



## 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 17, 2023

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

A virtual legislative update meeting was held on Friday, March 17, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform, for a weekly scheduled event during this 2023 Legislative Session.

| <b>Deschutes County Attendance:</b> |  |   |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| X                                   | Commissioner Anthony DeBone                    |   | Nick Lelack, County Administrator                                |
| X                                   | Commissioner Patti Adair                       |   | 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                               |
| 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   |
| 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          |   | Will Groves, Planning Manager                                    |
|                                     | Holly Harris, Behavioral Health Director       |   | Tania Mahood, IT Director  |

|                        |  |   |  |
|------------------------|--|---|--|
| X                      | Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager      | X | Brenda Fritsvold, BOCC Executive Assistant                     |
| X                      | Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager | X | Sarah Key, Loss Prevention Coordinator                         |
| <b>Others Present:</b> |  |   |  |
| X                      | Doug Riggs, NW Policy Advocates President    | X | Gabriel Velásquez, NW Policy Advocates Legislative Coordinator |

### 1. Introductions

Commissioner DeBone called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

### 2. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs reported that **SB 644**, which would allow ADUs to be built in high-risk wildfire zones, passed out of committee this week with tremendous bipartisan support. Commissioner DeBone asked if other counties have been as focused on this as Deschutes County. Riggs responded that Lane County has been most engaged, and he expected that other rural counties will also be interested. Commissioner Chang shared that he is in touch with Commissioner Buck from Lane County on this bill.

Continuing, Riggs said **HB 2001** regarding housing needs passed on the House floor on Wednesday and now goes to the Senate. Commissioner DeBone shared information from Cheyenne Purrington that Central Oregon, via its designated Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) group, is slated to receive approximately \$14 million for shelter and rehousing, in addition to \$1.37 million for homelessness prevention.

Riggs said **SB 4** was passed by the Semiconductor Committee on Wednesday. This bill involves the establishment of a grant and loan program to support businesses which produce semiconductors. Riggs noted the disappointment of some observers that this bill does not do everything necessary, such as offer a tax credit which the industry deems vital. Commissioner DeBone shared that he provided testimony advocating for the industrial-zoned land within Redmond's Urban Growth Boundary to further economic development efforts in response to the State's proposal to allow this use next to Washington County under an emergency order.

### 3. Department Updates on Priority Bills

Chris Doty summarized **SB 850**, which would require retention of certain contractors for any public project over \$750,000. At a minimum, the agreement would require prevailing wage rates, that apprentices perform a certain amount of the work, and that the agency establish and execute a plan for the recruitment and retention of

women, minority individuals and veterans to work on the project. Doty reported he has been asked to testify against this on behalf of AOC and Oasis.

Commissioner DeBone said while he is supportive of programs which train the next generation, he was hesitant to impose specific requirements. Riggs said this bill is opposed by many individual counties and cities in addition to the AOC, primarily due to concerns that conformance would be difficult to achieve in rural areas.

Commissioner Chang favored inviting further engagement and discussion not by opposing this bill outright, but instead by expressing alignment with its intention and suggesting that its sponsors take a different approach. Commissioner Adair shared her support for apprentice programs, and Commissioner DeBone agreed with advocating for the trade industries.

The Board was in consensus to authorize Doty to testify in opposition, unless the bill is amended. Doty summarized he will testify in support of the concept but state that this proposal is not workable for communities that lack the requisite level of apprenticeship programs.

Cheyenne Purrington elucidated on **HB 2001** and the role of the MAC group in distributing the funding that will be provided by the State. Commissioner Chang said the Coordinated Houseless Response Office should take a more active role in helping to coordinate and lead these efforts. Purrington said CHRO is working with MAC leader COIC, group members, and nonprofits to refine projects and develop a cohesive regional strategy. She offered to provide an update and coordinate a work session for the Board, CHRO and staff.

Sarah Key introduced the subject of **HB 3471**, which proposes to prohibit employers from entering into settlements or agreements that dispose of worker compensation claims which bar a person from seeking further employment with the employer unless such a provision is first requested by the former employee. Key said this change would open up the County to ongoing exposure from claims that had been brought by former employees. The Board was in consensus to place this bill on watch status.

Tom Kuhn referred to a draft letter of support for **HB 3090**, which would ban flavored tobacco and vaping products. He believed this legislation is needed to prevent these products from reaching underage persons. The Board was in consensus to issue a letter of support.

Kuhn further reported on HB 2574 and HB 2773, and asked for authorization to testify in favor of **SB 5525**. The Board was in agreement to authorize this testimony.

Whitney Hale referenced **SB 872**, which would instruct the State Forestry Department to coordinate fire prevention activities with federal agencies. Chair DeBone noted the concurrence of the Board to place this bill on watch status.

Commissioner Adair asked about the status of **HB 3549**, which would restore criminal penalties for possession of controlled substance offenses to the level prior to the enactment of Ballot Measure 110 when the person has been previously cited for Class E violation for possession of controlled substance. Commissioner DeBone supported placing this on the watch list.

Commissioner Chang hoped the County is tracking and will advocate for **HB 2544** which would fund behavioral health treatment beds as well as **HB 3126** which would establish at least three regional centers for pediatric mental health crisis resources and units. Riggs agreed with placing this on the support list, especially as the State has underfunded psychiatric treatment for youth, imposed too many regulations, and authorized paying providers at rates which hinder their recruitment and retention. Riggs also urged support of **HB 3009** which is a partner bill to create a community level system to address the needs of youth as they transition from treatment back to the community. Chair DeBone agreed to add these bills to next week's report and discuss taking positions at that time.

Kevin Moriarty inquired about the status of **HB 3142** which would allocate funds to soil and water conservation districts for juniper removal. Riggs explained the -2 (dash 2) amendment to this bill which adds clear sideboards and stipulations on how efforts would be undertaken, and said feedback thus far is either neutral or positive. He added that he expects companion bill **HB 3103** to move through the process over the next few weeks.

#### 4. Other Items:

- Commissioner Chang raised the need for funding to obtain more industrial air scrubbers and HEPA filters to guard against smoke inhalation and said public education is also needed to instruct homeowners on the proper use and replacement of these filters. Riggs offered to work with Sarah Worthington on this and report back next week.
- Noting that the County is in the process of appointing members to its Wolf Depredation Compensation and Finance Assistance Committee, Jen Patterson reported that the deadline to apply for Wolf Depredation Conservation funding is the day after tomorrow. Chair DeBone noted the concurrence of the Board to not submit a grant application this year.
- Commissioner Adair asked if **HB 3087** which relates to establishing a task force on elk and deer damage compensation funding is moving forward.

Commissioner DeBone supported adding this to the report for discussion next week.

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**Next Meeting:** The next legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 24, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

**Adjourn:** Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at 8:59 a.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by:*

  
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**Brenda Fritsvold, BOCC Executive Assistant**