



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY September 3, 2025

Barnes Sawyer Rooms
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.

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 10:00 am.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZEN INPUT:

- Ron Boozell advocated for responsible speech and asked that the Commissioners take care to use speech which benefits the public.
- Carl Shoemaker referred to Will Rogers and President Hoover and said the work of many benefits the rich in a system of trickle-up economics.
- Michael Paulson reported that the Flat Fire nearly burned down his home. Speaking to the importance of reducing fuels on private properties, he recommended allowing free yard waste disposal outside of the currently permitted window, perhaps by instituting a program whereby property owners could pay a \$100 annual fee to allow them to dispose of yard waste throughout the year.

Discussion ensued of funding available to coordinated neighborhood efforts to reduce fuels.

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

Referring to the contract with Iris Telehealth for tele-psychiatric treatment services, Commissioner Adair said in-person therapy is much more effective and beneficial than tele-therapy.

Commissioner Chang said Health Services is in the process of transitioning from this vendor contract to provide in-person therapy services using Behavioral Health staff.

ACTION ITEMS:

4. Proclamation: Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Caroline Suiter, Mental Health Promotions Strategist and Bethany Kuschel, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, shared suicide data and information on resources to help prevent suicide and described upcoming events to recognize Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

The Commissioners read the proclamation into the record.

ADAIR: Move approval of the proclamation declaring September, 2025 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Deschutes County

CHANG: Second

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

5. Consideration of whether to initiate review of a text amendment to Deschutes County Code to allow recreational vehicle (RV) parks as a conditional use in the Tumalo Commercial District

Audrey Stuart, Associate Planner, sought Board direction on a pending application for a text amendment to establish an RV park as a conditional use in the Tumalo Commercial District. Saying this is a quasi-judicial matter with elements of a legislative amendment, Stuart said staff recommends that the Board initiate review of this application and hold a hearing to allow more opportunity for public input.

Commissioner DeBone referred to a request from Adam Smith to speak to this matter as a representative of the applicant.

Commissioner Chang noted that Board approval of this change could prompt property owners in other areas to apply for the same text amendment to allow RV parks where they are not currently permitted.

Will Groves, Planning Manager, explained that Goal 14 limits RV parks to the density of one RV per ten acres unless a Goal 14 exception is approved. He allowed that the same text amendment could be proposed for limited areas such as Terrebonne and Sunriver.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Groves said RV parks, mobile home parks and campgrounds are all defined separately. Groves added that there is no limit on how many short-term rentals are allowed in Tumalo or the Tumalo Commercial District.

Commissioner Chang questioned whether the County is favoring one kind of guest lodging over another.

Adam Smith, representing the applicant, said that the Hearings Officer could have made a decision on this application, but declined to do so. Smith urged the Board to accept review of the recommendation issued by the Hearings Officer.

Senior Assistant Legal Counsel Stephanie Marshall agreed it would be best to avoid an appeal based on procedural objections. Accordingly, she advised that Board accept review of this matter.

ADAIR: Move approval of Order No. 2025-040 accepting review of the Hearings Officer's recommendation in File No. 247-25-000106-TA

CHANG: Second

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

6. Clarification on Guidelines for the District Mapping Advisory Committee

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager, reported that when the District Mapping Advisory Committee (DMAC) met for its orientation meeting on August 27th, a question was raised regarding whether the guidelines approved by the Board of Commissioners are directive or suggestive. More particularly, some members of the committee asked if DMAC must create a map having five districts, or if it can create a map that has four districts and one at-large position if a majority favors this alternative.

Commissioner Adair said having five districts makes the most sense especially for those who live outside of incorporated areas and have no local government other than the County Commission.

Commissioner Chang relayed that some DMAC members want to ensure that at least one Commissioner is responsive to all residents of the County instead of only to residents who live in a certain area.

Commissioner DeBone supported directing the DMAC to create a map having five equally proportional districts.

Commissioner Chang said Missoula County in Montana has three districts, yet all of its Commissioners are elected at-large in the same way that Board members for the Bend-La Pine School District are elected. Commissioner DeBone was not opposed to discussing this option further at a later date.

Patterson shared that DMAC will hold its first working meeting on September 10th.

OTHER ITEMS:

- County Administrator Nick Lelack said the County is working with the City of Bend and COIC on issuing a Request for Proposals for Hearings Officers, adding that the RFP may be based on Lane County's model.
- County Counsel Dave Doyle relayed a request from Marion County that Deschutes County sign on to a letter to be sent to Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield and United States Attorney General Pam Bondi seeking clarity on how Oregon's Sanctuary Promise Act and Public Records Act interact with federal law. Doyle explained that the letter seeks clarity on how to reconcile apparent conflicts regarding subpoena requests, and asks for a detailed opinion from the court to ensure that laws are properly followed.

Saying that so far, 34 Sheriffs across Oregon have signed this letter, Doyle stressed that the request for clarity is non-ideological.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Doyle read the specific language from the letter into the record.

Commissioners DeBone and Adair stated their support for signing on to the letter as written.

Responding to Commissioner Chang, Doyle said the letter presumes that federally-directed actions are lawful and recognizes that federal law may conflict with State

law. Doyle referred to potential damages and/or sanctions if the County is found to be in violation of State law or federal law.

Commissioner Chang declined to support or oppose the letter as written.

- Commissioner DeBone said the COIC Board meeting this Thursday will include an informational presentation on PacifiCorp's Blueprint South Transmission Line Project.
- Commissioner DeBone reported that he has signed the demobilization directive for the Flat Fire. Noting that 37 agencies mobilized to help to fight this fire, he said the State Fire Marshal's office has issued an after-incident report which includes specific damage assessments.
- Commissioner Adair announced she will be out of the office next Tuesday through Friday for the annual Pendleton Round-Up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 11:38 am, the Board entered Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Real Property Negotiations.

The Board exited Executive Session at 12:00 noon and instructed staff to proceed as directed.

ADJOURN:

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

DATED this 24th Day of Sept. 2025 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.


ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR

ATTEST:


RECORDING SECRETARY


PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR


PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER