



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon
(541) 388-6571

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

8:00 AM

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2023

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

A virtual legislative update meeting was held on Friday, June 30, 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		Janice Garceau, Health Services Director
	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney
	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		Kevin Moriarty, Forester
	Chad Centola, Solid Waste Director		Tim Brownell, Incoming Solid Waste Director
	Shane Nelson, Sheriff		Sara Crosswhite, 9-1-1 Director
	Steve Dennison, Clerk		Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace
	Geoff Hinds, Fair & Expo Director		Scot Langton, Assessor
x	Tania Mahood, IT Director	x	Bill Kuhn, Treasurer
x	Holly Harris, Health Services Deputy Director (Behavioral Health)		Will Groves, Planning Manager

	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager		Heather Kaisner, Health Services Deputy Director (Public Health)
	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager	x	Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant
Legislators Present:			
	Senator Lynn Findley		Senator Tim Knopp
	Representative Emerson Levy		Senator Dennis Linthicum
	Representative Vikki Breese Iverson		Representative Werner Reschke
	Representative Jason Kropf		
Others Present:			
x	Doug Riggs, NW Policy Advocates President		

1. Introductions

Commissioner DeBone called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Legislator Updates

No legislators were in attendance to provide updates.

3. Commissioner Updates

Chris Doty reported that **HB 2101**, the ODOT Fund Exchange Bill, passed. The County will receive state dollars instead of federal. He added that ODOT has a severe Operations and Maintenance funding shortage, and he expects another discussion of a funding package in/around 2025. It will be key to make sure that funding packages maintain a 50-30-20 split so that local government is not left behind. Doug added that gas tax revenues continue to go down, due to the growth in electric and hybrid vehicles and people working from home.

Holly Harris shared that she is thrilled with the IMPACTS funding. Responding to Holly, Doug said that \$10 million through Criminal Justice Commission was slated to go towards other counties for opening up new stabilization centers, but he is not aware of the allocation plan.

Responding to Bill Kuhn, Doug reported that **HB 2980**, the middle income housing infrastructure bill, did not pass. Housing infrastructure bills were largely left behind.

4. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs reported the session is over, and it was a unique ending to the session as three bills failed on the senate floor on the final day. Amongst others, the failed bills included **HB 3414**, which deals with land use and required cities to grant

variances to builders and set up an enforcement office for DLCD. A portion of this bill would have granted a one-time exception for cities to expand their UGBs into urban reserves rapidly without approval by the state or counties. The Governor's office removed protection for intergovernmental agreements for unincorporated urban reserve land bordering multiple cities. Another bill which failed deals with the right to sue your medical provider or insurance company. **HB 3013** also failed, which pharmacists advocated for and would have imposed a \$10 per prescription drug fee for any public employee. The final day of the session was very dramatic, with numerous recesses.

Doug summarized some successes for Deschutes County. The ADU bill (without amendments) passed early and was signed into law, by the Governor. The County received \$15 million towards the courthouse expansion funding. Most capital construction projects went unfunded, and many others were cut by 50%. IMPACTS funding came through.

Doug summarized some of the misses for this legislative session. Funding towards Public Health came up short. Behavioral Health, particularly workforce funding, went unfunded. **HB 3126**, providing regional mental health treatment facilities for youth, did not pass.

Doug summarized next steps. There will be no special session in July. There may be a special session around the third week of September. The Governor may ask for a special session for the land use bill **HB 3414**. Interim hearings will take place in November. The short session (35 days) will likely begin in early February. Doug expressed his appreciation to Deschutes County's delegation.

Robert Tintle asked Doug about the \$15 million from the general fund towards the courthouse funding, and whether there are any special strings attached to the use of these funds. Doug expects that the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) will likely write a contract similar to a bond funding contract. He added that extra bonding capacity was left on the table as unallocated.

Regarding HB 3414's failure this session, Commissioner Chang asked about opportunities and strategies, should this bill move again in special session. He believes the City of Bend is interested in bringing some lands at the eastside of Bend into the UGB, adding that there may be opportunities to coordinate with the city on HB 3414 or other related legislation. Doug reported that Governor Kotek and her staff were unwilling to negotiate on HB 3414 at the end of the session, and will need to work collaboratively. The Mayor of Bend testified on this bill twice, and the City of Redmond has expressed interest as well. He also expects AOC to engage.

Doug highlighted that housing infrastructure funding was left behind this session, although Redmond received funding for Northpoint. It's easier in short session to get a bill passed if part of a larger package, as opposed to an individual bill.

Commissioner Adair asked about strategies for the biomass plant in short session (**HB 3003**). A portion of this bill passed, providing \$2.6 million in funding for the juniper management and stream restoration. The portion related to biomass tax credit did not pass, and this would have sustained the program over the long term. Commissioner Adair spoke about strategies to advocate for the bill related to establishing youth mental health regional facilities during short session. Doug shared that this bill was sponsored by the House Co-Chair of Ways and Means, and its failure puzzles him. In addition, mental health care in schools was left behind and special education funding for the Portland metro area failed. He suggested the County draft a letter to Rep. Sanchez, asking her to come speak to us about this bill and other important programs that were left behind. One victory was securing \$19.4 million towards youth residential treatment programs, such as J Bar J. This will help them to retain their staff by increasing wages. This was a hard-fought victory in the Christmas Tree Bill.

Relative to regional youth psychiatric emergency treatment centers, Commissioner Chang shared that discussions took place in the past with St. Charles Medical Center, about hosting Representatives Kropf and Levy for a tour of the Emergency Department. Doug supported this plan, and will coordinate with Holly Harris and try to schedule a date for this tour. Commissioner DeBone added that Central Oregon is an important treatment area for much of rural eastern Oregon as well.

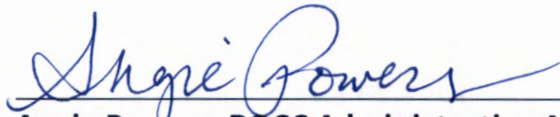
5. Other Items

- Doug Riggs will provide a formal wrap-up of the legislative session during the July 12 Board of Commissioners meeting. Whitney suggested coordinating with Jen on any items of note for that meeting.
- In response to Commissioner Chang, Doug reported the County's contract with Doug outside of the legislative session is a slightly smaller amount, but it is business as usual. He will put together a list of legislators to invite to a summit/barbeque in Central Oregon. There are many opportunities in between sessions. Pre-session filing takes place in September.
- Nick Lelack asked Doug to please track interim work groups, for best allocation of staff.

Next Meeting: This wraps up Legislative Update meetings for the 2023 Legislative Session. Doug Riggs will present to the Board during their public meeting on July 12, 2023.

Adjourn: Commissioner DeBone adjourned the meeting at 8:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angie Powers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant