



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

1:00 PM

MONDAY August 4, 2025

Allen Room
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Anthony DeBone, Patti Adair and Phil Chang. Also present were County Administrator Nick Lelack; Deputy County Administrator Whitney Hale; Deputy County Administrator Erik Kropp; 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: www.deschutes.org/meetings.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

CITIZEN INPUT: None

Commissioner DeBone commented that the annual Deschutes County Fair was last week. Saying that she hoped the 4-H auction grossed more than \$1.8 million, Commissioner Adair said the youth involved in 4-H work hard and she was gratified to see them supported by the community. She shared that her neighbor got \$28 per pound for her sheep Tsunami.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 2025 Legislative Session Review from Northwest Policy Advocates and discussion of the upcoming special session and the 2026 Legislative Session**
Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager, introduced Doug Riggs from Northwest Policy Advocates who presented an overview of the 2025 Legislative

session and stressed the importance of engaging with legislators while they are not in session. Riggs reminded that because funding for transportation was not resolved during the regular session, ODOT's projected \$350 million shortfall will be addressed in a special session on August 29th. He said it's not yet known if Oregon's allotment from the federal government for Medicaid will be cut.

Commissioner Adair said 34% of Oregon residents receive Medicaid.

Continuing, Riggs reviewed Deschutes County's priority bills and how those fared, noting that Central Oregon was successful in obtaining \$10 million for the CORE3 project, and \$4.6 million was allocated for juniper mitigation/ water restoration work in eastern and southern Oregon.

Chris Doty, Road Director, said the transportation bill is expected to include an increased gas tax as well as higher registration and title fees to generate up to \$97.5 million annually to counties, with Deschutes County receiving \$5.6 million per year. Saying that the proposed package is neither comprehensive nor bi-partisan, Doty advised having real conversations with legislators about this issue and shared talking points for the Commissioners to consider using when broaching those conversations.

Commissioner Chang said it is clear that funding is needed for maintenance of the transportation network.

Commissioner Adair said electric vehicles need to pay their fair share of the system maintenance costs.

Continuing, Riggs referred to SB1154, which was passed in the last days of the session and addresses areas of groundwater concern including in southern Deschutes County. He spoke to SB916, which allows striking workers to collect unemployment, and HB2688, which expands the definition of "public works" to apply the prevailing wage rate to certain off-site manufacturing activities. He further reviewed bills related to housing which passed and noted the failure of HB3962 which would have modified the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) formula and granted more flexibility in utilizing TLT funds.

Discussion ensued regarding funding to maintain staffing at the Stabilization Center after-hours and funding for other health services, including for the deflection program and IDD program.

Commissioner Chang asked how the County should best pursue the residential treatment funding that will be made available. Riggs offered to communicate the application process to staff as soon as that has been defined.

Commissioner Chang spoke to the passage of SB85 which will facilitate the State Fire Marshal to actively work with the insurance industry to try to address premium increases and the contraction of property coverage.

Riggs concluded that next year's short legislative session will limit house members and senators to propose two bills each. He advised that the County begin sharing its priorities with the Central Oregon legislative delegation in September.

Commissioner Adair said in September, Oregon will be #50 in the nation in terms of available pharmacies per capita.

2. Applications for the BLM/OWEB Good Neighbor Authority Grant Program and the BLM Community Fire Assistance Program

Kevin Moriarty, County Forester, said the Natural Resources Department has applied for an OWEB/BLM Good Neighbor Authority Grant in the amount of \$275,000 and a BLM Community Fire Assistance Grant in the amount of \$480,000. The applications were submitted before securing Board authorization due to the need to meet the inflexible deadlines, and can be withdrawn should the Board so direct.

Moriarty explained how the grant funds would be used if awarded for fuels reduction work on both public land and private properties.

Commissioner Chang suggested prioritizing work on land that impacts streams. Moriarty responded that the applications stated the County's intention to use some funding to improve the health of watersheds.

Commissioner Adair asked if some of the funding would be used for fuels reduction work on private property. Moriarty confirmed this, explaining that direct cash awards would not be given but rather that property owners would contract to have work done with the contractor being paid by the County.

CHANG: Move approval of the applications submitted for the BLM/OWEB Good Neighbor Authority Grant Program and the BLM Community Fire Assistance Program, 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 3 – 0

Commissioner Adair asked to be notified if and when these grants are awarded.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Commissioner DeBone reported that Sheriff Rupert joined the Commissioners and others for the County employee breakfast at the Fair on Saturday.
- Commissioner DeBone announced that he will attend the Audit Committee this Friday.
- Commissioner DeBone noted the groundbreaking for Northpoint Vista tomorrow in Redmond and the grand opening of the College View Apartments—a Housing Works project—in Bend this Wednesday.
- Commissioner Chang reported that a consortium of Metropolitan Planning Organizations met last Friday, saying that concerns were expressed with regard to the State's transportation funding package.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 2:28 pm, the Board entered Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (h) Litigation and ORS 192.660 (2) (d) Labor Negotiations.

The Executive Session concluded at 2:49 pm, and the public was invited to return to the room. The Board then took the following action:

CHANG:	Move approval of Document No. 2025-824 authorizing County Counsel Dave Doyle to sign National Opioid Litigation settlement documents (Purdue/Sackler and Group of 8) on behalf of Deschutes County
ADAIR:	Second
VOTE:	ADAIR: Yes
	CHANG: Yes
	DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 3 – 0

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

DATED this 28th day of August 2025 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.



ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR

ATTEST:

Brenda Fitzgerald
RECORDING SECRETARY

Patti Adair
PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR

Phil Chang
PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER