



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

8:00 AM

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

A virtual legislative update meeting was held on Friday, May 19, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform, for a weekly scheduled event during this 2023 Legislative Session.

Deschutes County Attendance:			
x	Commissioner Anthony DeBone	x	Nick Lelack, County Administrator
x	Commissioner Patti Adair	x	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
	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney
	Peter Gutowsky, Community Development Director	x	Kathleen Hinman, Human Resources Director
	Keith MacNamara, Veterans' Services Manager	x	Deevy Holcomb, Community Justice Director
x	Lee Randall, Facilities Director	x	Kevin Moriarty, Forester
x	Chad Centola, Solid Waste Director		Tim Brownell, Incoming Solid Waste Director
	Shane Nelson, Sheriff		Sara Crosswhite, 9-1-1 Director
	Steve Dennison, Clerk	x	Cheyenne Purrington, Houseless Strategies and Solutions Director
	Geoff Hinds, Fair & Expo Director		Scot Langton, Assessor
	Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace	x	Tania Mahood, IT Director
x	Holly Harris, Health Services Deputy Director (Behavioral Health)		Will Groves, Planning Manager

x	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager		Heather Kaisner, Health Services Deputy Director (Public Health)
x	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager	x	Bill Kuhn, Treasurer
x	Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant		
Legislators Present:			
	Senator Lynn Findley		Senator Tim Knopp
x	Representative Emerson Levy		Senator Dennis Linthicum
	Representative Vikki Breese Iverson		Representative Werner Reschke
x	Representative Jason Kropf		Andy Smith, Rep. Kropf's office
	Bryan Iverson, on behalf of Representative Vikki Breese Iverson		
Others Present:			
x	Doug Riggs, NW Policy Advocates President		Gabriel Velásquez, NW Policy Advocates Legislative Coordinator

1. Introductions

Commissioner DeBone called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

2. Legislator Updates

Representative Levy reported that it's been a tough week, and many bills important to the County are on the Senate side, which is not a great place to be right now. The positive revenue forecast that came out this week makes her optimistic for additional funding towards education and drought relief. The school safety panic button (Alyssa's Law) will be funded in the budget. Rep. Levy reported that on the House side, they have engaged in positive bipartisan work, and approximately 87% of their bills are bipartisan. Mr. Riggs echoed this sentiment. There are a large number of people aging out of the workforce and a lot of outmigration, which affects long-term revenue. Improving the livability of Portland and keeping high earners in the cities is important, as a declining population has a large impact on future revenues.

She put forward a land supply bill which takes Stevens Road and makes it a pilot / model for the state. It has been contentious, and there is not a path forward this legislative session. The goal is to increase land supply and expedite our urban reserves, while keeping contiguous parcels and maintaining environmental values, but recognizing that we are in a housing crisis.

Mr. Riggs said that he is still hopeful for Courthouse funding in Ways & Means. Many priority behavioral health, substance use and abuse treatment and workforce housing bills are still on the table.

Holly Harris, Behavioral Health Director, asked if there would be an influx of money to the Criminal Justice Commission for IMPACTS funding with the new revenue forecast. IMPACTS funding supports the Stabilization Center. Rep. Levy and Rep. Kropf will look into this and get back to Ms. Harris.

Janice Garceau, Health Services Director, noted that the Governor highlighted housing, behavioral health and homelessness, after the revenue forecast came out but no mention of public health funding. She noted a decrease in public health funding post-COVID, and asked about advocacy for public health funding.

The Board thanked Rep. Levy for her representation.

Rep. Kropf reported that the prioritization at the beginning of the legislative session was a useful exercise, with an assumption of a lower revenue forecast. He expressed frustration at the lack of progress due to the Senate walkout, noting that voters don't want to see unexcused absences. He's concerned about funding making it to the high priority causes. The budget will be the main focus in the upcoming weeks.

Deevy Holcomb noted that in Ballot Measure 110, it indicates that any cost savings will be added up and removed from public safety and put into behavioral health and/or substance use and abuse treatment. The Criminal Justice Commission is responsible for calculating this cost savings. The Department of Corrections budget forecast reflects a \$40 million decrease from the last biennium. Rep. Kropf will schedule a meeting with Ms. Holcomb at a later date to address this topic and follow up. Mr. Riggs commended Rep. Kropf for having helpful and professional staff.

The Board thanked Rep. Kropf for his representation.

3. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Chang asked Mr. Riggs for a status update for a number of bills he's tracking that are far along in the process. Mr. Riggs said that there will be a list of prioritized and agreed-upon bills that both parties can accept, then passing a budget and going through the Ways & Means process will progress. Alternately, pending bills will die if both parties cannot come to agreement upon these prioritized bills. It's advantageous to get bills through early to prevent a stalemate. Mr. Riggs reported that most bills were passing prior to the Senate walkout.

Whitney Hale highlighted this week's bill report. Commissioner Adair requested **HB 2506 (dash 9)** be added to the report, which extends the definition of a residential home and residential facilities that local governments can approve. This bill will aid

Wasco County's proposed 42-bed inpatient psychiatric facility. Board position of Priority 2/Support maintained.

HB 3457 relates to Enterprise Zones. Erik Kropp said that this bill increases the minimum amount required for an enterprise zone project, and adds a CPI index so the amount goes up annually. This would impact economic development by limiting the number of projects eligible for enterprise zones. At Wednesday's BOCC meeting, the Board approved adding the Deschutes County logo onto a letter opposing HB 3457 and HB 2199. Mr. Riggs added that HB 2199 is more likely to pass than HB 3457.

CHANG: Move taking a position of opposition/priority 2 to HB 3457 and adding the DC logo to the letter of opposition

ADAIR: Second

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

Whitney Hale spoke about **Policy Option Package (POP) 101** which Oregon Judicial Department submitted, which would provide additional funding to increase the number of pretrial officers statewide. Locally, there is a request for four pretrial officers and currently there is only one position. This one person does not have capacity to meet with all defendants pretrial. Ms. Hale reported that DCSO Cap. Shults has expressed that office's support.

ADAIR: Move taking a position of support to POP 101 and Board signature on a revised letter of support

CHANG: Second

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

Janice Garceau, Health Services Director, spoke about the **Mosman Order**. This order was issued in response to Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) bringing a lawsuit against the Oregon State Hospital for keeping patients on Aid & Assist commitments longer than the law allows. Counties are required by law to receive these individuals into the community and provide appropriate placement for them. Counties have intervened in existing litigation, and five Circuit Court Judges have brought forth litigation asking for a modification to the Mosman Order. A number of counties, including Deschutes, have been asked to participate as amici (friends of the court). Participation will allow for the Counties to have limited involvement in the litigation

without becoming parties to the litigation, so risk is low. The benefit for the County would be to have limited input into the proposed modifications to the Mosman Order to help mitigate impacts to counties.

ADAIR: Move participating as amicus, or a Friend of the Court (non-party)
CHANG: Second

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

4. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs reported the revenue forecast came out on Wednesday, and is up a staggering amount. Ways & Means is beginning to crunch the numbers to determine allocations from the billions of dollars of requests. Some takeaways:

- \$1.8 billion in increased tax revenue since the March forecast
- \$5.5 billion kicker will go back to taxpayers
- Corporate kicker is \$1.8 billion and will go directly to K-12 education
- Lottery revenues were flat
- The percentage of filers in the top tax bracket grew from 3.5% to 5.3%
- Unemployment remains low

The Republican Senate walkout continued. Yesterday, ten of eleven Republicans reached ten days of unexcused absences. Voters had passed ballot measure 113, which amended the state constitution so a lawmaker with ten or more unexcused absences in a legislative session would be ineligible to run for a legislative seat in the next election. Mr. Riggs said this will be challenged in court. Work continues on the House floor.

5. Other Items

- No other items were brought forth for discussion.

Next Meeting: There will be no meeting next week on May 26, 2023 due to Budget Week and other commitments by the Commissioners. The next virtual legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 9, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted by:



Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant