



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

1:00 PM

MONDAY September 8, 2025

Allen Room
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Anthony DeBone, Patti Adair 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: www.deschutes.org/meetings.

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

CITIZEN INPUT: None

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Adair reported touring Veterans Village recently and said three women veterans are currently being served. Two-thirds of prior participants—40 of 60—have transitioned to more permanent housing.

Commissioner Adair relayed a request from Central Oregon Guardian Assistance for an additional \$100,000 in County financial support after assisting 42 individuals, 75% of whom are homeless or otherwise at-risk.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Proposed County IT Policy No. IT-4

Tania Mahood, IT Director, outlined a new internal policy that would allow employees to upload their Microsoft profile photographs directly, subject to

defined content standards, rather than IT staff uploading these.

Commissioner DeBone supported the proposed change of procedure.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Mahood said the time savings for IT staff would be modest, but the change is expected to have the result of greater employee participation.

Commissioner Adair sought clarification that simple tree imagery would constitute a neutral background. Mahood confirmed that the Policy Advisory Committee determined that such backgrounds would be acceptable.

2. Work Session: Property Line Adjustment / Minor Variance Text Amendments

Senior Planner Nicole Mardell briefed the Board on amendments scheduled for public hearing on Wednesday that would simplify property-line-adjustment procedures and remove outdated code provisions, including a ten-percent transfer limitation which conflicts with ORS 92.192. She reviewed typical motivations for property owners to seek adjustments, including lot-line corrections, land trades, and resolving encroachments. Planning Manager Will Groves estimated that a few dozen of these are applied for each year. Mardell concluded that after the Planning Commission held a public hearing on these changes, it unanimously recommended Board approval of the amendments as proposed.

Commissioner DeBone thanked the Planning Commission for its thorough review of the proposed amendments.

3. Work Session: Farm and Forest Housekeeping Amendments

Senior Planner Nicole Mardell summarized a package of housekeeping changes to align County code with recent state-level revisions affecting agritourism, home occupations and the definition of "private park." She cited relevant case law and reported support from the Planning Commission following a public hearing.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Mardell said certain traffic control requirements, including that wineries provide one traffic controller for every 250 vehicles, do not apply to the Fair & Expo Center.

Commissioner Chang requested maps showing both the 90,000 acres subject to the forthcoming Eastern Oregon solar rules and the boundaries of local irrigation districts. Saying that comprehensive water-rights maps are not available, Planning Manager Will Groves agreed to provide irrigation district maps as requested.

Discussion ensued of the Eastern Oregon solar siting rules which will be addressed at the Board's meeting on Wednesday. In response to Commissioner DeBone, listed the options before the Board that will be explained further on Wednesday, including opt out of the solar siting rules or opting in to them.

Responding to Commissioner DeBone, Community Development Director Peter Gutowsky said these rules are intended for sparsely populated, very rural counties. Saying that Deschutes County has just six small solar farms, he confirmed that even if the County opts out of the new rules, solar farms would continue to be allowed in accordance with existing regulations which require a conditional use permit for such uses.

Commissioner Chang requested a map of the electrical system transmission lines and their owners, saying that if a property is remote from a transmission system, it would make much less sense to allow a solar farm in that area.

OTHER ITEMS:

- The Commissioners acknowledged a letter drafted by Road Director Chris Doty to the US Secretary of Transportation regarding the Federal Surface Transportation Bill.

Commissioner Chang suggested adding language advocating for retaining funding from the federal lands access program (FLAP), which helps the County to perform critical maintenance such as chip sealing.

ADAIR: Move approval of a letter to the US Secretary of Transportation regarding the Federal Surface Transportation Bill as revised
DEBONE: Second

VOTE: ADAIR: Yes
CHANG: Yes
DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 3 - 0

Commissioner DeBone asked that copies of the letter be shared with the County's Congressional delegation.

- With regard to PacificCorp's new transmission line, Commissioner Chang said although Crook County was previously advocating for the selection of Route D, now it is not.

Commissioner DeBone noted that the Board has heard from residents of Powell Butte, among others, on this matter.

- Commissioner DeBone announced the annual Family Action Network Partner lunch is scheduled for next Wednesday.
- Commissioner Adair reported on last week's managed camp meeting in Redmond, saying the camp's opening has been rescheduled from December to January. She added that thus far, 200,000 pounds of trash has been removed from the property.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Commissioner Adair said an RFQ is being drafted for a vendor to manage the operations of the camp.

- Commissioner Adair attended last Friday's 35th anniversary celebration of Rimrock Trails and said this organization has helped many people.
- Saying that five homes were lost in the Flat Fire, Commissioner Adair asked if the County can expedite the permit process for affected property owners when they rebuild.

Confirming that CDD has a list of residences lost in this fire, Community Development Director Peter Gutowsky said the department will prioritize building permits from anyone who lost a lawfully constructed primary residence in this incident.

- Commissioner Adair reported that Oasis Village is currently housing 17 people and said thus far, 27 total homeless persons have been served, with five unsuccessfully exiting the program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:19 pm.

DATED this 1st day of OCT, 2025 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.


ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR

ATTEST:


RECORDING SECRETARY


PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR


PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER