



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

1:00 PM

MONDAY October 7, 2024

Allen Room
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Patti Adair, Tony DeBone and Phil Chang. Also present were County Administrator Nick Lelack; Deputy County Administrator Whitney Hale; 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 webpage www.deschutes.org/meetings.

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

CITIZEN INPUT: None

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Presentation: Four Rivers Vector Control District Annual Work Program

Myles Bowlin, Operations Manager of the Four Rivers Vector Control District, provided the annual presentation of the district's work program. He reminded that the district manages vector control for a 24-square mile area in South Deschutes County, described the boundaries of the district, and said its purpose is to lower the risk of mosquito-borne disease. Bowlin said the district worked very hard this year to add new staff, with the result that a full crew of five treated 676 acres this year in comparison to the 238 acres which were treated last year.

Bowlin spoke to the district's efforts to transmit information to the public using its website and radio spots. He noted concerns about protecting pollinating bees and said the district notifies those who keep bees in advance of fogging an area. He shared the results of last spring's stream bed samples at five locations, saying the after-treatment tests for residual pesticides all returned clear which indicates no overtreatment is happening. He noted that the district did see more larvae in the water at the beginning of this season than ever before.

Commissioner DeBone appreciated the district's efforts to have equipment and staff ready to go next spring. Referring to resident calls stating that the fog trucks are not observed, he wanted to ensure that the district is a healthy organization.

Bowlin explained that the fog trucks are fully electric and cannot be heard, although they are outfitted with lights and flashers. He assured that the district updates its website daily regarding the anticipated location of the trucks, saying that whether fogging happens depends on whether and how many mosquitoes are in the air. He concluded that the treatment placed in the water dissipates in three days and does not harm humans.

Discussion ensued of products that can be applied to human bodies to help repel mosquitoes.

2. Partnership Update: Bethlehem Inn and Adult Parole and Probation

Deevy Holcomb, Community Justice Director, said the County's Parole and Probation (P&P) division has partnered with Bethlehem Inn for nearly ten years to provide case management beds for Justice Reinvestment Program clients. These clients tend to be drug and property offenders who have recently been released from prison or who have received a downward departure in lieu of a prison sentence. The number of contracted beds has varied from three to seven, with seven contracted for fiscal year 2024.

Trevor Stephens, Community Justice Business Manager, shared statistics on the number of client intakes and exits for the last four quarters, noting the average length of stay is 61 days. Of the 29 unique persons admitted to the program over the last year, 72.4% exited to more stable housing while 27.6% returned to homelessness.

Gwenn Wysling, Executive Director of Bethlehem Inn, spoke to the mutual goals of the County and the Inn to assist clients towards self-sufficiency, adding that the Inn provides these services at the total cost of \$31.50 per client per night—this covers room, board and case management.

Wysling reviewed the self-sufficiency matrix used to evaluate the progress of clients with regard to shelter, employment, mental health and other factors. Based on this matrix, 79% of persons in the Justice Reinvestment Program show improved self-sufficiency. On average, program clients improve their self-sufficiency score by 63% while in the program.

Michael Hancock, Program & Operations Director, added that the initial extended stay offered to clients gives some measure of security at the outset of each person's time in the program. One dedicated case manager works with all P&P clients.

Holcomb summarized that Bethlehem Inn works with P&P to meet the needs of each individual client despite the difficulty of providing case management to some clients who don't necessarily want it.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Holcomb confirmed that all clients participating in this program continue to meet regularly with their parole or probation officer.

Hancock added that the Inn is operating at full capacity in Redmond right now in terms of shelter, and more beds are needed.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Hancock said Bethlehem Inn currently has only contracted beds in Bend.

Wysling added that Bethlehem Inn has over 70 partner agencies which its clients can be referred to for various services and resources.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Wysling surmised that persons in this program have a higher success rate than others because the P&P clients are motivated to not return to imprisonment. Wysling added that each person is unique and sets their own goals which the Inn then tries to help them meet.

Commissioner Adair said it is important for those who are frustrated by the system to make continual progress, and case management helps facilitate that.

3. United Way of Central Oregon Update on Video Lottery Grant Funds

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager, introduced Diana Fishette, Regional Executive Director of United Way of Central Oregon. Fishette expressed appreciation for the funds allocated by the Board to United Way over the years, noting that some of these were passed on to the Diaper Bank and Jericho Road

and sharing testimonials about the substantive positive impact these funds have had on those organizations.

Continuing, Fishette said United Way allocates funds received from the County and also from FEMA for emergency food and shelter. She described the process used to solicit and review applications for funding and award grants, and reviewed the list of organizations which were given video lottery funds through United Way.

Commissioner Adair spoke to the value of the Friends of the Children organization to communities in the County.

4. Proposed Updates to Cellular Phone Policy BLDG-2

Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator, explained the proposed changes to the County's cellular phone policy, which addresses County-issued cell phones as well as stipends for work-related use of personal phones. The changes are meant to provide more structure regarding the setting of stipend levels and who is eligible for those. Other changes address various factors affecting County-issued phones such as operating system updates.

Noting a majority of the Board was supportive of the proposed changes, Hale said staff will bring these back for formal action.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Adair attended last Friday's meeting of the Governor's Advisory Committee on DUI. She reported that this group, which is scheduled to be in Bend in early November, is considering recommending that the State reduce the level of legal intoxication from 0.08 BAC to 0.05.
- Commissioner DeBone reported on Thursday's meeting of the La Pine 2045 Plan Technical Advisory Committee.
- Commissioner DeBone attended the COIC Board meeting last Thursday and announced that Bob Townsend is COIC's new Transit Director.
- Commissioner DeBone said the Deschutes Citizen Assembly is poised to submit its recommendations to COIC.

Saying that his son participated in the Assembly as a representative of the age 18-24 group, Commissioner Chang looked forward to the Board's evaluation of those recommendations.

- Commissioner Chang said the Oregon MPO Consortium, a partnership of Oregon's eight Metropolitan Planning Organizations, is developing policy goals for the upcoming legislative session.

- Commissioner Adair reported that STIF funding was discussed at last week's COACT Executive Committee meeting.
- Commissioner Adair spoke to the matter of human trafficking along the Highway 97 corridor and suggested that Public Health post notices in public restrooms along the highway encouraging people to report human trafficking.
- Commissioner Adair attended a Central Oregon Villages open house on Saturday.
- Commissioner Adair attended a Collective luncheon on Thursday where Bill Shaw and Connie _____ were honored.
- Commissioner Adair reported that Veteran's Village is experiencing difficulty in completing its social center.
- Commissioner Chang noted that all three Commissioners attended the grand opening of the Old Mill Apartments this morning.

Commissioner Adair added that 25 of this development's 76 units have been set aside for people living in encampments at China Hat.

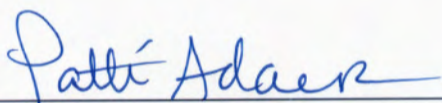
- Commissioner Adair expressed appreciation to Hayden Homes for converting the Squire Motel in Redmond to workforce housing.
- Commissioner DeBone said the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, chaired by Congressman Bentz, will hold a field hearing tomorrow at the Fairgrounds regarding Central Oregon's water supply.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None


ADJOURN:

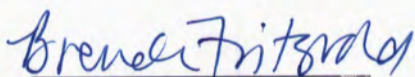
Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

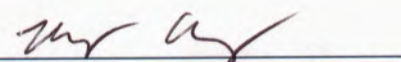
DATED this 13th day of November 2024 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.


 PATTI ADAIR, CHAIR

ATTEST:


 ANTHONY DEBONE, VICE CHAIR


 RECORDING SECRETARY


 PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER