



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, FEBRUARY 3, 2023

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

A virtual legislative update meeting was held on Friday, February 3, 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	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
	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney
X	Peter Gutowsky, Community Development Director	X	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		Cheyenne Purrington, Houseless Strategies and Solutions Director
	Geoff Hinds, Fair & Expo Director		Scot Langton, Assessor
	Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace		Will Groves, Planning Manager
	Holly Harris, Behavioral Health Director	X	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager

	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager	X	Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant
Legislators Present:			
X	Senator Lynn Findley	X	Representative Jason Kropf
X	Representative Emerson Levy		
X	Representative Werner Reschke		
Others Present:			
X	Doug Riggs, NW Policy Advocates President	X	Gabriel Velásquez, NW Policy Advocates Legislative Coordinator

1. Introductions

Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Doug Riggs reported that this is the third Friday of the session and the governor has released her budget. A drought relief package, behavioral health package and homelessness package are included in the governor's budget. The homelessness package, the semiconductor package and possibly the drought package will be on the agenda in the next 60 days. Weekly legislator meetings will be moved from the 1st and 3rd to the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month, to avoid conflict with the Bend Chamber of Commerce calls. Five targeted issues or bills will be the focus of these legislator meetings, and this meeting will touch on rural ADUs, behavioral health and ODOT fund exchange.

Commissioner Adair shared that she received a message from Senator Findley this morning that he believes **SB 391** has a path forward.

Janice Garceau, Health Services Director, provided a departmental update:

- **HB 2757** proposes a telecom tax to support the 988 statewide behavioral health crisis services hotline. Funding for stabilization and mobile crisis is included in this bill. Ms. Garceau recommends support of this bill as priority 2. The Board concurred. There will be a hearing on Monday, and she has not yet been asked to testify. Ms. Garceau hasn't yet marked any bills as priority 1, due to the volume of bills and uncertainty of their footing.
- **HB 2773** is a public health bill that is focused on workforce. This bill focuses on wages and workforce development to ensure health-serving staff are available. A related bill will examine Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) staff and case managers' wages, which hasn't been done since 2002. She recommends support of this bill, and any bills that help to cover the costs of growing the profession through avenues such as paid internships, tuition reimbursement, recruitment and retention bonuses, etc. She acknowledged that the recruitment and retention bonus model is difficult to maintain over the long-term. Some of these bills may merge. Commissioner Chang would like these recruitment and retention bills to

provide for housing opportunities as an eligible expense. The Board supports monitoring HB 2773 as priority 2.

- Ms. Garceau and her team will provide Mr. Riggs with a list of 5 watch items as most important for workforce recruitment and retention.
- **HB 2543** requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to conduct a study every four years to determine the amount of funding needed by community mental health programs to comply with statutory requirements. The County is the state's designee for local mental health authority and there are mandated services and requirements that aren't always costed out. This bill will require OHA to cost out these mandated services. Ms. Garceau recommends support of HB 2543. The Board supports monitoring this bill as priority 2.
- Ms. Garceau reported that there are a number of mandated population bills coming through, related to the aid-and-assist population. Ms. Garceau advised watching for language requiring counties to cost-share when populations on aid-and-assist commitment at the state hospital are unable to return to the community. The burden of cost to remain in the state hospital for a longer period of time would be on counties. She recommends opposing **SB 219**. The Board supports opposing **SB 219** and other associated packages.
 - Commissioner Chang asked about the shortage of state hospital beds to accommodate the need. If some counties are utilizing more of these state resources than other counties, it may be advantageous to have those counties pay for the use of those resources. Ms. Garceau is hesitant to support a broad approach and supports an incentive model, versus a punitive cost-sharing model.

Peter Gutowsky, Community Development Director, provided a departmental update:

- **LC 1637** is a Legislative Concept related to case law that housing provisions need to be clear and objective for local governments. Washington County is a proponent of LC 1637 and is looking for sponsors to clarify that the clear and objective standards apply to housing within the urban growth boundary. Mr. Gutowsky believes this is very important to rural counties. LC 1637 relates to ORS 197.307. The Board added LC 1637 to their watch list, and will take a position should it become a bill.

2. Legislator Updates

Mr. Riggs and Chair DeBone thanked legislators for their attendance. Mr. Riggs explained to legislators that this meeting is a weekly legislative update for key Deschutes County department heads.

Senator Findley reported that progress has been made on the ADU issue, which decouples from the wildfire risk map but keeps hardening building codes intact. Chair DeBone shared that hardening building requirements are standards that are typically already in-practice by most builders.

Sen. Findley reported that HB 2101 is a bill to put in statute the federal/state swap-out of money for road projects. ODOT is strongly pushing back against HB 2101. He commended Chris Doty, Director Road Department, and Commissioner Chang for their testimonies. Sen. Findley will continue supporting HB 2101.

Sen. Findley commented that this session has had a slow start as everyone awaits the revenue forecast. Some big bills are coming but haven't rolled out yet. He has sponsored 11 bills, relating to issues such as property tax, estate tax, CAT tax, fisheries, energy and environment. He recently introduced legislation to develop a plan for recycling hazardous batteries as we electrify fleets.

Representative Levy reported having a productive week and agreed with Sen. Findley's observation of the slow, non-traditional start to the session. She sits on the housing committee and is temporarily chairing energy. *Rep. Levy attended via phone and sound quality was poor.* HB 2816 Data Center Bill is controversial, but she is hopeful that a better consensus can be reached. She is working with the City of Bend to set up a hearing on HB 2750 for next week. A program allows tenants to pay a fee instead of a security deposit plus first and last month's rent, if tenant and landlord are insured. Chair DeBone asked Rep. Levy to please put these topics down on paper so the Board can review and take a position of support or opposition.

Representative Reschke said that this session is different, with a different senate president, a different house speaker and a new governor. There is a different method of achieving goals, and everyone is trying to find their footing. His main focus areas are ways and means and revenue, so the governor's budget is important to him. His goal is for the governor's plans to be implemented statewide, and that Central and Eastern Oregon don't get left behind. The governor's plan is a housing first plan, of which he is not supportive. Aside from a cell phone tax (~\$6 per phone per year), the governor isn't planning for any new tax to fund the 988 crisis hotline. Rep. Reschke is on the juniper cutting policy bill and the juniper biomass tax credit bill.

Representative Kropf reported that housing and homelessness will be some of the top issues in this session. The pace is beginning to pick up after a slow start. Funding of behavioral health crisis services is an important issue. Keeping communities safe from wildfires is another important topic, related to **SB 762**. Mr. Riggs is working on language allowing for a path forward for ADUs on rural land as the wildfire risk maps are being redone. Rep. Kropf plans to be hyperfocused on top

priorities to make the best use of public dollars, due to the budget reality. Commissioner Adair informed Rep. Kropf that she recently sent him photos of her recent tour of the China Hat homeless camps. She reported that trees on USFS land are being cut down, and neighbors have reported gunfire in the vicinity of their homes. She is concerned about the destruction of our public lands.

3. Commissioner Updates

Chair DeBone said that their schedule will be flexible to allow for legislator attendance. Commissioner Chang commented on **SB 762**, a comprehensive wildfire package. Hazard risk mapping has been the focus, but his hope is that legislators will take note of other non-mapping items in this bill addressing reducing wildfire risk (underground utilities, prescribed fire, etc.). Sen. Findley agrees that there are good components to SB 762, but he disagrees with the wildfire risk mapping. Rep. Reschke added that they can only vote yes or no on the bill in its entirety, not parts, adding that the wildfire mapping portion of the bill is also troubling for him.

Commissioner Chang requested to add **SB 509** to the list for consideration of priority. This bill relates to financial and technical assistance to support neighborhoods and individual property owners implementing hazardous fuels reduction work.

4. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Mr. Riggs said that he will send legislators a list of the County's top 5 priorities each week.

Next Meeting: The next virtual legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 10, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:


RECORDER SECRETARY