



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

1:00 PM

MONDAY November 3, 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 1:02 pm.

CITIZEN INPUT: None

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Adair shared that she recently toured the Bethlehem Inn facility in Redmond, which is currently full with 40 clients. Adding that Bethlehem Inn's Bend facility is also full with 160 clients, she expressed appreciation for this organization's work to provide high barrier shelter and transition people out of homelessness.

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

1. Approval of Order No. 2025-049, Mountain View Road Speed Zone, and Order No. 2025-050, Buffalo Road Speed Zone
2. Approval of Order No. 2025-052 setting a temporary speed limit of 25 mph on portions of South Century Drive and Huntington Road

3. Approval of Document No. 2025-1036, an addendum (Bond Rider) to the NorWest Energy 2, LLC Solar Facility Decommissioning Bond and Improvement Agreement
4. Approval of the minutes of the October 22, 2025 BOCC Meeting

ADAI: Move Board approval of the Consent Agenda as presented
CHANG: Second

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

AGENDA ITEMS:

5. Update from the Oregon Water Resources Department

Carolyn Sufit, Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) Central Region Manager, explained that because a significant number of water permit holders who are required as a condition of their permit to submit reports on static water levels are not complying with that requirement, OWRD is preparing to send notices to those who are not compliant in the next month or two.

In response to questions, Sufit said about 110 water permit holders in the tri-county area (Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson) are subject to this requirement. Of those, about 23 are currently out of compliance with this condition of their permit. Sufit added that enforcement could include the assessment of civil penalties.

Responding to Commissioner DeBone, Deschutes Basin Watermaster Jeremy Griffin said for the purpose of these reports, the static water levels must be measured by a qualified professional.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed water bank bill and the steps needed to start a bank in 2027—those include offering a public comment period, charter review by the Tribes, and review by OWRD and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Griffin noted that such a bank would comprise an offshoot of the current successful leasing program which benefits the North Unit.

Discussion ensued regarding HB 3342, concerns with limits on permit extensions, and that some permits issued to the Avion Water District are overdue for claim of beneficial use. Avion is able to submit permit extensions under the old rules until April 1, 2026.

Discussion ensued regarding the difficulty of monitoring the usage of exempt wells.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Sufit said the Walla Walla basin is shared by Oregon and Washington and described collaborative efforts to fund work in the basin.

6. Department Performance Measures: 1st Quarter of Fiscal Year 2026

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager, said four departments were selected to provide updates on progress made during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2026 on selected performance measures that fall under the County goals and objectives of "Healthy People."

Facilities Director Lee Randall and Facilities Operation Manager Shannon Ostendorff reported on ensuring safe access to County facilities through inspection, repair, and replacement of the County's sidewalk and parking lot inventory. Inspections are conducted regularly to inform budgeting for maintenance and needed safety corrections.

Commissioner Adair appreciated the recent restriping done at the County's main campus. Randall said restriping typically occurs every three to five years, as does seal coating.

Brian Hayward, Maintenance Supervisor, said South County facilities are slated for seal coating and restriping next spring.

Jillian Weiser, Health Services Compliance and Quality Assurance Officer, reported on performance measures related to the language access program for behavioral health clients which fulfills requests from clients who speak a language other than English by utilizing qualified health care interpreters.

In response to Commissioner DeBone, Weiser said translation requirements vary by area based on the prevalence of languages spoken locally.

Christina De Benedetti, Behavioral Health Supervisor, reported on the performance measure to promote well-being through behavioral health and community support programs through the WRAP program, sharing that nine clients graduated from the program this quarter. De Benedetti explained this program extends intensive youth services to help students develop a plan that supports their needs; the program currently has 81 clients.

Emily Horton, Public Health Program Manager, reported on the performance measure related to public health messaging and associated targets to achieve a certain number of views for each information campaign. Horton shared results from three specific campaigns: Friends for Life (opioid overdose education); suicide prevention; and Rethink the Drink.

Horton then reported on the goal of Environmental Health to reduce outbreaks in foodborne illnesses by inspecting businesses, saying that 996 field inspections and re-inspections were conducted last quarter in addition to 184 inspections of temporary restaurants at public events.

County Forester Kevin Moriarty reported on the performance measure to maintain or increase the number of communities participating in the FireWise program, saying that there are currently 79 communities participating with another 17 pending. He added that 54 grants have thus far been awarded through that program this year.

Commissioner Chang was interested to know how many property owners in each of the Firewise communities are reducing fuels on their properties and creating defensible space. Moriarty said the required grant reports call for the number of participating property owners to be shared for each grant-funded effort.

Jeff Merwin, Solid Waste Environmental Compliance and Infrastructure Manager, reported substantial percentage increases in both compacted and uncompacted yard debris diversion metrics. Referring to the guideline of approximately 1,200 pounds per cubic yard for landfill compaction, Merwin reported that Solid Waste achieved 1,291 pounds per cubic yard after adjusting for 20,000 yards of soil.

Discussion ensued of ongoing efforts to increase diversion rates and of the time involved to transition green waste into usable compost.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Commissioner DeBone announced a joint Board meeting with the City of Redmond today at 5:30.
- Strategic Initiatives Manager Jen Patterson announced the receipt of two requests for fundraising sponsorships: one from the Family Access Network (FAN) for \$2,500 and the other from Hospice of Redmond, also for \$2,500. Noting that the Board had approved similar requests from these organizations for \$1,000 each last year, Patterson said \$7,400 remains in video lottery funds for the Board to allocate to fundraising sponsorship request in FY 2026.

Following discussion, a majority of the Board was in consensus to allocate \$1,500 to Hospice of Redmond and \$1,000 to FAN.

- Commissioner Adair advocated for the Board to adopt a resolution celebrating the nation's 250-year celebration in 2026. Commissioner DeBone supported taking that action before the end of this year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 2:33 pm, the Board convened as the Governing Body of the 9-1-1 Service District and entered Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (h) Litigation.

The Board exited Executive Session at 3:02 pm and directed staff to proceed as discussed. The Board then reconvened as the Governing Body of Deschutes County.

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm.

DATED this 17th day of Nov. 2025 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

ATTEST:


RECORDING SECRETARY


ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR


PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR


PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER