



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

1:00 PM

MONDAY March 16, 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: None

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Adair announced that donations of non-perishable food, household necessities, and gift cards are being accepted for Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees at Roberts Field/Redmond Municipal Airport who are not receiving paychecks due to the federal funding lapse affecting the Department of Homeland Security.

Commissioner DeBone reported touring the Courthouse expansion project and attending the Trinity Place affordable housing groundbreaking in Sisters.

Commissioner Adair reported attending an EDCO Board meeting in Prineville.

Adding that she too attended the Trinity Place groundbreaking and saying that this project adds another 40 low-income units to the housing inventory, Commissioner Adair noted that media coverage of this event did not reference Deschutes County's \$500,000 contribution to this project.

Commissioner Chang reported attending the Oregon Transportation Commission meeting in Salem last Thursday. He further reported that the Deschutes Cultural Coalition has decided its annual distribution of \$15,000 in video lottery funds received from the County, along with Oregon Cultural Trust funds, to approximately 18 local arts and culture organizations through small project grants generally ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000. A detailed list of awards will be provided at a later date.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Presentation: Four Rivers Vector Control District 2025 Annual Report

Four Rivers Vector Control District Board Chair Eva Wild Crain and District Board Members Rich Parker, Joe Tucker, Steven Emerson and Shawn Hill were in remote attendance for the presentation of the District's 2025 Annual Report to the BOCC.

Wild Crain said earlier in the year, the District was facing potential bankruptcy and decided to reduce payroll expenses by contracting out for management services. She spoke to her satisfaction with the District's operations at this time, reporting on new vehicle and equipment purchases and the ability to accommodate property owners who request that no pesticides be applied to their property.

Continuing, Wild Crain said the District has updated its phone system to enhance customer service and allow for increased responsiveness to callers. The website will also be updated to improve the submittal and processing of service requests and to accommodate remote attendance at District meetings. Saying that the District Board has decided to meet monthly rather than quarterly, she shared that the District has obtained a Forest Service permit which it had struggled to secure for two years. In addition, the District established a Budget Committee to oversee revenues and expenses.

Commissioner DeBone commended the District for stabilizing its governance and operations. In response to questions from Commissioner Adair regarding payroll, District Manager Edward Horvath said the District hired an outside bookkeeper who discovered that payroll taxes had been unnecessarily paid to the City of Portland; the District anticipates receiving a refund for the amount paid in error. Horvath also reported that approximately \$10,000 has been paid in late fees and penalties associated with previously unpaid taxes.

Commissioner DeBone asked about contracted work for services provided outside the District tax base to areas such as Sunriver. Wild Crain and Horvath explained that the District delineates contract work into a distinct budget to ensure that no taxpayer revenues are used for contracted services. The contract this year with the Sunriver Owners Association (SROA) is approximately \$86,000, for which the District has been clear with regard to what services would be provided within that amount. Any additional services desired by SROA in higher mosquito years would be considered at a separate charge.

Sharing that the District was previously behind on audits by approximately seven years, Horvath said it has made substantial progress to become current, with audits now only two years behind. He added that the Budget Committee and Board are developing a more detailed budget to improve transparency, including a listing of itemized costs for routine operational expenses.

Commissioner Chang appreciated the provision of profit-and-loss statements in the annual report and asked how the District expects financial statements to change under the revised fiscal management approach. Horvath responded that future budgets will be developed to align expenditures with expected needs and to avoid over-budgeting line items without supporting detail.

Commissioner DeBone asked for a mid-March mosquito report. Horvath said the District had already started inspections and identified mosquito larvae earlier this month. The amount of standing water in oxbows and meander bends is substantially lower than it was last year.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Horvath said the two remaining audits were provided to the auditor last November, with anticipated completion in April or May. Explaining that the delay was due in part to missing or erroneous paperwork and a lack of receipts and contract documentation, he added that the District has estimated it will spend approximately \$40,000 on audits during the current fiscal year due to catch-up work, with annual audits projected to cost \$8,000 to \$9,000 thereafter.

The Board discussed the possibility of a follow-up presentation from the District later in 2026, with October identified as a potential timeframe.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Adair requested that her name be added to the County's drought emergency declaration approved by the Board last month. County Legal Counsel David Doyle stated that her signature could be added with a notation reflecting the date signed.
- Commissioner DeBone reported on last Thursday's meeting of the CORE3 Executive Council where the \$10 million allocation by the State was discussed. He added that discussion of a possible public/private partnership (for a portion of the facility) will be continued to next month's meeting.
- Commissioner Chang reported that although an application to the Gates Foundation related to a multi-partner biochar project in Central Oregon was not successful, organizers have scheduled a workshop for April 17th to continue exploring biomass availability, biochar production approaches, and potential markets for biochar.
- Commissioner Adair reported on the Central Oregon Health Council's annual retreat held the prior Thursday.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

County Administrator Nick Lelack announced that the Executive Session pertaining to labor negotiations was not needed at this time.

At 1:35 pm, the Board recessed into Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (i) Employment Evaluation.

At 2:20 pm, the Board exited Executive Session, invited the audience back into the room, and took the following action:

Consideration of Salary Adjustment for County Legal Counsel

Commissioner DeBone thanked Doyle for his services and stated his strong support for Doyle's work.

DEBONE: Move to increase the annual compensation paid to David Doyle by \$10,000 effective April 1, 2026

ADAIR: Second

VOTE:

DEBONE: Yes

ADAIR: Yes

CHANG: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 3 - 0

DEBONE: Move to approve Document No. 2026-0210, an amendment to the

employment agreement with David Doyle reflecting the compensation adjustment

ADAIR: Second

VOTE:

DEBONE: Yes

ADAIR: Yes

CHANG: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 3 – 0

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 pm.

DATED this 1st day of April 2026 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.



PHIL CHANG, CHAIR

ATTEST:



RECORDING SECRETARY



ANTHONY DEBONE, VICE CHAIR



PATTI ADAIR, COMMISSIONER