



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

9:00 AM

WEDNESDAY February 19, 2025

Barnes Sawyer Rooms
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Anthony DeBone, Patti Adair and Phil Chang. Also present were Nick Lelack, County Administrator; Kim Riley, Senior Assistant County Counsel; and Brenda Fritsvold, BOCC Executive Assistant.

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 DeBone called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZEN INPUT:

- Ron Boozell reported another attack by dogs in a homeless encampment, this time near Sisters. He said while dogs can greatly benefit people, they can also be dangerous, and a dog attack is a criminal action which demonstrates irresponsibility since dogs can and have killed humans.
- Bob Perry, speaking on behalf of the 528 members of the "Redmond Patriots" group, expressed concern with the growth of the government workforce as compared to the private sector, thanked Commissioners Adair and DeBone for disbanding the DEIA committee which served to advance anti-merit initiatives, and shared a news article on a proposal to improve children's health by not allowing junk food in schools.

- Dorinne Tye objected that Best Care is the Bend area’s only treatment option for people who want to stop using drugs, saying that her daughter experienced trauma as a youth and later was mistreated by Best Care. On another subject, Tye said flight schools operating out of Bend Municipal airport terrorize residents day and night.

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

1. Approval of Resolution No. 2025-005, adding 1.0 limited duration Behavioral Health Specialist (BHS II) FTE, adopting a supplemental budget and increasing appropriations in the Health Services Fund
2. Consideration of Board Signature on letter reappointing Eric Yates for service on the Spring River Road Special Road District
3. Consideration of Board Signature on letters thanking Toni Venable, Christina Veverka and Julie Craig for service on the Noxious Weed Advisory Board
4. Consideration of Board Signature on letters appointing Teresa Stovall, Daniel Son and Lorena Brown for service on the Noxious Weed Advisory Board
5. Consideration of Board Signature on letter thanking Thomas Schuchardt for service on the Dog Control Board of Supervisors
6. Approval of the minutes of the February 7, 2025 Legislative Update meeting

ADAIR: Move Board approval of Consent Agenda as presented
 CHANG: Second

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

ACTION ITEMS:

7. **Public Hearing and Consideration of Order No. 2025-002 approving an annexation into the Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District**

Dave Doyle, County Counsel, presented the petition submitted by Timothy Peckham to annex property on Wilt Road into the Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District. The Assessor’s Office and County Clerk certified the petition, Community Development reviewed it, and the District approved the petition.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Doyle said the annexation process takes about 45 days to complete. The property owners will benefit by lowered insurance premiums.

The public hearing was opened at 9:12 am. There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed at 9:12 am.

CHANG: Move Board approval of Board Order No. 2025-002 approving the annexation of property on Wilt Road into the Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District

ADAIR: Second

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

8. Agreement with the US Forest Service for cooperative law enforcement by the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office

DCSO Sergeant Nathan Garibay presented an updated five-year contract for cooperative law enforcement with the US Forest Service (USFS).

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Garibay said the contract does not involve an increase in funds from the previous agreement. Adding that the revenues received help to offset some of DCSO's payroll costs, he said deputies track their time and the Sheriff's Office bills the USFS quarterly.

Commissioner Chang asked if the reported cuts to the budget of the USFS will affect this agreement. Garibay said DCSO has not heard this will happen.

Captain Ty Rupert said DCSO would continue to conduct those patrols, even without any reimbursement from USFS.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Garibay said deputies are enforcing State and County laws with these patrols, mostly involving personal crimes, property crimes, offensive littering, and animal regulations. The USFS enforces federal laws.

Commissioner DeBone said the need for patrols and law enforcement is more acute than in past years due to unsanctioned camping and the need for clean-up efforts. He added that DCSO can enforce laws to register and vaccinate dogs.

Garibay said the patrols also address violations that could lead to uncontrolled burning in an effort to prevent fires from spreading.

ADAIR: Move Board approval of County Administrator signature of Document. No. 2025-126, a cooperative law enforcement agreement with the US Forest Service

CHANG: Second

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

9. Applications for grants from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - Post Fire - 2024 Fire Management Assistance

Kevin Moriarty, County Forester, said the Deschutes County Natural Resources Department and Deschutes County Sheriff's Office have applied for grants from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs a sub-applicant through Oregon Emergency Management (OEM). The two applications submitted by the Natural Resources Department seek funding 1) to reduce fuels on up to 850 acres in high wildfire risk areas, and 2) to consolidate seven Community Wildfire Protection Plans into one countywide plan.

DCSO Sergeant Nathan Garibay summarized the three grant applications submitted by the DCSO. The first is for a Transportation Risk Assessment Project to collect and evaluate information pertinent to evacuation and movement of people and goods during disasters. The second seeks funding to support the coordination, analysis, public engagement and writing of the 2026 Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The third application was submitted by DCSO in conjunction with Fair & Expo for a generator to power the South and Middle Sister buildings for use during emergencies.

Commissioner Adair urged the development of an evacuation plan for the Fair & Expo in the event of an emergency during an event attended by the public.

Commissioner Chang asked if the Transportation Risk Assessment project will address communications for directing people to appropriate evacuation routes. Garibay said it will include pre-taped/canned messaging which prioritizes optional evacuation alternatives. Garibay added that the County's alert system could be utilized to communicate specific instructions if a certain expected evacuation route is blocked during an emergency.

In response to questions, Geoff Hinds, Fair & Expo Director, said none of the Sisters buildings currently have back-up power generation.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Garibay said the County would be open to helping to facilitate an alternate access out of the Sundance area if an appropriate property owner is willing to cooperate on this.

CHANG: Move Board approval of the applications submitted to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants, and further authorize the County Administrator to accept such grants if awarded

ADAIR: Second

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

***Added Item* Letter of Support amending HB 3135 (Wildfire Risk/Habitat and Watershed Health)**

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager, presented a draft letter in support of amending HB 3135 to include funding for wildfire risk and habitat improvement along with watershed health.

CHANG: Move Board approval of a letter supporting amending HB 3135 to include funding for wildfire risk and habitat improvement along with watershed health

ADAIR: Second

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

10. Cannabis Advisory Panel FY 2026 Budget Recommendations

Strategic Initiatives Manager Jen Patterson presented the recommendations of the Cannabis Advisory Panel for how to allocate the County's annual marijuana tax revenue, as follows:

1. Community Justice: \$26,000 to provide substance use prevention and treatment services for justice-involved youth and their families;
2. CDD: \$20,000 for Code Enforcement related to complaints about marijuana production;

3. Health Services: \$56,000 for media advertising to support parents and guardians to talk with their kids about marijuana and other drugs; and
4. Sheriff's Office: \$95,000 to continue the funding support of a marijuana detective.

Commissioner Adair asked if the Panel knows that former White House Office of National Drug Control Policy advisor Kevin Sabet may be speaking at the meeting of the State DUI Board in early April.

Discussion ensued of the current state of the legal cannabis industry, in particular the glut of products on the market in addition to non-regulated products which are also available for purchase.

CHANG: Move Board approval of the Cannabis Advisory Panel's FY 2026 Budget Recommendations

ADAIR: Second

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

11. Application for 2025 Grant Funds for the Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Committee

Strategic Initiatives Manager Jen Patterson reported that because some ranchers in eastern Deschutes County are losing livestock to wolves, the Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Committee has recommended that the County apply for \$132,800 of grant funding to implement livestock management activities and nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques to prevent interactions between wolves and livestock or working dogs. She reviewed the list of potential grant amounts and associated requestors, as follows: Deschutes County Wolf Committee—\$30,000; McCormack Ranch— \$81,000; Hatfield Hyde Land Trust — \$16,800; and Desert Creek Land, Cattle, & Timber Co.—\$5,000.

Commissioner Chang added that ranchers are experiencing problems with resident wolves as well as wolves which migrate through eastern Deschutes County.

CHANG: Move to authorize staff to apply for grant funds from the Oregon Department of Agriculture for distribution and use by the Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Committee

ADAIR: Second

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

12. Draft Presentation for Annual State of South Deschutes County Breakfast

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager, produced a draft presentation for the Commissioners to present at the Annual State of South Deschutes County Breakfast. The Commissioners reviewed the presentation and directed edits.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Strategic Initiatives Manager Jen Patterson referred to a draft letter supporting an application from The High Desert Museum and The Museum at Warm Springs for BRIC funding.

Noting that The High Desert Museum’s wildfire hazard rating is moderate, Commissioner Adair was not clear on why the museums are seeking \$6.3 million.

CHANG: Move to approve a letter of support for the application from The High Desert Museum and The Museum at Warm Springs for BRIC funding
DEBONE: Second

VOTE: ADAIR: No
 CHANG: Yes
 DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 2 - 1

- Patterson presented a draft letter of support for OSU Cascades’ State funding request.

Commissioner DeBone shared the request is for \$42 million to help fund OSU Cascades’ campus capital project. OSU has offered a \$22 million match from the university and another \$20 million from student fees.

Commissioner Adair asked if some of the funding will be used for student housing. Patterson said the proposal is to fund land reclamation actions which would set the stage for future student housing.

CHANG: Move to approve a letter supporting the request from OSU Cascades for \$42 million from the State for its campus capital project
ADAIR: Second

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

- Patterson presented a request from Mosaic Community Health for a letter supporting its request for \$4 million from the State to develop the Connors campus in East Bend.

Commissioner DeBone reported that he met with representatives from Mosaic yesterday to learn more about this proposal. Commissioner Chang advocated for supporting the County's community health centers. Commissioner Adair commended Mosaic for securing project funding from other sources.

CHANG: Move to approve a letter supporting the request from Mosaic Community Health for \$4 million from the State to develop its Connors campus in East Bend

ADAIR: Second

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

- Commissioner DeBone said the La Pine Fire District seeks funding for a ladder truck and fire engine.

Commissioner Chang said this district appears to repeatedly ask for federal funding. While he appreciated that they went to their voters for funding, he was not comfortable supporting a federal grant request at this time.

Patterson will bring a draft letter for discussion at this Friday's legislative update meeting.

- Nick Lelack, County Administrator, spoke to the current recruitment for vacancies on the Fair Board. Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator, said after interviews were conducted last Friday, the Commissioners are in concurrence to reappoint the three existing Board members: Arron Curtis, Bill Kuhn, and Steve Curley.

Commissioner Chang encouraged the Fair & Expo to engage the other candidates in other ways. Commissioner Adair suggested they be invited to join the Fair Association.

- Commissioner DeBone noted an upcoming Eastern Oregon Counties Association meeting on February 27th.

- Commissioner DeBone shared he will be in Salem tomorrow and may travel to Denver in mid-March with other members of the CORE3 leadership team to tour public safety training facilities.
- Commissioner Chang attended yesterday's meeting of the Deschutes Cultural Coalition Board meeting at which grant applications were reviewed.
- Commissioner Adair reported that she was elected chair of the Central Oregon Advisory Committee on Transportation (COACT).
- Commissioner Chang attended the COACT meeting as a member of the Oregon Transportation Commission and referred to substantial concerns regarding underinvestment in Highway 97 corridor, especially outside of Deschutes County.
- Commissioner Adair will attend tomorrow's meeting of the Redmond Managed Camp group.
- Commissioner DeBone attended this morning's REDI board meeting.
- Commissioner Adair attended yesterday's Project Wildfire meeting and spoke to the importance of building new construction with Firewise principles.

A break was announced at 11:23 am. The meeting resumed at 11:28 am.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 11:28 am, the Board entered executive session under ORS 192.660 (2) (d) Labor Negotiations.

At 11:59 am, the executive session concluded and the public was invited to return to the room. The Board then directed staff to proceed as discussed during the executive session.

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

DATED this 16th Day of April 2025 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.


 ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR


 PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR


 PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


 RECORDING SECRETARY