

Brown wants transportation group meetings closed

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown's office has declined to explain why the governor wants powerful state transportation officials to meet in secret.

Brown has promised to increase government transparency, but a spokesman for the governor said it is legal for a majority of the Oregon Transportation Commission to meet privately without any notice.

The commissioners are meeting as part of a committee planning for a review of the state Department of Transportation, which Brown ordered last year. Two of the five members of the Oregon Transportation Commission were at the committee's first meeting in March and a third member was expected to attend, according to a public record released by the state. That would have resulted in a quorum — enough commission-

ers to make decisions — but the third commissioner ultimately skipped the meeting for reasons that were unclear.

Under Oregon's public meetings law, government committees that make recommendations, oversee agencies and set policies must hold open meetings. There are certain exceptions, including for groups that advise the governor.

Chris Pair, a press secretary for Brown, said Friday that this exemption applies to the oversight committee because it is working on the review ordered by the governor. Pair declined to comment on why the committee needs to meet behind closed doors.

However, the committee appears to be advising the Oregon Transportation Commission, rather than the governor.

Commission chairwoman Tammy Baney appointed the committee, and it is providing monthly progress reports

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to the Oregon Transportation Commission.

Transportation commissioner Susan Morgan, the chairwoman of the review committee, also did not respond to questions about why the committee must meet in private.

Jack Orchard, a lawyer for the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association who has been involved in public records and meetings issues, said that regardless of whether there is a quorum of transportation commissioners, the review committee's meetings should be

open to the public because the group is deliberating on a topic of public interest. What issues a contractor should examine as part of a review of the Department of Transportation.

"Something's not right here," Orchard said. "If this group was charged with defining the scope of the review, clearly that's a piece of public business ... The statute's broad enough that it says this group is subject to the public meetings law."

Brown ordered the review to address the concerns of lawmakers and interest groups

about the agency's ability to effectively spend hundreds of millions of dollars the Legislature could approve for transportation projects in 2017. The review is important because some lawmakers are only willing to approve higher taxes and fees on drivers to pay for the projects if the Department of Transportation can demonstrate it is operating efficiently.

The Department of Transportation estimated last year the review could cost \$300,000 to \$500,000.

Two transportation commissioners — Morgan and Sean O'Hollaren — are members of the review committee, which the transportation commission created in an effort to distance itself and ODOT from the review. The five other committee members are former state lawmakers and other public officials.

O'Hollaren, the transportation commissioner who missed the March 31 oversight committee meeting, said he did not

recall the reason he missed the meeting, but he might have been out of the country.

Baney, who laid out a suggested scope for the review in the March 31 meeting agenda, said she would have skipped the meeting if O'Hollaren had been there, in order to avoid a quorum of the Oregon Transportation Commission.

Judson Randall is the co-founder and former president of Open Oregon, a charitable organization that promotes government transparency.

Randall said the meeting might violate the spirit, if not the letter, of the state's open meetings law, which states: "The Oregon form of government requires an informed public aware of the deliberations and decisions of governing bodies and the information upon which such decisions were made."

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

SEASIDE BOYS GOLF

Gulls one stroke behind after one round

The Daily Astorian

BANKS — The Seaside boys golf team is just one stroke off the lead after one round of the Special District 1 Regional Tournament, hosted by Banks at Quail Valley Golf Course.

Final round competition takes place today at Meriwether National Golf Club in Hillsboro.

Through 18 holes, Crook County holds the team lead with a 343 team score, one stroke ahead of the Gulls (344). Scappoose is third with a 353.

Astoria is currently eighth with a 431 team score.

Aaron Richardson led Seaside on Day 1 with a 77, four strokes behind Crook County's Mayson Tibbs, who is currently atop the leaderboard with a 1-over par 73.

Carter Lee of Tillamook and Nathan Mapes of Scappoose are tied for second with a pair of 76s, followed by Richardson. Seaside's Berkley Posalski rounds out the top five with an 85.

Seaside teammates Jackson Kunde and Josef Barbic added a pair of 91's. Samson

Sibony shot 111 as the Gulls' fifth player.

"We shot a score good enough to stay in the running," said Seaside coach Jim Poetsch. "I figured that 330s would win and 340s would give us a chance, and that is what has happened so far.

"We got two guys in the top five and Josef and Jackson are just outside the top 10," he said. "We left a few strokes out there today, but I like where we are sitting. This is a good reminder for us that every stroke is important. We've got another day to come back and hope-

fully we can follow up with a good day (Tuesday) and get back to the state tournament."

Kirk Faustett leads Astoria with a 95, followed by Kyle Meisner (107), Joe Scott (111), Taylor Palmberg (118) and Conner Long (127).

In the girls' Regional Tournament at Meriwether Golf Course, Astoria shot a season-best 441 team score, with personal best scores from Chloe Hunt (96), Samantha Hemsley (99), Jenna Travers (119) and Kristen Travers (128). Sadie Wooldridge carded a 127.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Baseball — Tillamook at Astoria, 5 p.m.; Banks at Seaside, 5 p.m.; Caitlin Gabel at Warrenton, 4:30 p.m.; Vernonia at Knappa, 4:30 p.m.

Softball — Valley Catholic at Astoria, 5 p.m.; Tillamook at Seaside, 4 p.m.; Portland Adventist at Warrenton, 4:30 p.m.; Vernonia at Knappa, 4:30 p.m.

Girls Golf — Regionals, at Quail Valley, 10 a.m.

Boys Golf — Regionals, at Meriwether CC, 9 a.m.

THURSDAY

Baseball — Astoria at Seaside, 5 p.m.

Softball — Yamhill-Carlton at Astoria, 4:30 p.m.

Track — Cowapa Championships, at St. Helens HS, 3:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Baseball — Astoria at Banks, 5 p.m.; Seaside at Scappoose, 5 p.m.; Clatskanie at Warrenton (2), 3:30 p.m.; Knappa at Vernonia (2), 3 p.m.

Softball — Astoria at Banks (2), 4 p.m.; Seaside at Scappoose (2), 3:30 p.m.; Clatskanie at Warrenton (2), 3:30 p.m.; Knappa at Vernonia (2), 3 p.m.

Track — Cowapa Championships, at St. Helens HS, 3:30 p.m.; District 1/3A, 11 a.m.

STANDINGS

BASEBALL

Cowapa League

League Overall

Banks	11-1	174
Valley Catholic	10-2	15-3
Astoria	6-6	11-10
Scappoose	6-6	13-7
Seaside	2-10	6-17
Tillamook	1-11	3-19

Northwest League

Knappa	14-1	18-1
Neah-Kah-Nie	13-5	14-11
Vernonia	12-3	14-4
Nestucca	9-9	10-14
Gaston	6-9	7-14
Faith Bible	3-12	3-17
Delphian	0-18	0-19

Lewis & Clark League

Rainier	11-0	18-3
Caitlin Gabel	5-4	10-6
Clatskanie	4-5	8-12
Warrenton	3-6	9-10
Portland Chr	1-9	6-14

SOFTBALL

Banks	12-0	16-2
Scappoose	10-2	18-4
Astoria	8-4	14-7
Seaside	3-9	8-13
Tillamook	3-9	7-14
Valley Catholic	0-12	6-15

Northwest League

Vernonia	12-0	16-4
Knappa	10-2	12-11
Gaston	10-5	13-10
Neah-Kah-Nie	7-8	7-12
Delphian	0-12	0-14
Nestucca	0-12	2-18

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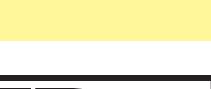


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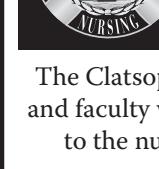


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