



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

# BOCC MEETING MINUTES

9:00 AM

**WEDNESDAY April 30, 2025**

Barnes Sawyer Rooms  
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Anthony DeBone, Patti Adair and Phil Chang. 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](http://www.deschutes.org/meetings).

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### CITIZEN INPUT:

- Vic Russell explained his interest in expanding his quarry in La Pine and asked that the County issue a letter of support to enable that moving forward.

Commissioner DeBone said this matter pertains to a previous letter sent to Congressman Cliff Bentz supporting the acquisition of 40 acres in the Deschutes National Forest by the County, which would then sell it to a private property owner.

Commissioner Chang said he has scheduled a meeting with Mr. Russell and others to gain more information on this matter.

Commissioner Adair recognized the work of Congressman Bentz to help clear and clean up federal land in the China Hat area, saying that unauthorized encampments have negatively affected nearby residents for years.

**CONSENT AGENDA: Before the Board was Consideration of the Consent Agenda.**

1. Consideration of Board Signature on letters thanking Brian Durbin and reappointing James Wood for service on the Deschutes County Investment Advisory Committee
2. Consideration of Board Signature on letters of appointment, reappointment and thanks for the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
3. Approval of the minutes of the April 18, 2025 BOCC Legislative Update
4. Approval of the minutes of the April 18, 2025 BOCC Legislative Delegation Update
5. Approval of the April 9, 2025 BOCC meeting minutes

ADAIR: Move Board approval of the Consent Agenda as presented, including edits to the minutes of April 9, 2025 as referenced

CHANG: Second

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

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**ACTION ITEMS:**

**6. Proclamation and recognition of the Bend Chapter of Vietnam Veterans Chapter 820**

Commissioner DeBone announced that today being the date of the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, the County was acknowledging a proclamation signed by Governor Kotek as well as presenting one of its own.

Thao Duc Tu, representative of the Vietnamese Community of Oregon, expressed his appreciation for acknowledging the 50th Anniversary of Vietnamese Remembrance Day which honors more than 58,000 American forces and more than 300,000 South Vietnamese soldiers who lost their lives in the war between North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

Commissioner DeBone read the proclamation issued by Governor Kotek into the record, after which the Commissioners read the County's proclamation into the record.

Commissioner Adair commented on the significant impacts on the friends and family members of those who died in the war.

Commissioner Chang shared that his family was driven out of mainland China during the civil war era and experienced the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Commissioner DeBone acknowledged that some American servicemen are still MIA to this day.

CHANG: Move approval of a proclamation recognizing April 30, 2025 as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conclusion of the Vietnam War

ADAIR: Second

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

Veterans of the Vietnam War in attendance spoke to their experiences both during and after the war and to historical resources available online. It was noted that Senior Master Sergeant Bennie Dexter from Bend is still listed as MIA.

ADAIR: Move to amend the proclamation to refer to sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen in addition to soldiers

CHANG: Second

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

Commissioner DeBone said the County's Veterans Service Office provides resources and services to veterans.

Sean Kirk, manager of the County's Veterans Services Office, spoke to the extremely minimal number of United States citizens who serve in the military, encouraged not forgetting the families of veterans, and suggested that non-veterans thank persons who have served for our freedom as well as their service.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Kirk said there are just over 14,000 veterans in Deschutes County.

Commissioner Chang said the Veterans' Services Office connects veterans with programs, resources and services due them.

Commissioner Adair said veterans needing housing should contact Veterans Village.

**7. Consideration of a Memorandum of Ground Lease Agreement with Mountain View Community Development involving the use of County-owned property in East Redmond for permanent supportive housing**

Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager, said although the Board approved the ground lease agreement last week, a separate Memorandum of Understanding must be recorded on the property's title to memorialize the lease.

Commissioner Adair hoped that Mountain View Community Development will set aside some of the 75 units of permanent supportive housing for veterans.

ADAIR: Move approval of Document No. 2025-391, a Memorandum of Ground Lease Agreement with Mountain View Community Development involving the use of County-owned property in East Redmond for permanent supportive housing

CHANG: Second

VOTE: CHANG: Yes

ADAIR: Yes

DEBONE: Chair votes no. Motion Carried 2 - 1

Explaining his vote against this is due to this property being in the City of Redmond's UGB, Commissioner DeBone said he would have rather left it to the City to decide whether and how to proceed with this type of project at this location.

Commissioner Adair said Redmond has communicated to the County regarding what it believes is appropriate for this site. Commissioner Chang added that the County has also partnered with entities such as the Deschutes Children's Foundation to provide important services to the community using County-owned land in Redmond.

**8. Introduction of newly appointed Sunriver Service District Chief of Police Peter Rasic**

Jim Fister, Chair of the Sunriver Service District Board, introduced Chief Rasic.

Chief Rasic looked forward to meeting everyone individually and working with everyone collaboratively.

The Commissioners welcomed Chief Rasic to Sunriver and spoke to the partnership between the County and the service district.

**9. Public hearing and consideration of Resolution 2025-010 adopting a supplemental budget and transferring appropriations for the Sunriver Service District Public Safety Building**

Mindy Holliday, Administrator of the Sunriver Service District (SSD), explained that because construction of SSD's public safety building project is proceeding faster than expected, funds expected to be spent in Fiscal Year 2026 will need to be expended this year instead.

*The Board convened as the governing body of the Sunriver Service District.*

*The public hearing was opened at 9:44 am. There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed at 9:44 am.*

CHANG: Move approval of Resolution No. 2025-010, transferring appropriations within the Sunriver Service District Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25

ADAIR: Second

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

*The Board reconvened as the governing body for Deschutes County.*

**10. Spay & Neuter Grant Program Consideration**

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager, reminded that the County's Spay & Neuter Grant Program utilizes funds contributed by pet owners to make grants to organizations which provide spay and neuter services at low or no cost. The program currently has a balance of \$4,374; per the Board's decision in 2023, this amount does not include any General Fund allocation to the program. Patterson shared that previous grant recipients have reached out to inquire about funding availability.

Commissioner Adair supported approving an allocation from the General Fund to make the amount available for these grants a total of \$5,000 and proceeding with soliciting applications.

Saying this program is a good investment, Commissioner Chang said although the budget is tight, he too supported soliciting for and awarding grants totaling at least \$5,000.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Patterson said she will ask the County's Communications team to collaborate with pertinent staff in the Finance Department and brainstorm ways to encourage people to donate to the Spay & Neuter program as they obtain or renew their pet licenses.

Commissioner DeBone supported granting the available funds with no contribution from the General Fund.

Commissioner Chang suggested that organizations be invited to apply for grants in the range of \$500 to \$2000.

The Board was in consensus to solicit applications for grants up to \$2,000 each.

#### **11. Deschutes County Property / East of Redmond / Code Enforcement Violation**

Angie Havniear, Administrative Manager for the Community Development Department, sought direction from the Board regarding Code enforcement violations on County-owned property east of Redmond. Havniear presented three options for the Board's consideration, as follows:

1. Hold Code enforcement violations contained within case #247-24-000300-CE in abeyance;
2. After a managed camp is established in Redmond, utilize a voluntary compliance agreement with specific benchmarks that encompasses all violations stated in the Notice of Violation; or
3. Initiate Policy No. GA-23 and remove all unpermitted homeless encampments.

Commissioner Chang said while the County's goal is to reduce unauthorized encampments, removing these without offering a sanctioned location for people to move to would only shift the problem of unauthorized encampments from one place to another.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Havniear explained that a voluntary compliance agreement (VCA) lays out specific actions to be accomplished at certain times. The goal is to progressively move from the state of non-compliance into compliance.

Commissioner Adair referred to the managed camp which will begin operating this year in Redmond and spoke to the risk of fires spreading from unauthorized encampments. She suggested that Deer Ridge could be used as a place where people with mental illness and/or substance use disorder could get help.

Peter Gutowsky, Community Development Director, spoke to the complexity of the circumstances and acknowledged that none of the three options are ideal. He explained the difference between the options in terms of the various projects and efforts tied to the County-owned land in Redmond (i.e., the DSL land swap, CORE3 project, MVCD project, managed camp), and said the option involving a VCA has less flexibility than holding the Code violation in abeyance.

Noting that the County's stated priorities concern the DSL land swap and managing the closure of Juniper Ridge next year, Deputy County Administrator Erik Kropp recommend that the Board place this matter in abeyance.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Kropp said the County is incrementally cleaning up the land intended to be swapped with DSL and preventing new encampments in this area.

Commissioner Chang preferred to see a broader strategy with a first phase of work involving the activation of the managed camp, the closing of the TSSA at Juniper Ridge, and the clearing of the DSL land. He wanted to assign timelines for this stage of work and also for subsequent stages.

Kropp said staff can return with such a plan once it is known when the managed camp will open.

Stressing the danger of fires spreading from encampments and the proliferation of large amounts of trash, Commissioner Adair said the County cannot continue to allow people to live on public land. Noting that many others receive notice of Code violations, she wanted a clear timeline for addressing this in the interest of public safety.

Commissioner Chang agreed it would be good to have a timeline as long as it's achievable. He supported identifying a phased approach with specific actions, starting with the opening of the managed camp.

Adding that many people who live in the encampments have firearms, Commissioner Adair said these areas are unsafe.

Kropp stressed that the County cannot yet develop a timeline of phased actions with dates until it's known when the managed camp will open.

Nick Lelack, County Administrator, suggested that staff return to the Board on May 28<sup>th</sup> with a draft framework for taking next steps. The Board was in consensus to bring this matter back on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **OTHER ITEMS:**

- Commissioner Chang attended the Change in Patterns fundraising event on Saturday and explained this organization assists persons who were incarcerated to re-enter society after their release, noting that strategic investments by the County have helped these efforts.
- Commissioner Adair reported on the work of the selection committee for new art at the Redmond Airport, which is undergoing a \$185 million expansion.
- Commissioner Adair testified in support of funding for the Terrebonne Sanitary District capital request at a meeting of the Ways & Means Committee in Klamath Falls. She reported that Deschutes County stands to receive \$585,000 from a bill to fund the removal of juniper trees in various counties, should the legislation pass.
- Commissioner Debone referred to the recent interviews conducted by the Commissioners for the BOCC-appointed position to the COIC Board representing the unemployed and underemployed populations.

ADAIR: Move to appoint Matt Ertle to the COIC Board representing the unemployed and underemployed populations

CHANG: Second

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

- Commissioner DeBone announced he will be in Salem next Wednesday for the SIEC conference and will Zoom in for the Board's meeting that day.
- Commissioner DeBone spoke to the Board's need to decide how to appoint members to the committee which will develop draft Commissioner districts for the voters' consideration. He shared his idea that each Commissioner appoint three persons for a total nine-member committee and said this matter will come back before the BOCC on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:**

At 10:37 am, the Board entered executive session under ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Real Property Negotiations and ORS 192.660 (2) (h) Litigation.

At 10:59 am, the executive session concluded.



**ADJOURN:**

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 am.

DATED this 28<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2025 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.



**ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR**

**ATTEST:**



**RECORDING SECRETARY**



**PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR**



**PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER**