



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

9:00 AM

WEDNESDAY January 14, 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: None

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Adair reported on the need to reduce the administrative burden placed on community mental health providers by the Oregon Health Authority, saying that she and Health Services Director Holly Harris submitted a letter to OHA Director Sejal Hathi advocating for the elimination of redundant reporting requirements.

Commissioner Chang attended the most recent meeting of the Redmond Managed Camp workgroup last week, reporting that construction is progressing rapidly, an RFP for a camp operator will soon be issued, and the camp is projected to open in April.

Commissioner Chang reported on last night's meeting of the Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Committee at which this year's application for funding from the State was discussed.

A break was taken at 9:05 am to restart the audio/visual system to resolve a technical issue. The meeting resumed at 9:07 am.

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

1. Approval of a Termination of Purchase and Sale Contract associated with Newberry Neighborhood Quadrant 2a and 2d, La Pine
2. Approval of Document No. 2026-0022, a Dedication Deed for a Remnant Parcel Adjacent to Burgess Road
3. Consideration of Board Signature on letter reappointing Mary Meier for service on the OSU Extension Advisory Council
4. Consideration of Board Signature on letter reappointing Dr. Stephen Pappa, for service on the Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee
5. Consideration of Board Signature on letter reappointing Jim Close for service on the Deschutes River Recreation Homesites #1 Special Road District
6. Approval of the minutes of the BOCC meeting of January 5, 2026

Commissioner Chang noted a correction to the draft minutes of January 5th to reflect the correct heading of agenda item #4.

ADAIR: Move Board approval of the Consent Agenda as amended to include a correction to the minutes of January 5th

DEBONE: Second

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

ACTION ITEMS:

7. **Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2026-001, amending Chapter 2.08 of the**

Deschutes County Code to align the hours of operations of the County Clerk’s Office with applicable State regulations

Dave Doyle, County Counsel, explained the proposed amendment to Chapter 2.08 of Deschutes County Code to align the hours of operations of the County Clerk’s Office with applicable State regulations.

Responding to Commissioner Chang, Doyle confirmed that this change would keep the County in alignment with any revisions made to the applicable State statute. Commissioner DeBone noted that this will be accomplished by removing the references to specific hours and days and instead referring to the ORS provisions.

The public hearing was opened at 9:10 am. There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed at 9:10 am.

DEBONE: Move approval of first reading of Ordinance No. 2026-001 by title only
ADAIR: Second

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

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

8. Public Hearing: Text Amendments for Wildfire Mitigation Building Codes

Kyle Collins, Senior Planner, presented proposed amendments to Deschutes County Code to adopt new wildfire mitigation building code standards. Collins reminded of State legislation approved in 2021 to create a comprehensive wildfire hazard map, which was subsequently repealed in 2025. Concurrent with the map’s repeal, the State authorized local jurisdictions to adopt discretionary wildfire mitigation residential building code standards. The proposed amendments to County Code would institute Section R327 of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code for all new residential development, including certain residential accessory structures. Various building components would be affected, including roofing and ventilation.

The public hearing was opened at 9:38 am.

- Amy Sabbadini urged adoption of the proposed changes, saying these would demonstrate good faith measures to property insurers and create time for first responders to arrive at the scene of a residential fire.

- Craig Renkert stated his support for adopting R327 into County Code as building homes to these standards reduces fire risk and constitutes long-term investments in safety.
- Lon Leneve, representing his neighborhood coalition, supported the adoption of the R327 standards, saying that each of the 60,000 homes expected to be built in Deschutes County over the next 20 years should be built to these standards in the interest of protecting against fire.
- Robin Church urged adoption of R327 as a cost-effective step towards fire preparedness. She said the amendments would reduce the risk of fire ignition and spread as well as help relieve the pressure on property insurers.
- Roger Johnson, CEO of Rural Fire Protection District #2, said adopting the R327 standards would be an important public safety measure which may lower the risk of losing homes to fire as well as reduce the cost of homeowners insurance.

There being no one else who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed at 9:56 am.

Commissioner Adair said many homes are already being built to these standards.

Commissioner Chang said requiring new homes to be built to these standards would result in insurers experiencing fewer claim losses.

Subsequent to discussion of the growing number of FireWise communities in Deschutes County and the significant positive impacts those are having on dozens of neighborhoods, the Board decided to proceed with deliberations on the proposed changes to County Code.

In response to Commissioner DeBone, Collins said the proposed ordinance would apply the R327 standards to all areas of unincorporated Deschutes County. Adding that the State Building Code is updated annually on April 1st, Collins recommended that if the Board decides to proceed with adopting the ordinance, it take effect on April 1st.

Commissioner DeBone commented that all of Deschutes County is susceptible to wildfire. Commissioner Chang agreed that anywhere in the county is vulnerable to fast-moving fires. Commissioner Adair appreciated that Mr. Leneve and Ms. Church have asked the cities of Bend, Redmond and La Pine to adopt these standards as Sisters has done.

ADAIR: Move approval of first reading of Ordinance No. 2026-002 by title only

DEBONE: Second

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

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

Collins indicated that he will bring the ordinance back in two weeks for consideration of second reading and adoption, anticipating an effective date of April 1, 2026.

9. Special Project Grants - Mid-Year Updates

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager, reminded that last year, the Board had awarded five special project grants from video lottery funds, and will now hear mid-year status updates from the grantees on their projects.

Lisa Seales, Senior Program Manager for the Deschutes River Conservancy, reported on the use of the \$15,000 grant to the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative. Reviewing a graph which showed progress made to restore streamflows across the basin since 2002, Seales listed priority actions of the Collaborative, including the development of a comprehensive Water Management Plan which will include strategies and tools for managing and increasing streamflows. The grant from the County has helped the Collaborative to convene stakeholders, build consensus around challenging issues, and draft and edit the plan.

Commissioner Chang said the plan will help identify where water can be saved and how it can be transferred to where it's needed.

Commissioner DeBone noted the need to address exempt wells and spoke to an opportunity in South County to protect groundwater by pursuing a sewer system and a domestic water source instead of wells.

Jacob Fritz from the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project (DCFP) said the DCFP monitors active forest restoration work to ensure a balance of economic, environmental and social benefits and also improves community safety by supporting wildfire resilience work. He explained the "Core Habitat and Recreational Balance Project" and shared how the DCFP is partnering with the Deschutes Trails Coalition to help build consensus in the community on the use and protection of public forests.

In response to Commissioner DeBone, Fritz agreed there are transitional zones, particularly at lower elevations, where ponderosa pines struggle to re-establish and are at risk of being supplanted by juniper, brush and grass.

Rachel Cardwell from Friends of the Children reported on current service levels and the goal to serve 128 children by the spring of 2028. Reminding that the organization's mentors are full-time, salaried employees, she explained how the program strives to position youth to graduate from high school and avoid the juvenile justice system in an effort to break generational cycles of poverty and abuse. She shared that the organization has most recently hired a national board-certified teacher to assist in meeting educational benchmarks.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Cardwell said the organization has a funding gap to close before it can make good on its promise to expand the program in the La Pine community. She added that Friends of the Children is taking steps to become a licensed mental health services provider in Oregon and plans to add a licensed clinical supervisor. Each of the mentors will become a certified QMHA (qualified mental health associate).

Responding again to Commissioner Adair, Rachel said Friends of the Children currently serves 16 children in La Pine and plans to enlarge that number by another 16.

Megan Tuck from COIC presented an update from the Newberry Regional Partnership, distributing copies of the Newberry Country 2025-2030 Action Plan and reminding that the Partnership is an all-volunteer group supported by COIC. She spoke to significant achievements since the Plan was finalized, particularly in wildfire prevention and public land clean-ups.

Saying that he and his wife are very involved with the Partnership, Commissioner DeBone said it offers many opportunities for community members from South Deschutes County and North Klamath County to be involved.

Jerry Kaping from Shepherd's House Ministries reviewed the progress made to purchase a home and expand shelter services in association with a long-term recovery program designed for women and women with children. Abi's House, in conjunction with eight other residences sited at the junction of Bear Creek and Dean Swift Roads, will house 40 or more women and children at any given time.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Kaping said Shepherd's House envisions a six-step process for each client with an eventual progression into transitional housing or graduate housing, the latter of which is permanent housing for those who cannot secure housing on their own due to disabilities.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Kaping said that over six different sites, Shepherd's House provides housing for 30 children who otherwise would be homeless.

Discussion ensued that the County funds used for Abi's House were reallocated ARPA funds which Kaping had been asked to provide a status report on next week. Kaping then reported that the \$15,000 special projects grant awarded to Shepherd's House was used to purchase food and help provide more than 13,000 meals to shelter residents and walk-in guests. He referred to a major crisis resulting from a very large reduction in funds available to combat food insecurity and said the \$15,000 grant has helped to close that gap and assisted in the provision of over 1,000 meals to more than 400 people every day.

10. First reading of Ordinance No. 2026-004 – BCL LLC Plan Amendment / Zone Change for approximately 240 acres north and south of Highway 20 and east of Ward Road

Audrey Stuart, Associate Planner, reminded that the Board held a public hearing on this application on August 20th and conducted deliberations on October 15th, after which it voted to approve the requested Zone change from Exclusive Farm Use to Multiple Use Agricultural as well as an associated Comprehensive Plan amendment. The subject property is located a quarter-mile outside of Bend's UGB.

Commissioner Chang explained he does not support this zone change as he believes it is ahead of its time in terms of providing an orderly transition from rural Deschutes County to incorporated areas.

ADAIR: Move approval of first reading of Ordinance No. 2026-004 by title only
DEBONE: 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.

11. Consideration to reopen the record on the proposed text amendment to County Code to allow RV parks as a new conditional use in the Tumalo Commercial District

Associate Planner Audrey Stuart referred to a procedural question raised as to

whether members of the public can speak with Commissioners regarding a proposed amendment to Chapter 18.67 of Deschutes County Code to allow a recreational vehicle (RV) park as a conditional use in the Tumalo Commercial District. Stuart explained the difference between a legislative process and a quasi-judicial one, including whether these allow or do not allow the receipt of comments from the public outside of a formal public hearing.

Stuart said because staff has determined that the decision before the Board is a policy decision, which is legislative, it's recommended that the record be reopened and the public hearing continued in view of this clarification.

Responding to Commissioner Chang, Stuart said staff recommends reopening the public hearing according to the standard hearing procedures—including the opportunity for the applicant to present information—although it would be made clear that anyone who provided testimony at the previous hearing would not need to repeat those comments.

Commissioner Chang noted that the applicant had provided a thorough presentation at the earlier public hearing, and many persons testified at that time. Commissioner DeBone stated his expectation that if the public hearing is reopened, those who participated in the earlier one would be motivated to attend the reopened hearing and again state their opinions. He supported allowing persons who submitted comments previously to again offer testimony.

Saying that parking is limited in the Tumalo Commercial District, Commissioner Adair referred to testimony from members of the Tumalo community opposing the proposal to allow RV parks. She spoke to the uncertainty regarding whether this was a legislative or quasi-judicial matter and said she had initially been advised not to meet with the applicant who was seeking that opportunity.

DEBONE: Move approval of Order No. 2026-005 to reopen and continue the public hearing, at a date and time to be determined, on the proposed text amendment to Deschutes County Code to allow RV parks as a new conditional use in the Tumalo Commercial District

CHANG: Second

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

12. Consideration of Board authorization to establish an "Account Validation Service" account with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer, described the request to establish an 'Account Validation Service" account with JP Morgan Chase Bank, explaining that this would serve as added protection against fraud and provide an additional layer of security when processing electronic fund transfer payment requests.

Commissioner DeBone noted the monthly fee to maintain this account would be about \$50. Tintle said in addition, a small fee would be charged for each transaction. In response to Commissioner Chang, Tintle said the account would help guard against phishing attempts and attacks on cybersecurity.

DEBONE: Move to authorize establishing a bank account with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. for use of its Account Validation Service

ADAIR: Second

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

A lunch recess was taken at 11:46 am. The meeting was reconvened at 1:01 pm.

13. Consideration of updates to HR-6, Deschutes County Remote Work Policy; HR-12, Family Medical Leave Policy; and HR-13, Employee Leave Donation Policy

Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator and Susan DeJoode, HR Director, explained the proposed updates to HR-6, Deschutes County Remote Work Policy; HR-12, Family Medical Leave Policy; and HR-13, Employee Leave Donation Policy. Hale said if the Board agrees with the changes, they will be brought back at a later date for formal approval.

Nick Lelack, County Administrator, added that each new policy or policy change brought to the Board has been reviewed by the Policy Advisory Committee, which was established to review new policies and update outdated ones.

14. Amendment to contract with Adlumin for Managed Detection and Response (MDR) services

Zachary Neemann, Information Security Manager, said in 2024, the County entered into a contract with Adlumin for Managed Detection and Response (MDR) services to deliver 24/7 detection, investigation, and quick response to

cyber threats. In 2025, Adlumin was acquired by N-Able. After negotiating with N-Able, staff was able to save \$60,000 for continued MDR services by opting for a three-year contract. Because the contract renewal needed to occur by December 31 to secure the savings and the BOCC was not scheduled to meet until January, Acting County Administrator Erik Kropp signed the End User License Agreement (EULA) during the holiday period to secure the contract and the cost savings. Staff is now seeking retroactive Board approval for the amendment to this contract.

In response to Commissioner Adair, IT Director Tania Mahood said after Adlumin's acquisition by N-Able, it took time to work through negotiations for a renewed contract and secure favorable terms at a lower price than was initially presented.

DEBONE: Move approval of County Administrator signature on Document No. 2025-1153, an amendment to the contract with Adlumin for Managed Detection and Response services

ADAIR: Second

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

15. Cybersecurity Yearly Update and Plan

Information Security Manager Neemann sought approval of the Cybersecurity Yearly Update and Plan, noting advances made in IT's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to threats.

The Commissioners and County Administrator Lelack expressed appreciation for the work of IT staff to keep the network and its users safe from efforts to breach its protections.

DEBONE: Move approval of County Administrator signature of the Information Technology Cybersecurity Yearly Update and Plan

ADAIR: Second

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

16. Updating Policy GA-11 and transitioning this to Policy IT-5, Dial Property Information System Access and Use

Shad Campbell, IT Applications Manager, said Policy GA-11, originally established in 2013, was designed for any web-based property-related applications used by the County. Recognizing that Dial remains the sole web-based property application, IT proposes to rename the policy as IT-5 and update it to concentrate specifically on the governance and transparency of Dial.

In response to Commissioner DeBone, Campbell said DIAL once stood for "Deschutes Information Access Line." The County continues to call it Dial as the moniker is well-known.

ADAIR: Move Board approval of County Administrator signature of County Policy IT-5, Dial Property Information System Access and Use (formerly GA-11, Web-Based Property-Related Applications)

DEBONE: Second

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

17. Updated Policy IT- 3: Custom Software Development Standards

Tania Mahood, IT Director, explained one small change to this policy to align with the rebrand of IT's Help Desk to "Service Portal."

DEBONE: Move approval of County Administrator signature of updated County Policy IT-3: Custom Software Development Standards

ADAIR: Second

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

OTHER ITEMS (Taken out of order to allow time for presenters for Item 18 to arrive since the meeting was ahead of schedule.)

- **Letter of Support for Public Health funding in Fiscal Year 2027**

Tom Kuhn, Public Health Project Manager, presented a draft letter to the Joint Committee on Ways & Means advocating that current funding levels to public health be maintained in the next fiscal year.

Commissioner DeBone said while he supported this advocacy, he encouraged being sensitive to how it might be received given possible cuts to the State budget ranging from five to 20 percent.

Commissioner Chang agreed that while the County does not want to antagonize legislators, it should be vocal about potential cuts to public health considering the impacts those would have.

ADAIR: Move Board approval of a letter to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means strongly supporting continued investments in public health in Fiscal Year 2027
DEBONE: Second

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

Kuhn said the Public Health Advisory Board will also send a letter to Ways & Means urging the same support for continued public health funding.

18. Submittal of a Letter of Intent to the Allen Foundation seeking a grant for a multi-partner fuels reduction project involving the production of bio-char

Commissioner Chang introduced the opportunity to submit a Letter of Intent to the Allen Foundation regarding a possible grant for a multi-partner fuels reduction project involving the production of bio-char. If the Board approves proceeding, the Letter of Intent must be submitted by tomorrow.

Will Groves, Planning Manager, provided more context in terms of the County's project in South County which is being funded by a USDA Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grant. That project, which will reduce fuels on 585 acres of County property and 100 miles of County right-of-way, poses the opportunity to dispose of the biomass produced by removing the fuels in a cost-effective manner.

Commissioner Adair supported submitting the Letter of Intent and possibly modeling this process for other areas in Oregon. She noted that last March, she spoke with Congressman Bruce Westerman who is a strong proponent of bio-char.

Jessi Grillo from Heartwood LLC said this is a \$1.6 million grant opportunity with no match required. After evaluating the Letters of Intent, the Foundation will request proposals from select applicants in February with those due in March.

Matthew Aghai from Radiant Ecosystems added it's expected this will be a highly competitive grant.

Discussion ensued of the potential benefits of utilizing an air curtain burner to produce bio-char. In addition, it was noted that project partners thus far include the Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District, Newberry Regional Partnership, and the La Pine Fire District.

Saying he supported submitting the Letter of Intent as a first step, Commissioner DeBone raised several questions regarding carbon markets and whether bio-char, when applied to the ground, changes the dynamics in a natural environment. He also questioned how efficient air curtain burners are in fighting fires, given the time and manual labor involved in deploying them.

Grillo agreed that these things would need to be looked into and addressed in the project proposal.

In response to Commissioner Adair regarding the seven million juniper trees which exist across the county, Aghai said rather than burning biomass as is now commonplace, turning that material into bio-char would enable sequestering carbon, which could then be sold.

Noting that the County has been asked to serve as the applicant for this grant, Commissioner DeBone cautioned against being placed in the position, however inadvertently, of being asked to contribute funds in the future.

Aghai said if the group is invited to submit a proposal, a budget would be developed in a collaborative effort with the County and other project partners.

ADAIR: Move to authorize the submittal of a Letter of Interest to the Allen Foundation seeking a grant for a multi-partner fuels reduction work project involving the production of bio-char

DEBONE: Second

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

OTHER ITEMS (continued):

- Commissioner DeBone reported on last Thursday's COIC meeting and said bus fees will begin to be charged in February.

- Commissioner DeBone also reported on last Sunday's Fair Association dinner; announced that the Fair dates in 2026 will be July 29th-August 2nd; noted AOC meetings this past Monday; and shared that he was in Salem on Tuesday and also attended the Sunriver/La Pine Economic Development meeting later that day.
- Commissioner DeBone asked if more than one of the Commissioners will participate in the upcoming Eastern Oregon Counties Association group call on January 26th, in which case it will have to be noticed as a public meeting.
- Commissioner DeBone noted a request from the Central Oregon Building Association that the BOCC become a member of COBA. County Administrator Nick Lelack said he will confirm if the Community Development Department is a paid member.
- Commissioner DeBone noted that "County Day at the Capitol" will be on February 10th and spoke to the 120-year history of the Association of Oregon Counties.
- Commissioner DeBone further: noted the recent publication of the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR); announced a REDI investor social later today; and extended congratulations to Tim Knopp for being selected as Chief Prosperity Officer for the State by the governor.
- Commissioner Adair reported on last week's EDCO meeting and said an RFP has been issued by the Redmond Municipal Airport seeking proposals for public art in association with the airport's expansion project.
- Commissioner Adair said the scheduled meeting of the Central Oregon Health Council was cancelled.
- Commissioner Adair reminded that she remains the alternate for the District 2 Chair representative to the Association of Oregon Counties Board of Directors.
- County Administrator Nick Lelack noted that the BOCC's annual retreat will take place tomorrow and said due to system limitations in the room at Riverbend, the livestream and recording will not have visual input but consist of audio only.
- Lelack reminded of additional meetings: the Mid-Year Budget Committee meeting this Friday; a joint meeting with the City of Bend next Tuesday; and a public hearing next Tuesday before the BOCC on the proposed Commissioner district map.
- Regarding the expectation that at the joint meeting with Bend, the City will propose extending the closure of the Temporary Safe Stay Area (TSSA) from the end of this year to mid-2027, Commissioner DeBone said in establishing the TSSA, the County agreed to break land use laws in partnership with the City. He added that the current location of the TSSA is dangerous due to its access off of Highway 97.

Commissioner Chang said one possible solution would be to use the Gales property to shelter homeless people. Commissioner Adair said low-barrier shelter does not work.

Commissioner DeBone referred to the managed camp being developed in East Redmond and questioned whether the County would allow persons who are moved

out of the adjacent 140 acres to reside on other land owned by the County. He opposed accepting encampments on public land outside of cultural norms.

Commissioner Chang spoke to research which has established the correlation between minimal amounts of low-income and affordable housing and homelessness, and said this correlation is a larger factor in homelessness than substance use disorders or mental health problems.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:36 pm.

DATED this 11th day of Feb. 2026 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.



PHIL CHANG, CHAIR

ATTEST:



BRENDA FRITSDAL
RECORDING SECRETARY



ANTHONY DEBONE, VICE CHAIR



PATTI ADAIR, COMMISSIONER