



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon
(541) 388-6571

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

8:00 AM

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2025

ZOOM MEETING

A legislative work session was held on Friday, May 30, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform.

Deschutes County Attendance:

x	Commissioner Anthony DeBone, Chair	x	Nick Lelack, County Administrator
	Commissioner Patti Adair, Vice Chair	x	Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator
x	Commissioner Phil Chang	x	Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator
	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager	x	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
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
x	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager		Scot Langton, Assessor
x	Tania Mahood, Director Information Technology	x	Kevin Moriarty, Forester
	Elizabeth Pape, Internal Auditor		Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager

x	Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant	x	Lee Randall, Director Facilities
	Kim Riley, Senior Assistant Legal Counsel	x	Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer
	Kent van der Kamp, Sheriff		Aaron Wells, Undersheriff
x	Heather Herauf, Procurement Manager		Daniel Kieffer, Budget & Financial Planning Analyst
	Cody Smith, Assistant Director Road Department		Brenda Fritsvold, BOCC Executive Assistant
Others Present:			
x	Doug Riggs, Director NW Policy Advocates	x	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 8:00 a.m.

2. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Chang is hopeful for updates related to the transportation package and wildfire funding. Chris Doty noted that 80% of the Road department's funding is from the state highway fund and he asked everyone to keep an open mind as it relates to transportation package proposals.

Commissioner DeBone reported that AOC is hosting a summer retreat for commissioners on Monday.

Commissioner Chang said that **SB 75** is being used as a bargaining chip towards a meaningful wildfire funding package. Governor Kotek is open to the idea of using a portion of the kicker as a one-time funding for wildfire. Additionally, Cap and Trade has been discussed as a funding mechanism for wildfire and transportation. Commissioner Chang emphasized that long-term, sustainable funding solutions are needed.

Responding to Commissioner Chang, Riggs said that funding for a youth psychiatric facility would typically be funded with lottery dollars by the Capital Construction Committee. GF dollars may also be used but are more restrictive. Discussion ensued related to the Ways and Means funding mechanisms. Holly Harris noted Senator Broadman's advocacy efforts towards a regional youth psychiatric facility.

Responding to Commissioner DeBone, Riggs said a two-thirds vote is required to use the kicker or three-fifths (simple majority) to use the rainy-day fund. The House

does not have a three-fifths majority right now, and until recently neither did the Senate. Riggs added that the transportation package will also require a three-fifths vote.

3. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs said the session is winding down. Hearings and work sessions can now be posted with only one hour's notice. He anticipates the session to adjourn 5 to 7 days prior to June 29. There may be a special session in the fall, particularly to work on the transportation package.

Small agency budgets are coming out of Ways and Means, precursors to large agency budgets. Capital Construction has been provided with lottery bonding and general obligation bonding to spend. This is critical, as it relates to CORE3. It should be expected that capital construction funding requests will not be fully funded. 536 bills have been referred to Ways and Means, and only 19 have come out thus far.

Discussion is taking place relating to how much money should be put into the rainy-day fund. The current balance is \$5.2 billion, which is above the minimum set as a goal to have in reserve.

The audit from an outside consultant on transportation resulted in nine recommendations, and Riggs summarized. Many recommendations relate to restructuring and streamlining.

SB 75 is still in limbo, being held hostage amongst wildfire funding discussions.

Riggs noted that behavioral health, community corrections and public safety bills and budgets are all still pending.

Cap and Trade is back up for consideration. It is preferred by businesses impacted by DEQ emissions regulations.

Riggs said that he hand-delivered the Board's letter of priorities to the Capitol, and it was well received. Riggs thanked Patterson, Lelack and staff for assembling the letter.

4. Review Bill Tracker Report by Department

Kevin Moriarty reported that **SB 85** passed, without incorporation of the financial piece. He is hopeful this will have an impact on reducing homeowners' insurance premiums across the state.

Next Meeting: The next virtual legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 6 at 7:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant