



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

8:00 AM

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

ZOOM MEETING

A legislative work session was held on Friday, April 11, 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
	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Tim Brownell, Director Solid Waste
	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
	Deevy Holcomb, Director Community Justice		Heather Kaisner, Director Public Health
	Sean Kirk, Manager Veteran's Services		Bill Kuhn, Treasurer
x	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager		Scot Langton, Assessor
	Tania Mahood, Director Information Technology		Kevin Moriarty, Forester
	Elizabeth Pape, Internal Auditor	x	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager

	Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant		Lee Randall, Director Facilities
	Kim Riley, Senior Assistant Legal Counsel		Robert Tittle, Chief Financial Officer
	Kent van der Kamp, Sheriff		Aaron Wells, Undersheriff
	Heather Herauf, Procurement Manager		Daniel Kieffer, Budget & Financial Planning Analyst
x	Cody Smith, Assistant Director Road Department	x	Brenda Fritsvold, BOCC Executive Assistant
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

Commissioner Adair noted a dental health bill that she'd like to track. She will send the information to Jen and Doug for future reports.

Commissioner DeBone spoke of **SB 771**, which relates to awarding grants to small rodeo organizations.

3. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs reported that the deadline has passed for bills to come out of non-joint committees. Those that have failed to come out of committee are now dead.

Minority reports and threats of minority bills created some drama over the past week.

The Transportation Package and deflection funding are key issues moving forward.

Next week, House and Senate floor sessions will clear the backlog of bills that passed out of committee. Bills that went to Ways and Means will go silent until close to the end of the session.

Responding to Commissioner DeBone, Riggs reported that TRT bill **HB 3556** did not advance.

4. Review Bill Tracker Report by Department

Tom Kuhn provided an update on **SB 702**, which bans flavored inhalant delivery products and tobacco products. This bill passed out of committee with a dash 3 amendment that stipulates only OLCC licensed liquor stores are allowed to sell these products. Riggs said this amendment will ensure the products are not sold to underage customers.

Kuhn reported that Heather Kaisner provided testimony at a **HB 2954** hearing yesterday, where she shared a presentation on Deschutes County's Healthy Schools program. This bill relates to funding for addiction prevention programs.

Peter Gutowsky spoke about **HB 3928**, which allows counties to designate certain rural lands for rural housing development that are not subject to land use planning laws. Commissioner Adair provided testimony in support of this bill, but reported the bill is now dead. Riggs added that the concept of how to create additional housing in a housing-limited area is an important consideration moving forward.

Commissioner Chang spoke about opportunities for mobile home parks and RV parks to meet the need for affordable housing, noting that infrastructure is the main limiting factor. Commissioner DeBone spoke of the uphill battle landowners are faced with (permits, fees, etc.) when wishing to develop their land.

Patterson brought up **SB 1154** relates to groundwater quality concern areas and groundwater management areas for discussion. Riggs reported a recent hearing was well attended. There were several hundred submittals of testimony, largely opposed. Opponents are largely concerned about their private property rights and government overreach. This bill is still alive.

Gutowsky noted that this bill would likely result in South Deschutes County receiving funding for septic system repairs and upgrades. While acknowledging opponents' concerns, Commissioner Chang spoke to the potential benefits of this bill. Once a property is identified as a quality concern area resources would become available to them, prior to designation as a management area. Board position: priority 1 / neutral.

For the Board's consideration, Jen Patterson presented a letter of opposition to **SB 1159** which transfers the Office of Children's Advocate from the Department of Human Services to the office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The Board expressed unanimous support for signing the letter. Riggs said this bill died on Wednesday evening, but the letter is still important to get on the record as this extra layer of regulatory bureaucracy does not help kids.

For the Board's consideration, Erik Kropp presented an updated draft letter from Oregon Living with Fire (OLWF) which outlines the negative impacts the federal funding freeze is having on critical wildfire prevention efforts in Deschutes County. It cites the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project and OLWF's inability to access critical funding.

Commissioner DeBone expressed his neutrality towards this concept. Commissioner Adair is grateful that there will be more logging and doesn't want the federal deficit to increase any further. Neither Commissioners DeBone nor Adair wished to sign the letter, but Commissioner Chang will sign.

Commissioner Adair spoke about the regional opportunity for a juniper biomass plant.

Chris Doty spoke about project labor agreements. Yesterday the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Associated General Contractors (AGC) in their lawsuit against ODOT. AGC contended that when ODOT put together the Community Workforce Agreement (CWA) they engaged in rulemaking without going through the proper channels. This ruling may have an impact on the Transportation Package.

Riggs reported that **SB 75**, the ADU technical fix bill, passed yesterday.

Next Meeting: The next virtual legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 18 at 7:30 a.m.

Adjourn: Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at 7:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant