



Minutes

Deschutes County Cannabis Advisory Panel

Meeting #9: Monday, October 23, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Deschutes Services Building, Allen Room, 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

This meeting was conducted in person and by video. It was video recorded and can be accessed at the Deschutes County Meeting Portal website www.deschutes.org/meetings.

I. Introductions / Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 5:58 p.m. by Cannabis Advisory Panel Chair Liz Lotochinski. Present via Zoom: Present in person: Jen Patterson, Deschutes County Strategic Initiatives Manager; Liz Lotochinski; Mary Fleischmann; Gary Bracelin; Hunter Neubauer; Dr. Andrew Aasen; Jeremy Giffin; Matt Hurt; Detective Dustin Miller, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office; Detective Tony Ramos, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office.

II. Approval of July 17, 2023, Minutes

Mary Fleischman moved to approve the minutes. Dustin Miller seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. Presentation on Water Usage pertaining to Marijuana Usage and Rules

Jeremy Giffin, CAP Member and Deschutes Basin Watermaster, gave a presentation on water usage pertaining to marijuana. Exempt uses of groundwater include anyone who has one well (multiple wells or linked wells do not apply), 15,000 GPD for domestic purposes which is a very generous amount of water, in addition 5,000 GPD for industrial and commercial usages (does not include irrigation uses like Marijuana grow if it has an intent to sell), ½ acre lawn/non-commercial garden – which is regulated from the source, and stock watering. Service water exempt uses include natural springs, stock watering, and fish protection.

Deschutes County numbers: OLCC (THC) Sites = 54, ODA (Hemp) = 9, Unregistered = 4. Total 67. Water usage is becoming an important tool in enforcing or citing grow operations. OWRD received \$5 million in funding from, SB 5561, which in part funds 14 new Cannabis Assistant Watermasters, Enforcement Section.

Over 2,218 desktop investigations were performed by department staff in 2022. 811, 37%, of these investigations had no water rights.

IV. Discussion on adapting a copy of the Jackson County Mailer for Deschutes County

Liz opened the topic up for discussion. Dustin Miller likes the idea but mentioned that there would be a financial obligation to sending out a letter. There are other options to getting the information out like social media. Liz brought up possibly using some of the tax revenue funds for a mailer – the budget discussion will take place during the January CAP meeting. A narrow mailing focus, like the rural areas, could be a more beneficial route or a mention in the property tax mailer. Other options are to have radio PSAs plus social media plus a letter. The CAP members are all in favor of getting a message out letting people know the resources to report suspected illegal grows and/or operations.

The CAP members decided to draft a short blurb for social media and potentially pod cast material to propose as an outreach campaign.

V. Cannabis Advisory Panel Chair Appointment

Andrew Aasen motioned to amend the CAP charter section VII. Dustin Miller seconded the motion; the changes were adopted unanimously. Dustin Miller nominates Liz Lotochinski to serve another two-year Chair term, Mary Fleischman seconded the motion; the nomination was unanimously passed.

VI. Public Comments

No public comments

VII. Next Steps

Next meeting topics will include an update to CAP on the spending of recommended funds for FY '24. Finalize proposed PSA outreach campaign. Sherriff's Department to give an update on current marijuana trends and culture throughout the County.

VIII. Wrap up and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:27p.m. The Advisory Panel agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 6:00p.m. in the Allen Room.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager,
Deschutes County Administrative Services