



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

1:00 PM

MONDAY November 17, 2025

Allen Room
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 (via Zoom).

This meeting was audio and video recorded and can be accessed at the Deschutes County Meeting Portal: www.deschutes.org/meetings.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

CITIZEN INPUT:

- Michelle Martin said the work of the District Map Advisory Committee (DMAC) was improperly hurried. Reminding that gerrymandering is corrupt, she said although the instructions given to the DMAC stated that the developed map was not to favor any political party, data shows that this was not the result. Adding that all five Commissioners should be elected at-large so that each is accountable to and serves all residents, she trusted that voters will reject the draft district map if it advances to a ballot.
- Lynne Connelley reminded of the significant community support to expand the Board to five Commissioners, objected to the decision to split the county into districts, and said appointments to the DMAC favored partisanship. She further objected to the use of outdated data to draw a draft map and said districts should not be formed until all five Board seats are filled and updated data is available. She concluded that it is undemocratic to disenfranchise 80% of the voters for any one position.

- Mark Kelley submitted a letter and back-up analysis regarding the draft district map as recommended by the DMAC, saying the proposed map bears the hallmarks of gerrymandering and reminding that County residents did not vote to create districts—rather, that decision was made by two Commissioners. He stressed that any map dividing an area into districts must be based on population, not on the number of registered voters.
- Pete Shepherd said the way in which the final scheduled meeting of the DMAC was cancelled was contrary to open government and may have violated Oregon's public meetings law. Adding that the creation of districts is inherently divisive, he said continuing to elect Commissioners at-large would mean that every citizen would be equally advantaged and disadvantaged with regard to representation.

Noting his agreement that that this matter has become highly partisan, Commissioner DeBone said he is honored to serve everyone.

Saying he appreciated the comments of those who came to share their thoughts today, Commissioner Chang agreed that, counter to the instructions given it, the DMAC has proposed a gerrymandered map which would provide disproportionate partisan advantage in future elections.

Commissioner Adair said the information provided by Mark Kelley does not accurately reflect the County's total number of registered voters. She emphasized it is important that precincts not be split.

Commissioner Chang said it would be possible to keep precincts contiguous without favoring one political party as the proposed map does.

- Al Shirk spoke to the potential acquisition of 40 acres of federal land in South Deschutes County for the purpose of expanding the business operations of Findley Butte Aggregate (FBA), saying that even though that company has exhausted its resources of mineable rock, his company—Spring Butte Rock—has over 1,000 acres of mineable land and is wholly capable of supplying needed materials to third parties. Shirk said the proposed acquisition and subsequent sale would not possibly benefit any company other than FBA because FBA's property abuts the federal land and no other company could get an easement to access that area for mining.

Saying he wished to ensure an open and competitive sale process, Commissioner Chang asked if this property was acquired by the County and subsequently placed on the open market for sale, such sale could be conditioned on the provision of access across the adjacent private property with an appropriate weight restriction.

Senior Assistant Legal Counsel Kim Riley said there is nothing to preclude the County from trying to acquire an easement from the adjacent property owner prior to placing the property for sale on the open market.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

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

1. Approval of Order No. 2025-055 correcting the legal description for the Tumalo Basin Sewer District
2. Acceptance of grant funds for Victims Assistance Programs
3. Approval of the minutes of the BOCC joint meeting with the Circuit Court on October 15, 2025
4. Approval of the minutes of the November 3, 2025 BOCC meeting

ADAIR: Move Board approval of the Consent Agenda as presented with an edit to the November 3rd minutes regarding the discussion on the difficulty of monitoring water usage on exempt wells

CHANG: Second

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

Commissioner Chang requested an update from District Attorney's Office regarding the status of federal funding for victim's assistance programs.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Appointment of director to fill vacancy on the Swalley Irrigation District Board

Dave Doyle, County Counsel, explained that two of the three Board members of the Swalley Irrigation District have died, leaving the District without a quorum. In such cases, the Board of County Commissioners can appoint someone to the District Board to immediately restore a quorum.

Steve Shropshire, representing the District, described the urgent need to continue operations during budget and maintenance seasons.

The Board discussed maintaining staggered terms. It was explained that because the proposed appointment would fill the #2 position through December 31, 2026, the district's regular election cycle would be preserved.

CHANG: Move Approval of Board Order 2025-056 appointing Thomas Andrade to position #2 of the Swalley Irrigation District Board for a term due to expire on December 31, 2026

ADAIR: Second

VOTE: ADAIR: Yes

CHANG: Yes

DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 3 – 0

2. Terrebonne Community Plan Update: Scope and Draft Schedule

Tanya Saltzman, Senior Planner, provided information on the upcoming update of Terrebonne's Community Plan, saying the process will include the solicitation of input from the community on potential land use policies, particularly those involving work being done to develop a sanitary sewer system. Public hearings will be held before the Planning Commission and the Board. It's expected that work will start in January.

Saltzman shared that although the County has applied to the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) for grant funding to undertake this update, this work will be done regardless of whether a grant is received.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to address failing septic systems in the area and fears that a sewer system would generate growth.

Continuing, Saltzman said the update will function as a chapter of the County's Comprehensive Plan. Initial tasks will include updating demographics and housing baseline data. Community engagement efforts will allow for receiving information and providing comments both in-person and virtually, and may involve the distribution of surveys.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Saltzman confirmed that people in the greater Terrebonne area will be able to weigh in on the update of the plan.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Commissioner DeBone announced the annual Association of Oregon Counties conference this week in Eugene.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 2:07 pm, the Board entered Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Real Property Negotiations and under ORS 192.660 (2) (h) Litigation.

The Board exited Executive Session at 2:44 pm and directed staff to proceed as discussed.

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

DATED this 30th day of December 2025 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

ATTEST:


MONDE FITZVOLD
RECORDING SECRETARY


ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR


PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR


PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER