



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

9:00 AM

WEDNESDAY April 1, 2026

Barnes Sawyer Rooms
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Phil Chang, Anthony DeBone and Patti Adair. Also present were County Administrator Nick Lelack; 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 website www.deschutes.org/meetings.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Chang called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZEN INPUT:

- Ron Bozell said the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) is not serving the US Constitution, and as a result of ICE agents having shot dead two US citizens, people are afraid of its actions. He asked that the County file a restraining order against ICE and direct that any valid federal warrants be presented to DCSO for processing.

Commissioner Chang said while he has not heard if any counties have taken these types of actions, he would find it interesting to review such restraining orders if any have been issued.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Announcing that the High Desert Stampede rodeo would be starting that evening at the Fairgrounds, Commissioner DeBone noted that Deschutes County hosts both the first and last rodeos of the Northwest Pro Rodeo Association season.

Commissioner Adair added that the Commissioners are invited to be introduced at the rodeo this Thursday evening.

- Commissioner Adair shared information regarding her attendance at a family memorial service in Pendleton and spoke to the past donation of her family's still-functioning sawmill to the High Desert Museum.
- Commissioner Adair reported that a solar project had executed a lease in Lake County after she encouraged the group to pursue opportunities to increase power availability in rural Oregon.
- Commissioner Chang attended the KIDS Center Healing Hearts luncheon yesterday.

CONSENT AGENDA: Before the Board was consideration of the Consent Agenda.

1. Approval of Document No. 2026-0180, an amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement between Central Oregon Law Enforcement Services and Deschutes County
2. Consideration of Board Signature on letter appointing Gary Anderson for service on the Deschutes River Recreation Homesites Special Road District #8
3. Approval of the minutes of the BOCC meetings on March 4, 11, 16 and 18, 2026

ADAIR: Move Board approval of the Consent Agenda as presented
 DEBONE: Second

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

ACTION ITEMS:

4. Proclamation: Child Abuse Prevention Month

Staley Slaughter, Development Director for MountainStar Family Relief Nursery, summarized the prevention and intervention services offered by MountainStar and provided statistics regarding reports of suspected child abuse and confirmed cases.

Heather Amaral, Program Manager for Healthy Families of the High Desert, explained that Healthy Families works with families prenatally and at birth to ensure connections to needed resources.

Rachel Visser, Prevention Education Manager for the KIDS Center, said the Center advocates for families and children and offers therapy and child-friendly medical examinations, among other services.

Commissioner DeBone thanked the organizations for their work and noted the importance of community investment in early childhood development and the need to reduce adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

Commissioner Adair referenced local fundraising support for prevention and response services.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Slaughter cited research on how early family support reduces later CPS involvement as well as foster care and juvenile justice costs.

The Board read the proclamation into the record.

ADAIR: Move approval of a proclamation declaring the month of April, 2026 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Deschutes County

DEBONE: Second

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

5. Proclamation: Fair Housing Month

Morgan Greenwood, Government Affairs Director with the Cascades East Association of Realtors, summarized the Fair Housing Act's purpose and protections and explained the effect of housing stability on community health and economic resilience.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Greenwood explained that current-day discrimination is more likely to happen in more opaque ways than in the past.

The Board read the proclamation into the record.

DEBONE: Move approval of a proclamation declaring the month of April, 2026 as "Fair Housing Month" in Deschutes County

ADAIR: Second

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

6. Presentation on the impacts of heavy cannabis use on mental health

Shannon Brister-Raugust, Behavioral Health Director, introduced presenters Ann Linton, Psychiatrist; Sam Murray, Psychiatrist and Medical Director; and Jessica Jacks, Prevention and Health Promotion Program Manager.

Jacks reviewed statewide and local data regarding marijuana use, saying that 11th graders in Deschutes County are more likely to use alcohol and cannabis than their peers across the state. She further reviewed prevention strategies, including education, support and incentives.

Dr. Linton and Dr. Murray provided an overview of cannabis components and summarized information regarding mental health risks associated with heavy and chronic cannabis use, including psychotic disorder. Dr. Linton reported that cannabis use in adults aged 19-30 and 35-50 is at record highs. Adding that cannabis potency has increased tremendously over last 30 years, she described the effects of cannabis use on mood and anxiety.

Dr. Murray summarized research addressing the relationship between cannabis use and schizophrenia, saying that of the factors that lead to developing schizophrenia, cannabis use is the only controllable one. He further reported on the heightened risk associated with cannabis-induced psychosis.

Dr. Murray listed possible physical impacts of cannabis use, including blood clots, heart attacks, and increased risk for certain cancers. Up to 22% of cannabis users develop cannabis use disorder, which can lead to cognitive impairment, poor school or work performance, and mood disorders. When treated for cannabis use disorder, 50% of users achieve remission, but 70% then return to using cannabis.

Following the presentation on cannabis, Brister-Raugust provided an update regarding Behavioral Health Resource Network (Measure 110) changes and local service delivery, including the County's role and that of its partner organizations. She described funding reductions and the impact of these on staffing and service levels, in particular with respect to programs associated with outreach and peer support.

Commissioner Adair shared that the County's jail reports that 92% of inmates have a substance use disorder.

Commissioners DeBone and Adair requested that the information presented on risks associated with cannabis use be made available broadly to the public and that the presenters return for an updated briefing in approximately one year.

7. First reading of Ordinance No. 2026-009 rezoning property at 19975 Destiny Court, Bend from Exclusive Farm Use to Multiple Use Agricultural

Caroline House, Senior Planner, presented Ordinance No. 2026-009 for consideration of first reading. The ordinance would rezone property at 19975 Destiny Court from Exclusive Farm Use to Multiple Use Agricultural. House noted that Exhibit I, which lists Conditions of Approval for the rezone, was inadvertently not referenced in the background memo.

Commissioner Chang restated his reasons for opposing this zone change, saying he disagrees that the evidence presented proves that the property is not suitable for identified farm uses. He also referred to attempts to extinguish the property's existing water rights and said it is important that the County enable cluster development on appropriate properties.

DEBONE: Move approval of first reading of Ordinance No. 2026-009

ADAIR: Second

VOTE:

DEBONE: Yes

ADAIR: Yes

CHANG: Chair votes no. Motion Carried 2 - 1

Chair Chang read the title of the ordinance into the record.

8. Second reading of Ordinance 2026-007 - Tumalo RV Park Text Amendments

Audrey Stuart, Associate Planner, presented Ordinance No. 2026-007 for consideration of second reading and adoption, reminding that this applicant-initiated text amendment would allow RV parks as a conditional use in the Tumalo Commercial District. It would also establish siting standards for new RV parks in the District.

It was noted that the ordinance would not approve any specific RV park, but instead allow for consideration of a future conditional use application for this use.

DEBONE: Move approval of second reading of Ordinance No. 2026-007 by title only
CHANG: Second

VOTE: DEBONE: Yes
 ADAIR: No
 CHANG: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 2 – 1

Chair Chang read the title of the ordinance into the record.

DEBONE: Move adoption of Ordinance No. 2026-007, amending Deschutes County Code Title 18, Zoning Ordinance, to amend the Development Standards for Recreational Vehicle Parks in the Tumalo Commercial District
CHANG: Second

VOTE: DEBONE: Yes
 ADAIR: No
 CHANG: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 2 – 1

9. Body-Worn Camera, Taser, and Fleet Camera Grant Opportunity

Jeff Price, DCSO Business Manager, explained the need of the Sheriff's Office to replace body-worn cameras, fleet cameras, and tasers to secure available system improvements and because the current equipment is approaching end-of-life. He said the DCSO had already submitted a Congressionally-directed spending allocation request due to a short submission window.

Sheriff Ty Rupert said if approved, this allocation would reduce financial impacts on County taxpayers, although DCSO would remain responsible for anticipated continuing costs for software, storage, and maintenance of the equipment. Sheriff Rupert spoke to advantages of the new system, including the ability to record video while muting audio input when appropriate.

Commissioners discussed the structure of the funding request and timing expectations for Congressional consideration.

ADAIR: Move to authorize a grant application from the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office for 2027 Congressionally-directed spending for Body-Worn Camera, Taser, and Fleet Camera equipment
DEBONE: Second

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

10. Central Oregon Health Information Exchange Grant

Cheryl Smallman, Administrative Services Deputy Director for Health Services, sought authorization to apply for a Central Oregon Health Information Exchange grant in the amount of \$70,000 which would be used to migrate approximately 21,000 client records from a legacy database which is at risk for continued access into the County's Epic OCHIN electronic health record system.

DEBONE: Move to authorize Health Services and IT to apply for—and accept, if awarded—a Central Oregon Health Information Exchange Grant as described

ADAIR: Second

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

Item #12 and "Other Items" were taken up before the lunch break.

12. Request from COCC for letter supporting its proposal for capital funding from the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Nick Lelack, County Administrator, summarized a request from Central Oregon Community College for a letter from the Board supporting COCC's proposal for capital funding through the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission to update and modernize key campus buildings in Bend and Redmond, including buildings which support career and technical education and STEM programs.

DEBONE: Move to approve a letter from the Board supporting COCC's proposal for capital funding through the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission as described

ADAIR: Second

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

OTHER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Adair shared that the annual Rascal Rodeo event will take place this Saturday.
- Commissioners discussed the announced closure of the business which operates Munchkin Manor and how this will impact those who receive childcare services from

this facility. County Administrator Lelack confirmed that the current operator will cease operating at the end of June and described ongoing work to identify a new childcare provider and maintain continuity of childcare services at that location. Commissioners discussed the importance of stability and predictability for County employees and childcare staff during the transition.

A lunch recess was announced at 11:08 am. The meeting reconvened at 12:30 pm.

11. Annual Update: Economic Development of Central Oregon (EDCO)

Laura Skundrick, Management Analyst, introduced EDCO's annual update, reminding that the Board has preliminarily approved allocating \$324,517 in video lottery funds to EDCO in FY 2027.

John Stark, EDCO CEO, presented EDCO's annual update, introducing EDCO staff and noting key staffing changes including a new venture catalyst and a Bend-area director transition. Stark reviewed EDCO's mission and summarized its updated strategic plan, including primary goals and associated action items. He listed EDCO's targeted industries and reported outcomes from the prior strategic plan period relating to job creation, capital investment, and equity generated, saying that area GDP from 2019 to 2024 grew at 2.5 times the State's GDP growth rate over that period.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Stark explained EDCO's legislative agenda, including positions taken on measures affecting business investment.

Brian Vierra, outgoing venture catalyst for EDCO, said the status of the venture catalyst portfolio has remained fairly consistent, with many start-ups yet to be approached through EDCO's mentor network.

Steve Curley, REDI Director, reported on economic development successes in the Redmond area, including the new Amazon warehouse.

Citing a previous commitment, Commissioner Chang exited the meeting at 1:19 pm.

Patricia Lucas, SLED Director, highlighted current projects in the Sunriver-La Pine area and said the incubator is expected to be completed in early 2027.

Eric Stroebel, Sisters Area Director, reported that BasX now employes 40 workers in Sisters. Adding that the city's UGB will soon expand by 250 acres, he said 56 of these will be zoned for commercial and industrial uses.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm.

DATED this 15th day of April, 2026 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.



PHIL CHANG, CHAIR

ATTEST:

Brenda Trippel
RECORDING SECRETARY



ANTHONY DEBONE, VICE CHAIR



PATTI ADAIR, COMMISSIONER