



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

8:00 AM

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

A virtual legislative update meeting was held on Friday, June 9, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. via the Zoom meeting platform to discuss matters pertaining to the 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
	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
	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney
x	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
	Chad Centola, Solid Waste Director		Tim Brownell, Incoming Solid Waste Director
	Shane Nelson, Sheriff	x	Sara Crosswhite, 9-1-1 Director
	Steve Dennison, Clerk		Heather Kaisner, Health Services Deputy Director (Public Health)
	Geoff Hinds, Fair & Expo Director		Scot Langton, Assessor
	Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace	x	Tania Mahood, IT Director
	Holly Harris, Health Services Deputy Director (Behavioral Health)		Will Groves, Planning Manager

x	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager		Bill Kuhn, Treasurer
x	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager	x	Brenda Fritsvold, BOCC Executive Assistant
Others Present:			
x	Doug Riggs, NW Policy Advocates President		

1. Introductions

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

2. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs offered a synopsis of the current situation in the State legislature, saying that while most legislation is stalled due to a walkout of numerous legislators, discussions are taking place and attempts being made to try to reach agreement on important issues such as health care funding and the Oregon Health Authority's budget. Saying that another item yet to be determined is the status of the County's request for a State contribution to the courthouse expansion project, Riggs assured that Senator Knopp's office is well aware of the County's top priority items.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Riggs confirmed that one of the pending packages is the drought package, which may be funded at an amount as high as \$2.8 million. He did not expect to see final numbers until just before the work session and mentioned the possibility of a special legislative session at the end of June.

Continuing, Riggs announced that HB 3414—which would limit the conditions under which local governments could deny variances for housing development within their urban growth boundary—now has 19 amendments. Noting this bill is Governor Kotek's top priority, he described the substance of the 19th amendment and predicted this bill will ultimately be passed as amended.

In response to Commissioner DeBone, Riggs said although local governments are divided on SB 3414, Bend Mayor Melanie Kebler testified in support of this bill.

With respect to legislation affecting public safety, Riggs referred to a letter sent by AOC and others which stipulated critical items for inclusion in the final budget such as parole release programs.

Discussion ensued regarding the State seeking a pledge of significant financial commitment from the County towards a rural managed camp or safe parking program which might be sited outside of the urban growth boundary. Nick Lelack shared that the State has asked if Deschutes County has considered declaring a

state of emergency with respect to homelessness. Lelack said it is not clear what would be gained from such a declaration as the County cannot override state land use laws.

Riggs said the Governor's office likewise urged Yamhill County to do the same in order to enable the governor to direct certain line items of funding for homelessness response. Riggs believed that Yamhill County declined to issue the declaration because it came with certain strings tied to federal funding.

Lelack emphasized that the County must be able to decide how any funding is allocated. He said both are needed: the ability to determine how funding is used, and land use flexibility for siting managed camps or similar programs.

Janice Garceau asked if an emergency order would allow for a more diverse set of options which the County could utilize, including sanctioned encampments.

Commissioner DeBone wanted more clarity on what is being offered and on what terms.

3. Department Updates on Priority Bills

Lee Randall reported that SB 1047 has passed and been signed into law. This bill raises the small procurement dollar threshold from \$10,000 to \$25,000 and the intermediate procurement dollar threshold from \$150,000 to \$250,000. These changes will return efficiencies as small and intermediate procurements are simpler and faster to process. Randall said the County will revise its Code to align with the updated thresholds.

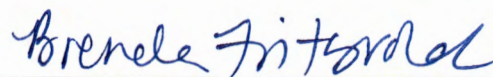
Dave Doyle added that in the interim, the County will be able to directly apply the revised State law before the changes to DCC take effect.

4. Other Items: None

Next Meeting: The next legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 16, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Commissioner DeBone adjourned the meeting at 8:24 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Brenda Fritsvold, BOCC Executive Assistant