



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

9:00 AM

WEDNESDAY March 11, 2026

Barnes Sawyer Rooms
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Phil Chang, Anthony DeBone and Patti Adair. 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 Chang called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZEN INPUT:

- Judy Schultz expressed concerns about the Oregon 250 resolution which the Board will consider adopting, saying it is not clear whether that was drafted by the Taxpayers Association of Oregon, which has a political agenda. She objected to the resolution's Judeo-Christian bias and viewed its support of capitalism as problematic, especially in view of the growing wealth gap.
- Reverend Erika Spaet said the proposed resolution is an incomplete and deeply biased document which does not represent her or many other people of faith. Sharing that her grandparents immigrated to the United States, she stated her support of inclusion and added that she takes no pride in the staggering wealth gap which exists in Deschutes County and across the country.

Commissioner Chang explained that his concern about this rezone pertains to the lack of any protection instituted to ensure that the property would not be used for rural residential development, which the rezone would allow.

DEBONE: Move approval of second reading of Ordinance No. 2026-005 by title only
ADAIR: Second

VOTE: DEBONE: Yes
ADAIR: Yes
CHANG: Chair votes no. Motion Carried 2 - 1

Chair Chang read the title of the ordinance into the record.

ADAIR: Move adoption of Ordinance No. 2026-005, amending Deschutes County Code Title 23, the Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan, to change the Comprehensive Plan map designation for certain property From Agriculture and Surface Mining to Rural Residential Exception Area, and amending Deschutes County Code Title 18, the Deschutes County Zoning Map, to change the zone designation for certain property from Exclusive Farm Use and Surface Mine to Multiple Use Agricultural

DEBONE: Second

VOTE: DEBONE: Yes
ADAIR: Yes
CHANG: Chair votes no. Motion Carried 2 - 1

9. Recategorization of ARPA funds to Revenue Replacement and a request to extend the timeline for a grant awarded to the Deschutes River Conservancy

Laura Skundrick, Management Analyst, said in 2022, the County awarded a \$1,075,000 grant of ARPA funds to the Deschutes River Conservancy for the Smith Rock-King Way On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency project. Because the Conservancy now reports that it will not be able to spend the entire remaining amount of \$607,333.38 in grant funds prior to the federal deadline of December 31, 2026, staff recommends recategorizing these funds to the category of revenue replacement and awarding a grant from the General Fund to the Conservancy to allow for completing the project. This will avoid having to return any ARPA funds unspent by the end of this year to the Treasury.

Lisa Seales from the Deschutes River Conservancy described the project and said it is expected to be completed by June 30, 2027.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Seales confirmed that in the project area, 50% of the property owners who farm utilize flood irrigation.

Commissioner Chang said while many farmers may want to convert away from flood irrigation, they are not required to switch and in fact lack incentives to do so. He added that projects such as this make it possible for farmers to move away from flood irrigation while allowing water to be applied more evenly onto fields, thus conserving water in the process.

DEBONE: Move to approve recategorizing \$607,391 of ARPA funds to the Revenue Replacement category

ADAIR: Second

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

DEBONE: Move to award a \$607,333.38 grant from the General Fund to Deschutes River Conservancy to complete its Smith Rock-King Way On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Project by June 30, 2027

ADAIR: Second

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

10. Deschutes County Opioid Settlement Funds: FY27 Department Funding Requests

Cam Sparks, Budget & Financial Planning Manager, and Laura Skundrick, Management Analyst, presented an overview of opioid settlement funds received and anticipated by the County, summarized the annual process for departmental requests, and reviewed the FY 2027 requests submitted by three departments.

- Community Justice's Adult Parole & Probation division seeks \$50,000 to support sober housing beds for justice-involved individuals and \$10,000 to distribute bus passes to clients.
- Health Services requests the reallocation of \$70,000 previously allocated settlement funds and an additional \$37,030 to meet the need for Naloxone.
- The Sheriff's Office requests \$270,000 to fund a Corrections Registered Nurse position and to purchase Narcan for the patrol and corrections

divisions as well as other Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) medication.

Commissioner DeBone asked about possible higher-level upstream investments that could be made with the funds. Health Services Director Holly Harris said there is a pressing need for funding to purchase Naloxone due to the loss of other funding sources for this purpose.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Harris said the County has not yet received overdose fatality numbers for 2025 from the State. It can take up to a year for that data to be provided.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Commissioner DeBone said CET started charging for bus fares again last month. Commissioner Adair suggested a bus route be added from La Pine to Bend on Saturdays.

ADAIR: Move approval of the requested allocations of Opioid Settlement Funds for FY 2027 as discussed
DEBONE: Second

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

11. Authorization to apply for Community Project Funding appropriations for renovations to the South County Health Services Building

Shannon Brister-Raugust, Behavioral Health Director, presented a request for authorization to apply for federal Community Project Funding for renovations to the South County Health Services Building. Saying the building is very outdated and does not meet ADA requirements, she explained that the proposed renovations would improve accessibility, space utilization, and privacy for clients.

Brister-Raugust added that the department will also likely apply for a different grant next month for the same project under the Rural Areas program.

DEBONE: Move to authorize Health Services to apply for and accept, if awarded, Community Project Funding appropriations for renovations to the South County Health Services building
ADAIR: Second

VOTE: DEBONE: Yes
 ADAIR: Yes

CHANG: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 3 – 0

12. Review draft Leadership Redmond Presentation

The Commissioners reviewed the draft presentation for the Leadership Redmond presentation on March 19th and directed edits.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Commissioner DeBone announced that the Greater Sisters Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which he described as a good partnership with the City and others for critical wildfire protection efforts, has been finalized.
- Commissioner Adair said Congress is considering whether to delist the grey wolf species which is decimating the mule deer and elk populations. She added that hunters are also concerned about cougars.
- Commissioner Chang reported on the Coordinated Houseless Response Office Board meeting this past Monday where allocations of funds to a variety of projects primarily focused on homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing were decided.
- Commissioner Chang attended the memorial service for past Prineville Mayor Betty Roppe last Saturday.
- Commissioners will attend the Trinity Place affordable housing groundbreaking event in Sisters tomorrow.
- Commissioner Chang attended a reception last Thursday at OSU's Cascade Campus for OSU provost Ryan Haggerty. The event included a celebration of the legislature's decision to approve bonding capacity for OSU to construct a student center building in Bend.
- Commissioner DeBone said interviews of selected Fair Board candidates have been completed.
- Commissioner DeBone reported on yesterday's SLED meeting where a multi-year economic development project for renewable geothermal energy at Newberry was discussed.
- Commissioner DeBone reported that Western Meteorology has officially moved to Central Oregon and commenced operations here.
- Discussion ensued regarding property owned by the City of Redmond and referred to as Desert Rise. Saying that Redmond has appropriated \$150,000 to clean up and remediate this property, Commissioner DeBone spoke to the fact that the City did not coordinate with the County on this despite the extensive collaborative efforts between the two jurisdictions to establish a managed camp in Redmond.

Property Manager Kristie Bollinger said Desert Rise is adjacent to the northern part of property owned by the Department of State Lands which is bisected by Antler Avenue.

Commissioner Chang asked how many encampments exist at Desert Rise and whether the City knows where removed campers will relocate to.

Bollinger said it's estimated that roughly 40 or 50 people live at Desert Rise, which is about 55 acres. The City has said since safe parking sites and other alternatives are available, it will not offer any particular alternate location as it clears campers from Desert Rise. Bollinger expected that some campers will relocate to the County-owned property off of 17th in Redmond.

Deputy County Administrator Erik Kropp noted that the County had successfully worked closely with the City for months to move people off of land on 21st Street and the managed camp area.

County Administrator Nick Lelack said Desert Rise was discussed at the Redmond City Council meeting on February 23rd, and notifications to campers began to go out late last week. Subsequent City Council action is scheduled for next Monday, March 16th.

Saying he was concerned about where the displaced campers will relocate to, especially as the managed camp is not yet open and in view of the County's interest in clearing camps off of its 137- acre property in East Redmond, Commissioner Chang supported engaging with the City on this matter.

Noting that each Commissioner is scheduled to meet with Redmond Mayor Ed Fitch and Redmond City Manager Keith Witkosky next week, Commissioner Adair suggested adding this topic to those meeting agendas.

At the Board's direction, Lelack said on Monday, staff will provide a draft letter to Redmond's elected officials regarding Desert Rise for the Board's review.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

At 11:29 am, the Board exited Executive Session, invited the audience back into the room, and directed staff to proceed as discussed.

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 am.

DATED this 15th day of April 2026 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.



PHIL CHANG, CHAIR

ATTEST:



RECORDING SECRETARY



ANTHONY DEBONE, VICE CHAIR



PATTI ADAIR, COMMISSIONER