



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

1:00 PM

MONDAY March 31, 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 County 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 1:00 pm.

CITIZEN INPUT:

- Stephen Payor spoke to the search for a site for a new County landfill. Saying that water rights now appear to be available at the Roth East site, he asked that the County direct staff to not reconvene the Solid Waste Advisory Committee on this matter until the question of water rights at the Roth East site is determined.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Work Session: Plan Amendment and Zone Change for the Bend Park and Recreation District

Nathaniel Miller, Associate Planner, summarized the request from the Bend Park and Recreation District to change the Comprehensive Plan designation and Zone of approximately 279 acres it owns southeast of Bend. The request is to change

the designation of the subject property from Agricultural and Surface Mining to Rural Residential Exception Area, with a corresponding Zone change from Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) and Surface Mining to Rural Residential.

Saying that the Hearings Officer recommended approval of the request, Miller said a public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 2nd before the Board.

Referring to the applicant's stated intention of using the property for a regional park, Commissioner Chang noted that a park is an eligible use for property zoned EFU. He was interested to know more about the District's intentions and asked if a masterplan is available with additional information on what is being proposed. He also wanted to know more about the property's water rights and asked if the irrigation water rights can be used for a park.

Commissioner Adair noted that the staff memo indicates the applicant intends to transfer the water rights to tax lot 300, which is adjacent and also owned by the Bend PRD. Commissioner DeBone noted that the record refers to recent farming on tax lot 300.

The Board was in consensus to provide 20 minutes for the applicant, ten for agencies, and three for members of the public at the public hearing.

2. Acceptance of a Central Oregon Health Council Behavioral Health Savings Grant

Trevor Stephens, Business Manager for Community Justice, reminded that last August, Juvenile Community Justice applied for a Behavioral Health Shared Savings Investment Grant from the Central Oregon Health Council. This grant prioritizes programs which address behavioral health challenges in youth, with a particular focus on substance use disorder (SUD) prevention, treatment and recovery. Noting that Juvenile Community Justice is in the process of launching a Substance Use Disorder pilot program for youth on supervision, Stephens said the \$127,500 awarded from COHC would be used to support this effort.

Specifically, Juvenile Justice proposes to use the grant funds for the following services which are not reimbursable through Medicare or Medicaid:

- Therapy services for young women who are on juvenile justice supervision;
- Mentoring for youth on supervision; and
- Consultation services to develop a restorative practice accountability program and establish a feedback system for youth and families.

ADAIR: Move approval of Document No. 2025-331, accepting a Behavioral Health Savings Investment Grant from Central Oregon Health Council

CHANG: Second

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

3. 2025 County College Program

Kim Katchur, Public Information Officer, presented the results of a survey offered to participants of the County College program at the conclusion of last year's ten-week program. The survey asked which sessions participants enjoyed the most and what could be improved. Katchur said 56% of respondents agreed the program should be extended from 10 weeks to 12, and 81% agreed it would be valuable if the County made each department's presentation available for watching before attending the in-person session.

In response to Commissioner DeBone, Katchur said the suggested videos could be made by department heads using Teams. Commissioner Chang noted that such videos could be shared and used outside of County College.

Discussion ensued of the number of departments and the length of previous County College sessions. Chair DeBone noted Board support for extending the program to 11 or 12 weeks and offering videos for attendees to watch in advance of each session.

4. Process to Create County Commission Districts

Nick Lelack, County Administrator, reminded that after last year's passage of Ballot Measure #9-173 which expands the County Board of Commissioners from three positions to five, the Board indicated interest in creating Commission Districts.

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager, said staff has looked into various ways in which districts might be created and seeks Board direction on a preferred process. Specific questions before the Board at this time are:

1. Is it preferred to take a proposed district map to the voters in the May 2026 or November 2026 election?
2. Does the Board support creating a district map proposal itself, or tasking a committee with that?
3. If a committee process, what is the preferred committee selection process?

Following discussion, a majority of the Board supported taking a proposed Commission district map to the voters in the May 2026 election rather than in November 2026. Commissioner DeBone noted that people are more likely to vote in November.

Patterson spoke to timing issues and said if district boundaries are to be determined by a committee with the goal of being put to the voters in May of 2026, she recommended committee members be selected this April.

Commissioner Chang suggested deciding whether five voting districts should be established (with one Commissioner representing each), or if four districts should be established with one Commissioner who would serve as Chair of the Board being elected at-large. He regarded the district maps which had been proposed in a 2006 ballot measure to be fairly reasonable and said these could be used as a starting point, with staff evaluating appropriate changes according to population changes of the precincts.

Commissioner Adair noted that precincts have been redrawn since 2006.

County Clerk Steve Dennison said another decision point is whether the districts should be drawn according to their total population or to the number of voters who reside in each one.

Commissioner DeBone asked about possibly convening a civic assembly for this purpose, saying his goal is for the voters to be clear on what is happening. He viewed the creation of districts as an opportunity for furthering understanding and supported establishing a committee to do this work.

Commissioner Adair stated her support for establishing a blue-ribbon committee to draw district boundaries.

Commissioner Chang also supported appointing a committee to define districts and said much depends on how that committee is formulated.

In response to Commissioner DeBone, Commissioner Chang agreed that it might be possible to utilize some of the process by which the members of the recent civic assembly on youth homelessness were selected. He recalled that the civic assembly had mailed solicitations to 12,000 randomly selected households, inviting persons to apply.

In response to Commissioner Adair, County Counsel David Doyle said if the voters reject the proposed districts, the Board's positions would remain at-large.

Responding to questions, Dennison said some precincts in the County have populations of 8,000 or 9,000 residents, while others have as little as 50. Dennison quoted from State law with regard to how charter committees are formed, and Doyle distributed information on the selection of members of charter committees.

Patterson summarized Board direction to staff to return with information on three options to form a district committee: local appointments, the State Home Rule charter committee appointment process, and the process used by the recent civic assembly on youth homelessness.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Commissioner DeBone attended a meeting of the Joint Committee on Information & Technology in Salem last Friday.
- Commissioner Chang announced meetings of the Coordinated Houselessness Response Office and the Regional Housing Council this evening.
- Commissioner Adair reported on the most recent meeting of the group organized to coordinate a managed camp in Redmond, saying the camp is expected to open this fall.
- Commissioner DeBone said the La Pine Chamber will hold its annual awards banquet tomorrow evening.
- Commissioner Chang said he is not able to attend tomorrow's midday meeting of the Public Health Advisory Board.
- Commissioner Adair will travel to Salem tomorrow to advocate for funding for the capital costs of the Terrebonne Sanitary District.
- County Administrator Nick Lelack said Chief Financial Officer Robert Tintle will attend tomorrow's Visit Central Oregon meeting.
- Lelack noted that the Board will not meet on Monday June 2nd which is the Association of Oregon Cities annual Board retreat.
- Jen Patterson referred to a request for funding from Shepherd's House Ministries (SHM) and the possibility of the County designating this organization as a service partner to facilitate the allocation of video lottery funds. Adding that the Board could also consider appropriating SHM a special project grant which would not require designation as a service partner, she reviewed allocations made to SHM over the last few years.

Saying that SHM is a great organization, Commissioner Chang suggested adding it to the list of video lottery funding recipients in the special project category this year and possibly designating it as a service partner next year.

Commissioner Adair agreed the organization does phenomenal work.

In response to Patterson, Adair supported asking SHM to submit a grant proposal up to \$40,000 for the Board's consideration on Wednesday.

Noting that video lottery funds are the County's most flexible resources, Commissioner DeBone agreed that SHM is a wonderful service provider.

- Commissioner Adair reported that the number of homeless persons in Lane County grew from 2400 last year to more than 4800 currently.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 pm.

DATED this 5th day of May 2025 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

ATTEST:

Brenda Fitzgerald
RECORDING SECRETARY

Anthony DeBone
ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR

Patti Adair
PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR

Phil Chang
PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER