



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon
(541) 388-6570

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

1:00 PM

MONDAY March 30, 2026

Allen Room
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Phil Chang, Anthony DeBone and Patti Adair. Also present were County Administrator Nick Lelack; Senior Assistant Legal Counsel Kim Riley; and BOCC Executive Assistant Brenda Fritsvold.

This meeting was audio and video recorded and can be accessed at the Deschutes County Meeting Portal website www.deschutes.org/meetings.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Chang called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

CITIZEN INPUT:

- David Baker-Yuill pleaded that the sweep of the Desert Rise unsanctioned camp in Redmond be delayed. Adding that he is aware the County has already asked the City of Redmond to hold off on this, he said he would support applying more pressure to the City to pause this action until the managed camp is open.
- Carol Carlson commended the County for insisting that Redmond should not sweep Desert Rise until the managed camp is operational, noting negative impacts when the China Hat area was cleared without a clear relocation plan. Asking whether a Temporary Safe Stay Area (TSSA) could be established as an intermediate step, she also shared concerns about the RFP issued for an operator of the managed camp.
- Gloria Olson was concerned about moving people from Desert Rise and suggested that a space be provided with garbage service, potable water, and restroom facilities. She further supported revising the RFP seeking an operator of the

evaluated by a committee, which determined that none of them met the required criteria.

Referencing his earlier suggestion to put out an RFQ instead of an RFP for the purpose of identifying a qualified partner that could assist with developing operational details, Commissioner Chang said service providers should have been involved in planning the operations of the managed camp.

Kropp spoke to available options, including issuing an RFQ or breaking the RFP into components and allowing separate entities to fulfill various parts of the necessary work. In addition, the County might retain the liability for the operations of the managed camp, which would relieve service providers from having to provide their own insurance.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Property Manager Kristie Bollinger offered to find out how much the County has invested in this initiative so far.

Discussion ensued of potential future expansion of the managed camp and of possibly collaborating with the City of Redmond on a TSSA as the County has done with the City of Bend.

Commissioner DeBone did not support proceeding with the managed camp, saying that the County should have allowed the City to undertake this effort. Adding that alternatively, the property could have been developed as a long-term visitor's area, he viewed the partnership with the City as lacking.

Commissioner Chang said it is not feasible to abandon efforts to establish the managed camp.

Commissioner Adair stressed the need to make progress and asked if the County should issue another RFP which breaks the needed work into pieces as described and with the County retaining the insurance liability.

Kropp shared that the County has asked the City to make sure that those who are moved out of Desert Rise are not directed to relocate to County-owned property.

Saying that the County does not have a revenue stream for this purpose, Commissioner DeBone encouraged being sensitive to the current state of the General Fund as well as to the fact that the County has an open Code Enforcement case on itself regarding unsanctioned encampments on County-owned property.

A majority of the Board was in consensus to direct staff to prepare an updated RFP as discussed, including revisiting insurance and liability requirements, and to continue coordination with the City of Redmond regarding next steps.

2. Courthouse Expansion Update

Facilities Director Lee Randall, Capital Improvement Manager Eric Nielsen and Cory Loomis from PENCE Contractors presented an update on the Courthouse Expansion project, including schedule, progress, upcoming work, and budget. The project remains on track for final completion in August, with current work continuing on both the expansion and on renovations to the existing building. It's expected that the ribbon-cutting for the expansion will take place in August.

Commissioner DeBone acknowledged that City-related plan review and permitting fees ended up costing nearly twice the original estimated amount of \$500,000.

3. Treasury Report for February 2026

Bill Kuhn, County Treasurer, presented the Treasury Report for February 2026, including a high-level overview of economic conditions and events affecting markets, interest rates, and inflation. Reporting that the month-end investment portfolio balance was approximately \$383.6 million, Kuhn summarized factors affecting portfolio balances and monthly investment earnings, including property tax receipts and ongoing funding needs.

4. Finance Report for February 2026

Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Finance Report for February 2026, first providing an update on the budget development process for the upcoming fiscal year. Reporting that the General Fund revenue and expenditure trends remained generally on target, he reviewed position control information, including changes in total FTE and vacancy levels, and described staffing reductions associated with specific departments and programs.

Tintle next reviewed selected fund forecasts and projections, noting that the Operations and Capital Reserve Fund projection included anticipated purchase and closing costs for the Wyatt building.

5. Consideration of Wallowa County Wolf Resolution

Referring to the proposed policy relating to wolf population management from Wallowa County, Commissioner DeBone relayed a question of whether

Deschutes County is interested to consider a similar resolution with the goal of protecting the ranching community and hunting resources.

Saying he has discussed this with Commissioner Hillock of Wallowa County, Commissioner Chang did not view it appropriate to change the statewide wolf management plan given that the experiences of various counties differ so greatly.

Saying that the wolf population is spreading across the state, Commissioner Adair reported that wolves are killing elk in Morrow County and that her own family has lost over 12 cattle recently in Heppner.

Commissioner Chang said not enough wolves exist in Deschutes County to move it to either Management Plan 2 or Management Plan 3.

Commissioner Adair wanted to lend support to Wallowa County as livestock losses due to wolves constitute an incredible financial burden.

Commissioner Chang said while Deschutes County certainly could express sympathy for the situation in Wallowa County and their needs and concerns, wolves have not been delisted in Deschutes County by the federal government.

In response to Commissioner DeBone, Commissioner Chang said Deschutes County's Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Committee would not take a position on Wallowa County's resolution.

Stressing that fewer cattle are becoming pregnant and that many calves refuse to nurse due to stress, Commissioner Adair noted reports of wolves walking the streets in La Pine.

No formal action was taken on this item.

6. **Management of and costs related to the removal and disposal of yard debris to mitigate wildfire hazards**

Commissioner Adair referred to a recent fire in La Pine and sought discussion of options to encourage property owners to do fuels reduction work earlier this year. She asked whether providing vouchers or other incentives might encourage disposing of yard debris through County facilities.

Commissioner Chang spoke to concerns about pile burning and wondered what might motivate property owners to not burn piles, given that fires escaping from pile burns is one of the primary origins of human-caused wildfires.

Jeff Merwin, Director of Solid Waste, said Firefree days this year will happen May 15 through May 24 at Knott Landfill, and June 5 through June 13 at the transfer stations.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Merwin said these dates are scheduled six months ahead of time and staffed via contracted workers. Merwin added that when not free, it costs \$6 per cubic yard to dispose of yard debris. Noting that this charge is subsidized by tip fees, Merwin reported a 15% increase in the disposal of yard waste in January and February at Knott.

In response to questions, Deputy County Administrator Whitney Hale said the public service announcement regarding the upcoming Firefree schedule will be issued on April 2nd.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Chang announced a Regional Housing Council meeting tonight and a Bend MPO meeting tomorrow.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 3:17 pm, the Board recessed into Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (d) Labor Negotiations.

At 3:58 pm, the Executive Session concluded and the public was invited to return to the room.

Senior Assistant Legal Counsel announced that during Executive Session, the Board had met as the governing body for Deschutes County and also as the governing body for the 9-1-1 Service District.

Commissioner Chang then directed staff to proceed as discussed during the Executive Session.

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:59 pm.

DATED this 15th day of April 2026 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.



PHIL CHANG, CHAIR

ATTEST:

RECORDING SECRETARY



ANTHONY DEBONE, VICE CHAIR



PATTI ADAIR, COMMISSIONER