



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon  
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FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

## DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION UPDATE

7:30 AM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025

ZOOM MEETING

A legislative work session was held on Friday, February 21, 2025 at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform.

<b>Deschutes County Attendance:</b>			
x	Commissioner Anthony DeBone, Chair	x	Nick Lelack, County Administrator
x	Commissioner Patti Adair, Vice Chair	x	Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator
x	Commissioner Phil Chang	x	Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator
x	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Tim Brownell, Director Solid Waste
	Sara Crosswhite, Director 9-1-1		Steve Dennison, County Clerk
x	Chris Doty, Director Road Department		David Doyle, Legal Counsel
	Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace	x	Janice Garceau, Director Health Services
x	Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney	x	Peter Gutowsky, Director Community Development
x	Holly Harris, Director Behavioral Health		Geoff Hinds, Director Fair & Expo
x	Deevy Holcomb, Director Community Justice	x	Heather Kaisner, Director Public Health
	Sean Kirk, Manager Veteran's Services	x	Bill Kuhn, Treasurer
x	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager		Scot Langton, Assessor
	Tania Mahood, Director Information Technology	x	Kevin Moriarty, Forester
x	Elizabeth Pape, Internal Auditor	x	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager

x	Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant	x	Lee Randall, Director Facilities
x	Kim Riley, Senior Assistant Legal Counsel		Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer
	Kent van der Kamp, Sheriff		Aaron Wells, Undersheriff
	Heather Herauf, Procurement Manager		Daniel Kieffer, Budget & Financial Planning Analyst
	Cody Smith, Assistant Director Road Department	x	Brenda Fritsvold, BOCC Executive Assistant
<b>Others Present:</b>			
x	Doug Riggs, Director NW Policy Advocates	x	Corey Barber, Outreach Director NW Policy Advocates
	Emma Innes, Associate NW Policy Advocates		
<b>Legislators Present:</b>			
x	Reagan Knopp, Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson's office	x	Senator Mike McLane
x	Representative Jason Kropf	x	Representative E. Werner Reschke
x	Senator Diane Linthicum		

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

### 2. Commissioner Updates

Chair DeBone welcomed legislators to the meeting.

Commissioner Adair spoke about the Oregon wildfire hazard map, noting there are homeowners in Eagle Crest and in other areas across Deschutes County who are unable to obtain homeowner's insurance. She is grateful that Sen. Broadman and Rep. Emerson Levy have joined the call to eliminate the map.

Related to wildfire, Commissioner Chang's priority in this session is to get the wildfire funding formula correct for adequate protection resources and technical assistance funding for defensible space and home hardening. He attributes insurance premium increases to the insurer's own proprietary maps and the losses experienced after the Labor Day 2020 wildfires. He's also concerned about groundwater level declines in the basin, and groundwater conservation issues. He is also concerned about IMPACTS grant funding for Behavioral Health (BH) and **HB 2024** for BH workforce, as well as youth psychiatric care.

### 3. Updates and Briefing from Legislators

Reagan Knopp from Rep. Breese-Iverson's office, provided a brief update. **HB 3135** related to continuing 2023's juniper removal funding. They are working on a technical amendment to ensure proper funding to the seven recipient counties. This juniper removal work will help with groundwater conservation. The Central Oregon Legislative Caucus was formed and is co-chaired by Rep. Breese-Iverson in the House and by Sen. Broadman in the Senate.

Riggs said there was a lot of discussion around wildfires and wildfire prevention. Soil moisture was highlighted by a Hydrologist as an important factor. The CORE3 Executive Committee, including Commissioner DeBone, Redmond Mayor Fitch, Nathan Garibay, Bend Police Chief Krantz, and COIC, among others, met on Thursday and spoke about wildfire response and a Cascadia event.

Sen. McLane of Powell Butte is grateful for the engagement as things begin to ramp up. He summarized his committee involvement. He suggested Deschutes County continue their involvement in legislative issues, stating that "if you're not at the table, then you're on the menu". Responding to Commissioner Chang, Sen. McLane did not have any updates to share related to IMPACTS grant funding. He said that Sen. Broadman may have information on IMPACTS grant funding, but Sen. Broadman was not on today's call. Harris noted that public testimony was scheduled for this topic last week but cancelled due to inclement weather.

Rep. Reschke emphasized Sen. McLane's comments related to the budget. With the new administration, there is uncertainty over federal funding based on state-level decisions. The next revenue forecast will be released this Wednesday. The last one forecasted a 26.7% increase in the General Fund from the current biennium, but he believes that number to be high.

Sen. Linthicum reported there has been a lot of discussion on the fire maps and there has been bipartisan movement. She spoke of her participation on committees related to healthcare, human services and early childhood. Riggs noted that Deschutes County is closely following the bill sponsored by Rep. Levy, related to youth behavioral health psychiatric facilities.

Rep. Kropf said that budget discussions this session will be difficult due to the current economic climate. In two weeks, discussions will take place around the need for youth substance abuse treatment and youth behavioral health. Holly Harris spoke about a bill related to establishing subacute youth psychiatric facilities, likening them to triage facilities.

#### **4. County Priorities**

#### **5. Closing Comments**

**Next Meeting:** The next virtual legislative delegation update meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 21 at 7:30 a.m.

**Adjourn:** Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at 8:00 a.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by:*

  
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**Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant**