

Board of Commissioners Candidates (2016)
Tillamook County
April 1, 2016

1. How will you advocate for the realignment and reopening of the 3 Capes Scenic Loop Road between Cape Meares and Oceanside?

Mayor Stevie Stephens Burden. I have been advocating for the Capes Road reopening for the last three years as the Mayor. The Board of Commissioners (BOC) meet annually with the public, cities, and other interested agencies and parties to decide what federal funding priorities to recommend to our Congressional delegation. As part of those annual meetings I have supported the BOC's decision to keep this project in the top three priorities. This year Wheeler submitted a proposal that our city's stormwater drainage system be included on the prioritized list to address long-range infrastructure needs that are a critical issue for our community. After hearing all of the presentations I agreed to remove Wheeler's request from the list in favor of including the Cape Meares reopening project.

As a BOC appointed member of the North West Area Commission on Transportation I have always voted in favor of support for Tillamook County Public Works' application for grants. These grants would help pay for the needed repairs and realignment to the Cape Meares Road. I will continue to support this project whether elected or not.

In the future if elected, I will also work with the other commissioners and the Governor's Regional Solutions Team to advocate for other creative means to secure funding and support for these critical repairs. This team consists of a collection of state agencies that can through creative funding, partnerships and collaborations help local counties to bring together resources to address these kinds of projects.

Mayor Shaena Peterson. We need a secure second access for Cape Meares and Oceanside. I have long believed the loop road could be realigned and I support the option that avoids the watershed. Reviewing the engineering documents, I was pleased to see drainage addressed and support acquiring additional easement if necessary. Have wondered if drainage had been a priority in the slide area if the problem could have been alleviated. Also, when considering the area to be abandoned, I wonder about the thousands of yards of rock placed there over the years and would like to hear a conversation about the potential for reclaiming or whether it is best left in place.

When it comes to funding transportation infrastructure, we need to constantly search for ways to supplement federal and state funding. The thirty percent from the transient lodging tax was a wise decision, but it is not enough.

Belinda Williams. The 3 Capes Scenic Loop Road is an absolute necessity for the well-being and safety of the Cape Meares, Oceanside and Netarts communities and the first responders who serve them. The current Commissioners, Public Works and other parties involved have the process of rebuilding this road well in hand. As

your County Commissioner, I will continue their good efforts, doing all I can to remove any obstacles and encouraging this project be completed in a timely manner.

David Yamamoto. As a member of the NW Area Commission on Transportation, I am keenly aware of, and advocating for, the bypass route proposed by Liane Welch. One of the most important aspects of rebuilding this route is the emergency evacuation aspect for Cape Meares, Oceanside and Netarts. The importance was evident this last winter when multiple failures occurred on both sides of the mountain and emergency traffic was diverted across the slide area going both directions at different times...with periods of time when communities were totally isolated. Even during good weather, this closure has forced many heavy haul trucks to divert which is putting much more strain on roads already subject to failure.

Not to be forgotten, as one of the main tourist attractions on the Tillamook Coast, this closure, since 2013, has had a large impact on visitation to key destinations such as Bayocean Spit, Cape Meares National Wildlife Refuge, the historic Cape Meares Lighthouse as well as the communities of Cape Meares, Oceanside, and Netarts. Visitation to Cape Meares in 2012 was valued as a \$7M boost to the regional economy.

In addition, as Chair of the Tillamook County Futures Council, I have been asked to write a letter of support for a 2016 Tiger grant application to relocate Cape Meares Loop Road. This gem called the 3 Capes Scenic Route must be passable from Cape Meares to Cape Kiwanda.

2. The Tillamook County Planning Commission recommended to the Board of Commissioners that the zoning of Bayocean Spit be changed from Recreation Management to Recreation Natural. What is your position regarding this proposed change in zoning for the Bayocean Spit?

Mayor Stevie Stephens Burden. Over the years I have worked closely with Wheeler's planning commission to make, often, difficult decisions regarding zoning and land use in our community. I am confident that the County Planning Commission was conscientious in its work to be objective, thorough, and transparent. So for them to make this recommendation to the BOC they have had to hold public hearings and take community input into consideration.

While there is a small percentage of privately held land that could perhaps be developed supplying water and other essential services are cost prohibitive and have not shown historically to be viable in that area due to instability, continuous erosion and constant pummeling by strong surf. I empathize with the property owners who will not be able to build as a result. It is however a change that makes sense when you look at the facts involved in the bigger picture.

If a majority of the Cape Meares community, surrounding property owners and the County Planning Commission agree that this change is the best use of this land then I would support the rezoning. However I also think that the Commissioners need to work with the private property owners to help find alternatives and solutions to the situation that this decision creates. Working with

conservation and land trust groups who could help property owners should they chose to divest of their property is one strategy that could be explored.

Mayor Shaena Peterson. I support Recreation Natural zoning on Bayocean Spit - we need to tread lightly on the area and natural zoning accomplishes that better than Recreational Management zoning. It is my understanding the aquaculture facilities are included in the Estuary Natural zoning and would not be impacted by the change. Interpretive trails and signs encouraging low impact recreational use are perfect for Bayocean Spit, an area that needs to be protected.

Belinda Williams. I am in full support of rezoning Bayocean Spit to Recreation Natural. The Bayocean Spit is a beautiful, but fragile natural area that needs to be preserved and protected as it continues the process of rebuilding itself from the vast erosion it experienced in the first part of the 20th century.

David Yamamoto. The 1952 breach of the spit needs to be foremost in our minds. Private property owners on the spit must be aware of the recent revelations of the dangers imposed by the discovery of the Cascadia Subduction Zone and the devastating potential effects of a locally spawned tsunami. Current restrictions on infrastructure such as water, sewer, and roads also limit development.

The rezoning of Bayocean Spit from RM to RN has a few potential negative impacts which should be thoroughly thought through. My work on the Territorial Sea Plan Amendment process proved to be a great primer to Oregon Statewide Land Use Goals and their requirements as well as the Tillamook County Comprehensive Plan.

RN zoning would limit aquaculture opportunities, maintenance and expansion of emergency access, and ability to provide some minor infrastructure for our expanding tourism. As an alternative, I feel we need to do the work to create a master plan for Bayocean Spit. Efforts to create a new zone with fewer restrictions than RN would prove to be a win-win for Tillamook County.

3. What will be your role in insuring that there is quality drinking water in all parts of the county and especially in areas where the watersheds experience periodic herbicide spraying via helicopters and other means?

Mayor Stevie Stephens Burden. I will continue to advocate for a balanced approach to this state issue. For me the issue is not one of us against them but rather finding a way to move forward where neither public health and safety or the forest products industry, are forsaken. Forest products are and will continue to be a major industry here, the revenues from which are a significant economic driver for our county. I am not anti-timber nor am I anti-accountability.

The reality is reopening the Forest Practices Act is a state decision that has historically met with considerable resistance. The industry has always met the letter of the current law. However we have learned a lot in the last 50 years about effective forest practices that could be used to benefit both sides of this argument. If the concerned parties were to meet in the middle and discuss concerns and goals

there would be opportunities for mutual success. At the very least I think that there should be greater communication to educate the public and insure that citizens are aware of when, where, how, and what herbicides are being applied. Perhaps there are ways that county watersheds could be protected with greater buffers that would not impede the timber industry's ability to make a living AND could help to improve water quality for all of our county residents. I will advocate for creative solutions and strategies that respect both the industry and the people who live around those zones that are affected.

Mayor Shaena Peterson. I support the move to larger water districts. Intertieing existing systems. Kilchis Regional, Wilson River, Fairview, Tillamook, Long Prairie, Stillwell, Oceanside, Netarts. Looping the systems would protect the integrity of a greater area, but it also gives the ability to take action. A bond measure could be written to acquire watershed property and a stricter forest stewardship plan could be developed. During the interim, I will work toward voluntary action by landowners to use alternatives to aerial spraying in watersheds. As Mayor of Bay City, I have long been a proponent of consolidating water systems. Bay City owns the wells on Kilchis River that supply 150 million gallons a year to the Cheese Factory. Bay City is now intertied with City of Tillamook and when Long Prairie was without water last year, we were able to provide for the system.

Belinda Williams. As your County Commissioner I will use the full scope of my influence to bring together all parties to find a solution that will allow property owners the ability to maintain their lands while not allowing poison to seep into the water supply of our communities.

David Yamamoto. Forest herbicide spraying does occur on a very infrequent basis. We are fortunate when we have responsible private timber owners such as Stimson, who are working closely with local residents and water providers to provide notification and pinpoint times when spraying will occur. We are not as fortunate with all private timber owners. There is no doubt that regulations currently in place need to be enforced and these regulations also need to be updated. In the interim, we must endeavor to work closely with timberland owners around our drinking water sources. Each side has a vested interest in collaborating to ensure the safety of their neighbors.

I spent my first 22+ working years in the forest products industry. I think we must step back and look, historically, at forest practices 50 years ago, where we are today, and where we want to be 50 years into the future. Great progress has been made in water quality, fish habitat, conserving wildlife, cleaning our air, and storing carbon, all while sustaining livelihoods in our community. Oregon forests are one of our greatest renewable natural resources.

Oregon forestry practices will continue to evolve. Our natural resource based economies of timber, dairy, and fishing have been the foundation of family wage jobs in Tillamook County and must be supported. We must continue to work together as we aspire to reach our vision for Tillamook County.

4. Why should voters support your candidacy for the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners?

Mayor Stevie Stephens Burden. I am running because I have the skills, expertise, and personality to do a conscientious and effective job as Commissioner. I have a long and well-demonstrated history that shows I know how to get the work done, maintain positive relationships, and move difficult issues forward. Both as the Mayor and in my professional career I have proven to be an effective and responsive leader. I know what the job requires and how to get the work done. I have been training to do this job for decades and I am passionate about the work.

However, I think the most important reason for you to support my candidacy is because I am a person of integrity who comes to this campaign as a result of my values and ethics. I believe in community service and I love this county. I was born here. My son was born here. Most of my grandchildren live here. I am dedicated to helping our county be a healthy and prosperous place for generations to come. My family has been involved in this kind of community service for generations and I am proud to follow in their footsteps. If you are interested in my code of ethics I invite you to visit [www:upperleftedge.com](http://www.upperleftedge.com) where I published it in 2013 (copy attached – feel free to share). I believe this will show you that this isn't about politics for me. It is walking my talk in a meaningful way to benefit all of the people of Tillamook County.

Mayor Shaena Peterson. I'll listen to people and work toward what matters most to them. Tillamook County has amazing potential, but in many ways it's fragile. In too many instances things have failed before they're fixed. This winter's losses due to drainage issues are a sad reminder. Maintenance of our infrastructure is critical.

We need to decide where we want to be in not just 10 or 20, but 50 years. And we need to keep asking: How much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off? Answering those questions should determine how we budget our time and money. Instead of figuring out how to cut costs, we need to focus on funding the results that matter most. I will encourage the move to results-based budgeting.

I feel a responsibility to our loggers, farmers and fishermen; I will work with them to protect our environment and their livelihood. I support tourism facilities. With or without encouragement tourists will continue to arrive. We need to improve our ability to accommodate them. I support our businesses and as they move to adjust to the new minimum wage law, I'll look for ways to give them the incentive to improve employee productivity and capabilities.

I will work toward a healthy, happy, well-educated county where you know your voice is heard.

I'll hold myself accountable.

Belinda Williams. I am a local business owner, wife and mother of four. I am experienced in managing budgets, collaborating with different peoples,

managing projects and working to create value. I actively participate in politics on a national, state and local level. I am eager to learn and I love a challenge. I am involved in various community organizations, am actively building my business and I currently serve on the Tillamook County Parks Advisory Committee.

As your Commissioner, I will advocate for transparency in the operations of your county government. I will actively seek to ensure all voices are heard and lines of communication are open between county departments, community organizations and citizens. I am not afraid to fight for what I believe is right, and what is right for the citizens and visitors of Tillamook County.

In addition, I will lead a collaborative effort to develop a comprehensive, county-wide vision for the future of Tillamook County, drawing North, Central and South County together to meet the needs of all segments of our growing population with a focus on encouraging a vibrant economy with living wage jobs, affordable housing and sound infrastructure while preserving our heritage and legacy, and to managing our resources with the responsibility they are due. Ensuring our retirees, our professionals, our working families, our children have the resources available to them to not only live, but to grow and thrive.

David Yamamoto. I feel strongly that it is important to give back to the community that has offered so much to me and my wife. My candidacy is about the future direction of Tillamook County, bringing a better quality of life for all, and keeping the values and fiscal responsibility that will continue to make this a great place to live, work, and recreate.

I believe that leadership is not about putting out fires as they come up, but rather implementing plans, providing direction, and bringing people together while working towards a common vision. My greatest strengths include organizational and collaborative problem solving skills along with a real willingness to listen and learn about issues facing residents today.

Every resident of the county has good ideas about how to make this a better place to live, and we all need a voice in the county's future. While we may have differing opinions about specific issues, we share many common ideas about what is special about Tillamook County, what needs to be protected, and what needs to change in order to ensure a better future.

Please peruse my website (www.dave4bocc.com) to view my stance on many issues and for a list of almost 20 governmental and civic activities in which I am active. Please check back often as my website continues to evolve. You will find the list includes health care, land use planning, ocean policy, transportation, visioning, small business advocacy, senior citizen issues, emergency preparedness, and more. As your next county commissioner, I feel I have the real world experience and work ethic to help Tillamook County be the best it can be.