



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

8:00 AM

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2023

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

A virtual legislative update meeting was held on Friday, March 3, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform, for a weekly scheduled event during this 2023 Legislative Session.

Deschutes County Attendance:

x	Commissioner Anthony DeBone	x	Nick Lelack, County Administrator
x	Commissioner Patti Adair	x	Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator
x	Commissioner Phil Chang	x	Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator
x	Dave Doyle, Legal Counsel		Kim Riley, Assistant Legal Counsel
	David Givans, Internal Auditor	x	Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer
x	Chris Doty, Road Department Director	x	Janice Garceau, Health Services Director
x	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney
	Peter Gutowsky, Community Development Director	x	Kathleen Hinman, Human Resources Director
	Keith MacNamara, Veterans' Services Manager		Deevy Holcomb, Community Justice Director
x	Lee Randall, Facilities Director	x	Kevin Moriarty, Forester
x	Chad Centola, Solid Waste Director	x	Tim Brownell, Incoming Solid Waste Director
	Shane Nelson, Sheriff	x	Sara Crosswhite, 9-1-1 Director
	Steve Dennison, Clerk	x	Cheyenne Purrington, Houseless Strategies and Solutions Director
x	Geoff Hinds, Fair & Expo Director		Scot Langton, Assessor
	Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace	x	Will Groves, Planning Manager
x	Holly Harris, Behavioral Health Director	x	Tania Mahood, IT Director

x	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager	x	Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant
x	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager		
Others Present:			
x	Doug Riggs, NW Policy Advocates President		Gabriel Velásquez, NW Policy Advocates Legislative Coordinator
x	Sherrie Grief, Community Member	x	DW Lee, Community Member

1. Introductions

Commissioner DeBone called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs provided some high level updates for today's internally-focused meeting. **SB 644** would allow ADUs to proceed in high-risk wildfire zones. A dash 3 amendment is being prepared, which will ensure that if wildfire mapping is not completed, counties can continue to site ADUs as long as they abide by state standards. **HB 2001** is the governor's homelessness package, with an original ask for \$130 million that has been increased to \$155 million, reflecting increased funding to homeless youth programs which has been severely underfunded over the past several years. Behavioral health discussions continue. The Ballot Measure 110 work group meets on Thursday mornings, and to-date none of the proposals are major changes.

3. Department Updates on Priority Bills

A brief discussion took place on a CORE3 congressionally-directed spending request of \$2 million, to cover phase I of construction of the EOC. A draft email will be provided to the Board for increased visibility on the request. Commissioners Adair and DeBone support signing the letter, while Commissioner Chang doesn't want this funding request to compete with other higher-priority asks. Commissioner Adair requesting adding a statement in the letter regarding the land the county has gifted towards this project.

Janice Garceau spoke about a request to testify on **HB 2463**, along with a request to add the Deschutes County logo onto a letter of support. This bill will reduce administrative burden on behavioral health providers and increase system efficiencies and accountability. This bill is critical towards streamlining processes for legislatively-approved state funding to make it to local governments. The Board directed staff to proceed with support.

Tom Kuhn spoke about **HB 2638**, which requires schools to have properly-functioning HVAC systems in place before January 2029. Having high functioning ventilation systems increases indoor air quality and better health, which is especially important during wildfire smoke events. This bill would transform schools into clean air shelters. Commissioners DeBone and Chang were supportive of the idea but hesitant to support the bill with funding for the upgrades missing from the bill. Commissioner Chang added that **SB 762** provided resources for HEPA air filters and industrial air scrubbers to be provided to communities affected by wildfire smoke, and perhaps the focus could be on getting more of these out to communities. Commissioner Adair wished to see legislation emphasizing improving graduation rates and academic success in schools. The Board took a neutral position on HB 2638 as priority 2.

Whitney Hale spoke about **HB 2088**, which relates to the Assessor's Office, and would provide a mechanism to improve financial support for assessment and taxation functions within counties. The Treasurer would withhold 3% of all property tax revenues to be used by counties to administer property tax laws. It's listed as a priority 2 watch, to add to the Board's radar for tracking. The Board would like to hear from Scot Langton, County Assessor, at a future Monday work session.

Chad Centola wished to add **HB 3229** to the Bill Tracker. This bill relates to an 80% fee increase for counties with Title 5 air quality permits. Solid Waste proposed this priority 2/watch bill.

Whitney Hale discussed **HB 2510** (priority 2/support), which caps lottery funds that go to county fairs. Commissioner Adair sent a letter of support for this bill. Testimony is on March 7. Commissioner Chang emphasized that this additional funding is not necessarily needed by our county fairgrounds, but would be highly beneficial to other counties. This means less money for schools, parks and economic development from lottery funds, so he recommends a neutral position on this bill. Commissioner DeBone spoke about video lottery, and feels that it is relied upon too heavily in the state of Oregon. Economic opportunity (4H, FFA) and a sense of community are important benefits gained from county fairgrounds, and he supports additional investment in them.

4. Other Items:

- Commissioner Chang shared that he recently testified on the ODF budget bill **HB 5020**, in support of continued funding for the Landscape Resiliency Program. The governor has proposed reducing its funding level from \$20 million to \$12 million.

- Commissioner Chang proposed the Board taking a position of support on **HB 2001**, as homelessness response is a priority issue. Cheyenne Purrington summarized some of the areas of focus in this bill. Stimulation and acceleration of housing production and loan funding is emphasized. Modular building (shorter timelines) is another tool in the toolkit. Some tenant protections from eviction are included, and are important in times of recession as we move out of COVID times. The Board established a position of support/priority 2 for HB 2001. The Board directed staff to draft a letter of support, and Ms. Purrington shared that she was willing to provide testimony on behalf of the Board, on March 7.
 - Commissioner DeBone reported recently having attended the COIC (Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council) Board meeting. A continuum of care approach will be taken, with multiagency coordination. The MAC has been created. We should examine parts and pieces of HB 2001. Where will the money go and who will manage it?
 - Mr. Riggs shared that HB 2001 is the implementation of the governor's homelessness bill; HB 5019 is the accompanying funding bill. Funding towards homeless youth and agricultural workforce housing in rural areas has been added to the governor's original draft. The bill passed with fairly broad bipartisan support and is currently at Ways & Means Committee.

- Mr. Riggs added **HB 3414** to the list for staff review. This is a companion bill to HB 2001 and is a land use bill that holds cities and counties accountable for the lack of housing.

- Commissioner DeBone shared that the City of Bend systems engineer, Ned Dempsey, is seeking clarity from DEQ on pathways to put Class A reused water in canals for irrigation. The aim is to address barriers faced by City of Bend and the North Unit Irrigation District, and to move water recycling forward. Commissioner DeBone reached out to Rep. Owens and Rep. Helm to gain clarity. Commissioner Chang shared that Rep. Helm is moving a water recycling bill this session. Mr. Riggs will add this to the Bill Tracker.

- Commissioner DeBone asked staff to share more about **HB 3321** with the Board. HB 3321 provides technical assistance to small water districts. He advocated for finding a new generation of sewer and water district operators.

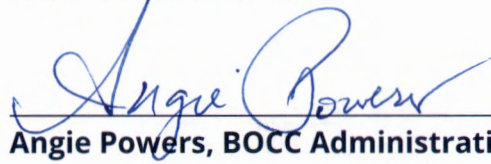
- Commissioner Adair asked Chris Doty to address **SB 801**, in regards to diesel concepts affecting agriculture in Eastern Oregon counties. This bill relates to the modification of fleets to replace older diesel engines with newer ones. These vehicles are already being removed as they age, so a mandate may not be necessary.

- “Mutual Legislative Priorities” is on next week’s joint meeting agenda with the Redmond City Council. Some topics shared were: semiconductors, housing and homelessness, enterprise zone and industrial lands, the state land use process to fast track development for affordable housing, the state land use appeals process and the CORE3 project near the Redmond Airport.
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Next Meeting: The next virtual legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 10, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant