



# 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, APRIL 14, 2023

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

A virtual legislative update meeting was held on Friday, April 14, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform, for a weekly scheduled event during this 2023 Legislative Session.

<b>Deschutes County Attendance:</b>			
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	x	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
x	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager	x	Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney
x	Peter Gutowsky, Community Development Director		Kathleen Hinman, Human Resources Director
	Keith MacNamara, Veterans' Services Manager		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	x	Sara Crosswhite, 9-1-1 Director
	Steve Dennison, Clerk	x	Cheyenne Purrington, Houseless Strategies and Solutions Director
x	Geoff Hinds, Fair & Expo Director		Scot Langton, Assessor
	Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace	x	Tania Mahood, IT Director
	Holly Harris, Behavioral Health Director		Will Groves, Planning Manager

x	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager	x	Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant
x	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager	x	Tanner Wark, Deputy Director Community Justice (for Deevy Holcomb)
x	Heather Kaisner, Health Services Deputy Director		
<b>Others Present:</b>			
x	Doug Riggs, NW Policy Advocates President		Gabriel Velásquez, NW Policy Advocates Legislative Coordinator

### 1. Introductions

Commissioner Adair, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

### 2. Legislator Updates

Doug Riggs provided an update. Caucuses are already meeting, and Senators are traveling to Newport for the Ways and Means road show hearing, so no legislators will be present at today's meeting. We are halfway through this legislative session.

### 3. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Chang asked Mr. Riggs for the status of the drought package. **HB 3124** is the overall drought package. The specifics of the package are not contained in the bill, but the specifics will be an amendment or a variety of bills passing through Ways and Means Committee after the revenue forecast on May 18-19. This is a funding bill with over \$253 million for projects.

Nick Lelack reported that **SB 644** is scheduled for public hearing and work session next Wednesday. Mr. Riggs is pleased that this bill isn't going through Ways and Means where it may have stalled. Close to sixty bills are awaiting action on the floor, and they are moving very slowly. Mr. Riggs shared that Lane County asked to consider reducing minimum lot size for ADU from two acres to one acre. They approached House members to ask for an amendment, but Mr. Riggs has concerns that this could delay this bill. His hope is to move it through quickly, as-is without amendments. Commissioner Chang spoke with Rep. Marsh, the Chair of the Environment, Energy and Climate Committee through which SB 644 is moving, and she is in full support of the bill and will do everything she can to move it through her committee quickly.

Whitney Hale shared that **HB 3440** was added to this week's report as priority 2, not reviewed for position. Commissioner Chang shared that Multnomah County has the flexibility and option to retain and pool the receipts from tax-foreclosed properties

and use the receipts to address youth and family homelessness. HB 3440 includes the use of mineral revenues in a similar manner, by counties with populations over 200,000. He highlighted that The Bulletin recently reported that Deschutes County and Central Oregon has some of the highest rates of youth and family homelessness in the entire nation. This bill provides an *opt-in* opportunity, and counties would opt-in on a case-by-case basis. This bill passed House floor and now heads to the Senate. Mr. Riggs expects it to pass and move along to the Governor's office. Kristie Bollinger asked for clarification on the term of the opt-in (annual basis or permanent), to which Commissioner Chang responded the legislation does not specify. Ms. Bollinger shared some figures in terms of revenue for the current fiscal year, in response to Cheyenne Purrington's question about the amount of revenue this could provide. It was asked if these properties could be reserved for uses towards housing homeless youth and families. Ms. Bollinger added that ORS allows the County to use tax-foreclosed properties for affordable housing, childcare and greenspace, noting that many of these properties are not houses, and many are unimproved and have issues such as egress and encroachments. The Board's position was to maintain current priority and position on this bill.

Ms. Hale suggested adjusting the position on **SB 644** from neutral with amendments to a position of support, and the Board was in agreement with this adjustment.

Ms. Hale shared that there are two new bills reviewed by the DA's office (**SB 586** and **SB 5505**).

- DA Gunnels said that **SB 586** creates a requirement of confidentiality for restorative justice communication. This is important, so that participants can openly share with those providing services, but the issue the DA's Office has is that the confidentiality is too broad and the provision for reporting is too narrow. He believes that reporting ability should be much broader. DA Gunnels' recommendation is to support with amendment, to allow the program to report the threat of a crime to law enforcement, so as to allow for intervention. This is important because the CJC (Criminal Justice Commission) is conditioning grant funding to programs that respect privileged communication. Mr. Riggs hasn't followed this bill closely, but reported that it passed on the Senate floor (16 to 14): all Democrats voted yes, and all Republicans voted no. Mr. Riggs plans to watch the floor debate recording for additional information. Commissioner Chang supports with amendments recommended by DA Gunnels. Commissioner Adair will seek further information from DA Gunnels and Mr. Riggs.

- **SB 5505** is a funding bill for the CJC. The DA's Office recommends support of this bill. Kathleen Meehan-Coop spoke about some programs that rely on CJC funding. The Emerging Adult Program, a marijuana program with DCSO and Bend PD, justice reinvestment funds for the County and a new equity project are all dependent upon CJS funding. This funding is core to the county's Parole and Probation programs. Mr. Riggs shared that there is widespread support for this bill, particularly from rural counties. He said that Deschutes County has already submitted a letter in support of community based supports and services IMPACS funding, so the County has already weighed in on this funding as a portion of a larger bill. The Board was in agreement about maintaining a position of support for SB 5505.

Janice Garceau spoke about **HB 3126**, which would establish up to four regional youth psychiatric treatment centers. A letter was co-drafted with St. Charles Medical Center, with a subtle suggestion that our region would benefit from being a designated region for a future facility. The Board was in support of signing the letter. Mr. Riggs believes this bill has a good chance of passing, adding that there are a large number of behavioral health and workforce bills. Staff will bring this letter before the Board under Other Items at the upcoming Monday meeting.

Robert Tittle asked Mr. Riggs about **HB 2980**, related to Oregon Business Development Department setting up a \$300 million revolving loan fund for housing developers. He wished to flag this for next week's meeting. Mr. Riggs reported that it's currently in Ways and Means, but housing is certainly a priority and testimony was largely in support. There were two amendments to this bill, and he agrees with adding this to the tracking list. This would reduce the taxes that would go to the districts except for fire districts.

Tanner Wark, Deputy Director Community Justice, advocated for either a letter asking for increased state funding, or approval for the County to sign onto OACCD's (Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors') letter requesting the same. They received the statewide budget forecast for community corrections and it was \$9 million less than the Governor's forecasted budget. Commissioner Chang expressed concern about adequate funding levels for Adult P&P. Commissioner Adair directed staff to please follow up regarding a potential letter.

#### **4. Updates from NW Policy Advocates**

Doug Riggs shared that there were no hearings this week. The intent was for the House and Senate to hold floor sessions on Monday and Tuesday to get through a long list of bills, but Republicans staged a slowdown and referred many bills back to

committee. It's been very slow with few people in the building. Both parties have agreed upon postponing the abortion and gun bills until May.

#### 5. Other Items:

- Pursuant to Commissioner Adair's request, Chris Doty shared that the state of California is moving forward with electrifying its heavy machinery fleet, and the concern is about cost and preparedness. The fear is that this will carry into Oregon sooner than the state is prepared to manage, in terms of lacking infrastructure and high associated costs. Certain rules in CA exempt snow plows from being electric, but the remainder of heavy fleet is moving to electric. Commissioner Adair added that school buses are good candidates for electrification, as they sit unused for a portion of the day when they can be charged.
- Commissioner Adair shared that she is having lunch in Salem next Friday with the Governor's Housing Director.

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**Next Meeting:** The next legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 21, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

**Adjourn:** Vice Chair Adair adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by:*



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**Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant**