; to have 2mm in a Curry County General Fund Reserve.*

**1 Consolidation of all County Law Enforcement:** *Construct one Law Enforcement Agency by combining all (4) Public Safety and Police Departments of Curry into the County Sheriff's Department. This would wisely form one large Agency, resulting in better coverage for the entire county, more effective peace keeping, less duplication and less expense. All present officers would remain. A win for all. Less overall taxes, plus support and plan to avoid the closing of our Jail. 51% of the population is covered by basically only 6 deputies. This plan would ultimately be safer*

and more secure both for the public and our law enforcement personnel. Protecting our citizens is our No. 1 and my most important obligation as a Public Official. **Would go before the voters.**

**2 Curry County Taxing Districts Contributing back to the County:** Not for raising taxes, but as a new approach to where the money and spending priorities are for some of our districts. Taxing Districts could offer 10% back to the County or each could be charged an administrative fee. This could raise approximately \$ 1mm for the General Fund. School and some portions of the Health District excluded. **Would go before the voters.**

**3 All Commissioner Meeting and related Record keeping:** Move to the 'Care, Custody and Completion' of the Curry County Clerk. BOC Meetings should be interpreted and recorded by an independent and neutral party. We should prefer an Elected Official. Not to seek past blame, but this is a sacred responsibility and we must catch up immediately those minutes not yet completed.

**4 Association of Oregon O&C Counties Litigation:** Bureau of Land Management. Continue to fully support and be actively involved. BLM and USFS are not living up to their contractual agreements to Oregon rural counties. This is the fastest and best way to improve the financial position of our County. Curry grows the best timber in the world, trees that are renewable and the best resource in the entire U.S... This is an annual garden that needs the very best management and wisest harvest. Our people deserve the time to see the O&C litigation process work. The BLM and USFS control almost 70% of Curry County lands. Consider sending them a Property Tax Bill at the same rate private timber property owners are currently charged. This could get National attention and may encourage the Departments of Interior and Agriculture to return some of our public lands likely passing through the State of Oregon. We deserve a chance to at least co-manage our lands. History clearly shows the positive results of local control. **Curry as a potential "test County."**

**5 Secure Loan from Curry Road Department Reserve Funds for Sheriff's Budget:** Up to 1.5mm. Good terms for both. 3% annual interest and offer considerable County property as real collateral, I.E. just one example; 65 acres at the South East corner of the Cape Blanco Airport. Also, compounding interest should be calculated for the last few years Curry has used those road funds. Part of the Curry "Come back" would be to recognize that obligation and establish a legitimate "long term" re-payment plan. Obviously would take considerable legislative research.

**6 Veterans, Housing and Child Poverty, County Emergency Declaration:** Commit to immediately develop a food sovereignty policy and a housing plan at both the municipal and county government levels. Work with our Oregon State Government and Legislature. Proclaim the serious housing shortage and lack of developable land. We need help, relief and wise rural amendments with changes in the planning, zoning and the permit process. **Curry as a potential "test County."**

**7 South County Airport; Enter into a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Brookings:** Fifty-Fifty ownership with a 5-year test period and possible renewal. Include 14 county owned acres located adjacent to the Airport on South East side. Share costs and responsibilities showing a strong combined and focused force. Brookings has done substantial work and planning to find a workable solution. Curry would be in a better position to own and manage the Cape Blanco Airport. Accepting this good faith option would aid in FAA and ODA helping with future projects.

**8 Develop, sell or trade North Curry 500 Acres:** Located between Floras Lake and Cape Blanco Airport, this property is zoned residential. It has been dormant for years and should be part of our solution. Possibly find and recruit developers. County could offer to the State, Nature Conservancy or similar group. It also needs to be cruised for possible timber harvest; however, this is a beautiful area that should have more value as potential home-sites, i.e. 3-4 per acre at least on the East Side. This property could within 10 years have over 500 quality homes? Would help solve the lack of buildable land and housing needs for Central and North County.

**9 County Dormant Properties:** Take up where the recent County Real Property Task Force recommendations left off. Implement a program for a Real Estate Co-op with Commission incentive to sell many County properties. Realtors will help, and moving those properties is a good clean-up and will generate interest and some economic activity overall. People and citizens could purchase or donate funds in memory of others or as small parks or plots in their names. The County could also help with quality signage, recognition or in memory of.

**10 Create a County Forestry Department:** Team up with private timber- land owners. Position Curry to ask for small stands of privately owned timber to be contributed back to the county. Working together, this would help protect the private company investments and be a win for all. Combine efforts with Curry Parks, Coos Forest Patrol, Curry Sheriff's Department, Curry Assessor and Curry Road Department. Better ways to best manage and more effectively assist in fire prevention, environmental issues, planning, roads, habitat restoration, etc. (Revenue eventually must and will come back to the County).

**11 County Loan to the Port of Brookings From Road Fund Reserves:** Up to 2.5 mm with 3% annual finance charge. Much better return for the Road Department. Port would offer significant property and equipment as security. The Brookings-Harbor Port is critical for Curry County and our overall economy. Where possible, it is imperative that the County take a very pro-active role in helping the Brookings Port.

**12 County Loan to the Curry Health Network From Road Fund Reserves:** Up to 1.5mm with 3% annual finance charge, likewise a much better return. The Curry Health Network would offer significant equipment as security. It is also imperative that the County assist in getting the Brookings Emergency Room facility open and this proposed loan would be specifically designated for that purpose. The Curry Health Network is a crucial economic entity and needs support in moving toward the goal of excellent and always improving health coverage for our citizens.

**13 US Forest Service Campground Transfers to Curry:** County Parks has the capacity to easily manage these parks and handle more responsibility. Brings additional funds, employment and tourism promotion back to Curry County. We will take exceptional care of these properties which would be a win for all, and return local control.

**14 County Road Fund, Improve Investment Position:** Commissioners should take a more active role. Purely a business and wise stewardship approach to investment. If Curry County collapses into any form of bankruptcy or insolvency, it is likely that those funds would unfortunately be taken over by the State of Oregon and as well our County Road Department itself.

**15 County Ordinance Confronting Unnecessary Land Use and Environmental Law Suits:** Require preservation activist groups to get a permit to operate: Cost is \$ 50K based on potential threat to County Budgets. Groups required putting up a bond of \$ 50mm for paying just compensation in case of economic harm to citizens. Guarantee all businesses and workers legal standing in court to sue for past damages. Require economic impact studies in conjunction with environmental studies before any natural resource hearings. Refuse to recognize any entity no having a minimum of 2 independent studies.

**16 Community & Economic Development, Recovery Strategy:** 'South West Oregon Commerce.com' and 'Curry Commerce.com' are registered domain names and available for Curry County Economic Improvement efforts. We can and will compete with any other Counties and Cities for business start-ups. State lottery dollars should be put into a local volunteer Industrial and Economic Growth Board or Business Development Committee that would send monthly recommendations back to the BOC.

**17 State of Oregon Block Grants:** Direct to Curry County. Under the Trump administration, the federal government is likely to give money to the states through the 'Block Grant' system. This would give small rural and

remote counties the opportunity to lobby for the same concept in 'Block Grants' likewise direct from the State of Oregon. **Curry as a potential "test County."**

**18 Transfer of deferred "Sanctuary City" federal funds:** Send these funds back to rural areas and counties around the country. Work with Congressmen Peter DeFazio and Greg Walden. **Curry as a potential "test County."**

**More in the months ahead ...**