



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon
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FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

7:00 AM

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025

ZOOM MEETING

A legislative work session was held on Friday, March 7, 2025 at 7:00 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform.

Deschutes County Attendance:			
x	Commissioner Anthony DeBone, Chair	x	Nick Lelack, County Administrator
x	Commissioner Patti Adair, Vice Chair	x	Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator
x	Commissioner Phil Chang	x	Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator
x	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Tim Brownell, Director Solid Waste
x	Sara Crosswhite, Director 9-1-1		Steve Dennison, County Clerk
x	Chris Doty, Director Road Department	x	David Doyle, Legal Counsel
	Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace		Janice Garceau, Director Health Services
x	Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney	x	Peter Gutowsky, Director Community Development (<i>joined Zoom at 7:58 a.m.</i>)
x	Holly Harris, Director Behavioral Health		Geoff Hinds, Director Fair & Expo
x	Deevy Holcomb, Director Community Justice	x	Heather Kaisner, Director Public Health
	Sean Kirk, Manager Veteran's Services	x	Bill Kuhn, Treasurer
	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager	x	Scot Langton, Assessor
x	Tania Mahood, Director Information Technology	x	Kevin Moriarty, Forester
	Elizabeth Pape, Internal Auditor	x	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager

x	Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant	x	Lee Randall, Director Facilities
	Kim Riley, Senior Assistant Legal Counsel		Robert Tittle, Chief Financial Officer
	Kent van der Kamp, Sheriff		Aaron Wells, Undersheriff
x	Heather Herauf, Procurement Manager		Daniel Kieffer, Budget & Financial Planning Analyst
x	Cody Smith, Assistant Director Road Department	X	Paul Partridge, Program Manager Behavioral Health
Others Present:			
x	Doug Riggs, Director NW Policy Advocates		Corey Barber, Outreach Director NW Policy Advocates
x	Emma Innes, Associate NW Policy Advocates		

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

2. Commissioner Updates

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Doug Riggs anticipates that wildfire hazard maps and homeowners' insurance issues will move and pass this legislative session, but he did not have specific information relative to whether **SB 78** will move.

3. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs reported the pace is picking up in Salem, and the Capitol is crowded with the construction zone in place. Four budget reconciliation bills, including HB 5505 rebalance bill, are starting to move. The bulk of the spending is for pay increases for state employees. The revenue forecast came out last week and is up \$350 million for the next biennium. Budget uncertainty continues due to federal funding uncertainties.

Public testimony for major issues in the Ways and Means committee are coming up, including the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) and Community Corrections.

Responding to Holly Harris, Riggs is unaware of when the CJC IMPACTS grants testimony has been rescheduled, but he will follow up with Harris on this matter.

Riggs noted some controversial issues in the Capitol, including the ban on flavored tobacco and inhalant delivery products.

Responding to Commissioner Chang, Riggs doesn't believe we'll have a clear idea on federal funding impacts by the end of this session. Riggs anticipates the state has set aside some reserve funding in a Special Purpose Appropriations (SPA) account.

4. Review Bill Tracker Report by Department

Riggs spoke about **HB 3565** which allows siting and operation of small modular nuclear reactor energy facilities. It may get a courtesy hearing but is unlikely to move through the session as managing nuclear waste is not addressed. Board position: no position but leave on bill tracker report.

Riggs summarized **HB 3570**, which may be incorporated into a larger package and can move. It appropriates money to the Oregon Business Development (OBD) Department to update inventory of community water infrastructure projects related to new housing. Riggs said this will be time consuming and expensive, and the question is whether this will be worthwhile. Riggs isn't convinced the OBD is the appropriate department for this matter. Commissioner Chang noted that water infrastructure is a major limiting factor to housing supplies. Board position: priority 2 / support.

HB 2138 was reviewed by the Road Department and Community Development. Doty said it allows middle housing development to occur in urban unincorporated areas, such as Terrebonne, Tumalo and Sunriver. Doty has issues with this bill as related to infrastructure, and whether these areas have adequate infrastructure in place for higher density housing. Nick Lelack will find out if Sunriver is in support of this bill. This bill may warrant supporting with an amendment related to having adequate infrastructure in place. Board position: priority 2 / oppose.

Deevy Holcomb spoke about **HB 2972** which provides funding for workforce reentry programs for adults under supervision. Patterson noted there is a request for adding the Deschutes County logo onto a letter of support for workforce reentry, but the letter doesn't specifically list **HB 2972**. Chair DeBone said that East Cascades Works submitted the logo request for these workforce reentry and prosperity programs. Riggs shared that this bill is related to a pilot program at Deer Ridge Correctional Facility. The recidivism rate is dramatically reduced for those participating in the program. The Board was in support of adding the County logo onto the letter supporting **HB 2972** workforce re-entry and **HB 3669** prosperity programs. Board position: priority 2 / support.

Deevy spoke of **HB 5004** which appropriates money from the General Fund to the Department of Corrections for expenses. The current budget calls for \$16 per person per day but they are requesting \$18.18/person/day. Chair DeBone clarified the amendment calls for the additional \$2.18/person/day. Responding to Chair

DeBone, Holcomb described cost of living increases. Board position: Priority 1 / support with amendments.

DA Gunnels said that **HB 3576** transfers the responsibility for developing a formula for the distribution of grant funds to counties for deflection programs from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to CJC. The Oregon DA's Association hasn't taken a position yet, but DA Gunnels and Community Justice both support this bill. Responding to Commissioner Chang, DA Gunnels summarized how the formula is currently calculated. Riggs shared that all the bill co-sponsors are from Clackamas County, and he doesn't think this bill will move. He suggested keeping it on the bill tracker report should it move forward. Board position: priority 2 / watch. Patterson said that the related **HB 610** will also be tracked.

DA Gunnels spoke briefly of **SB 536** which states that a licensed physician associate or nurse practitioner may serve as a medical examiner. Board position: priority 2 / support with follow up with Dr. Onishi, the Deschutes County Medical Examiner.

Scot Langton spoke of **HB 3518** which increases the County recording fee credited to the Assessment and Taxation fund and indexes the fee to inflation. Langton plans to testify in support of this bill on Tuesday. This will provide much-needed funding. The Board was supportive of Langton's testimony. Langton noted this is one of AOC's top priorities. Board position: priority 1 / support.

Paul Partridge spoke of **SB 5526** which is an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) budget bill. It includes other DHS programs to level funding. For IDD, the funding model includes a workload model cost study for all DHS branches. The model goes to the legislative body, where it is open for negotiation and last session they were funded at 86%. Partridge emphasized that they have never been fully funded. Their hope is to bring up the funding to a level of 100%. He and his colleagues wish to provide oral and written testimony in support, and the Board was supportive of his testimony.

Doty spoke about **HB 2795**, which modifies the definition of "qualified entity" for Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) distributions. Cascades East Transit has proposed an amendment allowing counties to designate a public service transportation provider as the qualified entity, taking the Road Department out as the middleman. Doty believes this is a good idea. He asked the Board for consideration of signing a letter of support. All three commissioners were supportive of signing the letter. Board position: priority 2 / support with amendment.

Randall said his concern about **SB 2688** is that it would expand the prevailing wage and the bill lacks clarity. It applies the prevailing rate of wage to certain off-site

custom work fabricated, assembled or produced in accordance with specifications for public works. Doty is also in strong opposition to this bill. Riggs said this bill is creating a divide between labor unions and municipalities. Board position: priority 2 / oppose.

Randall flagged **HB 2680** for tracking. It would add a new certification for window installers or glazing contractors for public works contracts. He expressed concern this would limit competition. Board position: priority 2 / watch.

Commissioner Chang wished to flag Legislative Concept **(LC) 3831** for tracking. This topic relates to water issues in our basin.

Next Meeting: The next virtual legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 14th at 8:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at 8:02 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant