



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

1:00 PM

MONDAY March 2, 2026

Allen Room
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Phil Chang, Anthony DeBone and Patti Adair. 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.

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

CITIZEN INPUT: None

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Adair reported that the State has awarded approximately \$2.4 million for Terrebonne's sanitary sewer system. She also reported that the State allocated a total of \$5 million for county fairs statewide; Deschutes County's allocation is anticipated to be approximately \$152,000.

Commissioner DeBone reported on the annual Sunriver and La Pine Chambers of Commerce luncheon held the prior week and noted that interviews were underway to fill vacancies on the Fair Board.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Work Session: BOCC direction to proceed with a public hearing to consider adoption of a new section of Deschutes County Code, to wit, DCC 2.35 – Contested Case Procedures

Dave Doyle, County Counsel, requested Board direction to proceed with a public hearing to consider adoption of a new section of Deschutes County Code which would establish contested case procedures for matters arising in public health and environmental health inspections and enforcement. Doyle explained that the County had historically relied on contested case procedures contained in a section of County Code which addresses procurement and contracting, but it would be better to establish a standalone Code section tailored to contested cases in this context.

Public Health Director Heather Kaisner, Public Health Program Manager Emily Horton and Environmental Health Supervisor Adrea Albin spoke to the benefits of establishing procedures specifically related to environmental health licenses and inspections of pools, spas, restaurants and other food service operations such as food trucks, saying that the proposed language would better describe how contests are to be handled in situations such as the revocation of a business license.

Kaisner said ensuring consistency in how such cases are approached would serve clarity and fairness. Horton added that the department always strives to educate business owners regarding Code regulations before resorting to enforcement.

Doyle concluded that the County's intergovernmental agreement with the Oregon Health Authority requires the County to have contested case procedures in place. The Board supported scheduling the public hearing on March 18, 2026.

2. Oregon Water Resources Department Update on Current Conditions

Jeremy Giffin, Deschutes Basin Watermaster, reviewed reservoir storage conditions as of February 26, 2026, reporting that the Wickiup Reservoir is approximately 88% full, the Prineville Reservoir is approximately 63% full, the Ochoco Reservoir is approximately 61% full, and the Haystack Reservoir is approximately 80% full. Giffin also reviewed snowpack conditions as of February 27th, describing the Pacific Northwest snowpack as extremely low. He said precipitation in the Deschutes area was approximately 83% of normal as of February 27th.

showing persistent long-term declines in groundwater levels across multiple areas, including Sisters, La Pine, and Redmond.

Kemper also reviewed information on well drilling and deepening trends over time and discussed how declining groundwater levels can result in wells needing to be deepened or replaced.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Giffin said OWRD does not have a mechanism to stop people from using flood irrigation. While many who irrigate are transitioning away from flood irrigation, it may not be happening as fast as would be ideal.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Giffin said the graphs and charts shown which depict snowpack and precipitation figures report statistics from October 1st to September 30th.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Kemper said OWRD has received approximately five groundwater permit applications since the new groundwater allocation rules were adopted. He described key evaluation metrics utilized to determine whether water is available for new uses.

3. Safe Parking program update from Mountain View Community Development

Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager, introduced a presentation from Mountain View Community Development (MVCD) on its safe parking program on County-owned property in Redmond.

John Edwards, MVCD Program Operations Director, said safe parking and micro-shelters offer safe and sanitary temporary locations for homeless persons while they work with case managers toward securing permanent housing.

Rick Russell, MVCD Executive Director, said MVCD seeks renewal of its lease to operate a safe parking program on County-owned property at SE 7th Street and Evergreen in Redmond. He reported that, over the last two and a half years, 184 people have exited this program, with 95 of them exiting to permanent housing. Adding that MVCD operates 11 shelter sites between Bend and Redmond which together serve approximately 50 to 60 people per night, Russell reported an average length of stay in 2025 of approximately 4.7 months.

Edwards added that participants are required to adhere to site rules, which include not entertaining any visitors, and participate weekly in case management.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Edwards said although no drugs or alcohol are permitted on site, participants are not required to abstain from such substances.

Michael Turner, a formerly homeless person, described his experience with MVCD's micro-shelter program at the County Public Safety Campus. Turner said receiving case management to address housing barriers resulted in finding a landlord willing to rent to him after he gained sobriety and became employed, despite his lack of rental history.

Noting the Board had previously requested an update on MVCD's micro-shelter site at the County's Public Safety Campus, Russell reported that MVCD had canvassed neighbors who reside near that site and did not receive concerns.

Commissioner Chang spoke to the remarkable results achieved by MVCD's safe parking program and noted that this type of shelter is much more cost-effective than other approaches.

Commissioner DeBone referred to past allocations from the County and asked if the total amount of money MVCD is receiving for these efforts—and how funds received are being spent—is public information. Russell said funding sources for these operations include private grants, individual donations, and public funds. MVCD is currently awaiting the outcome of its application for State Shelter Program funding.

Commissioner DeBone spoke to the broader regional homelessness response structure and the importance of coordinating efforts via a comprehensive strategy. Commissioner Adair requested that the lease renewal return for Board consideration with a shorter renewal term to allow more frequent updates.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Commissioner DeBone requested that the original version of a proclamation which had been provided to the Board regarding a 250-year celebration of the United States of America be placed on a future Wednesday agenda for Board consideration.

Commissioner Chang preferred that the Board consider a customized proclamation to ensure factual accuracy and reflect the full breadth of the nation.

DEBONE: Move to place the original proclamation celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on a future Wednesday BOCC agenda

ADAIR: Second

VOTE: DEBONE: Yes

ADAIR: Yes

CHANG: Chair votes no. Motion Carried 2 – 1

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

It was announced that the Executive Session listed on the meeting agenda was not needed at this time.

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:46 pm.

DATED this 27th day of March 2026 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.



PHIL CHANG, CHAIR

ATTEST:



RECORDING SECRETARY



ANTHONY DEBONE, VICE CHAIR



PATTI ADAIR, COMMISSIONER