



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon  
(541) 388-6571

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

## DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

8:00 AM

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

A virtual legislative update meeting was held on Friday, June 16, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform, for a weekly scheduled event during this 2023 Legislative Session.

### Deschutes County Attendance:

	Commissioner Anthony DeBone		Nick Lelack, County Administrator
x	Commissioner Patti Adair	x	Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator
x	Commissioner Phil Chang	x	Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator
	Dave Doyle, Legal Counsel	x	Kim Riley, Assistant Legal Counsel
	David Givans, Internal Auditor	x	Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer
	Chris Doty, Road Department Director		Janice Garceau, Health Services Director
	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney
	Peter Gutowsky, Community Development Director	x	Kathleen Hinman, Human Resources Director
	Keith MacNamara, Veterans' Services Manager		Deevy Holcomb, Community Justice Director
x	Lee Randall, Facilities Director	x	Kevin Moriarty, Forester
	Chad Centola, Solid Waste Director		Tim Brownell, Incoming Solid Waste Director
	Shane Nelson, Sheriff	x	Sara Crosswhite, 9-1-1 Director
	Steve Dennison, Clerk		Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace
	Geoff Hinds, Fair & Expo Director		Scot Langton, Assessor
x	Tania Mahood, IT Director	x	Bill Kuhn, Treasurer
x	Holly Harris, Health Services Deputy Director (Behavioral Health)		Will Groves, Planning Manager

x	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager		Heather Kaisner, Health Services Deputy Director (Public Health)
x	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager	x	Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant
<b>Legislators Present:</b>			
	Senator Lynn Findley		Senator Tim Knopp
x	Representative Emerson Levy		Senator Dennis Linthicum
	Representative Vikki Breese Iverson		Representative Werner Reschke
x	Representative Jason Kropf		Andy Smith, Rep. Kropf's office
	Bryan Iverson, on behalf of Representative Vikki Breese Iverson		
<b>Others Present:</b>			
x	Doug Riggs, NW Policy Advocates President		Gabriel Velásquez, NW Policy Advocates Legislative Coordinator

## 1. Introductions

Commissioner Adair called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

## 2. Legislator Updates

Representative Kropf reported they are caught up on the House side, and they go back on Tuesday and will try to get through as much as possible. He is optimistic for courthouse expansion funding and Hawthorne Bridge funding. They anticipate getting out of the Capitol on Thursday, but are prepared to be there through Sunday. Capital construction and the Christmas Tree Bill will take longer. He expressed his dismay with the Republican walkout.

In response to Holly Harris, Rep. Kropf said that there is optimism for IMPACTS funding in the Christmas Tree Bill. Deschutes County's Navigation Center continues to be a statewide model. Doug said that in May, Oregon's unemployment rate was down to 3.7%, so the number of taxpayers continues to grow and there is optimism for additional funding mechanisms for areas such as IMPACTS.

Representative Levy reported sustained funding of \$1.1 million for the navigation center, and \$630,000 in funding for the City of Bend Homeless Shelter. Funding for Alyssa's Law, the school safety bill, will be secured once it passes the Senate. \$1.4 million in funding was secured for 15 homeless youth beds in Redmond at J Bar J. There is a lot of funding (\$600 million) available in the housing package, separate from funding in the Governor's Executive Order. She would have liked to have seen more funding towards middle income workforce housing.

Responding to Commissioner Chang, Rep. Levy reported that Deschutes County will likely be pleased with courthouse expansion funding amount, although the actual amount is unknown. She said that Senator Knopp, along with the entire Central Oregon delegation as a team, all played an important role in working towards securing courthouse expansion funding.

### 3. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Adair shared that she was in Salem on Monday to speak to Senator Steiner about state funding for the Deschutes County Courthouse expansion project. She was pleased to report recent news of the Republicans' return to the Senate floor.

### 4. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs provided an update. After a 47-day walkout, Republicans returned to the Senate floor after an agreement was reached. The two major sticking points were **HB 2002** and **HB 2005** (the abortion/gender bill and the gun bill). Amendments were made in rapid fashion and adopted on the Senate floor on June 15 with no debate. Both parties have reached an agreement and are now able to move forward with the session, including an agreement to act upon almost all bills on the Senate docket (close to 300 bills). In the next few days, some budget bills with capital construction and bonding, including the courthouse expansion funding (**HB 5030**), will come out of the Ways and Means Committee. The Christmas Tree Bill is expected to be a much larger package than in previous sessions due to the high revenue forecast.

A larger corporate kicker freed up other state general fund revenues, and goes directly to the K-12 budget. Behavioral Health funding is expected to be \$50 million higher than initially forecasted.

**HB 3126**, which would have created regional acute treatment centers for high-risk youth didn't make it through Ways and Means. Funding for homeless youth is expected to see an increase in the final budget, and housing and homelessness funding will get a further bump in the Christmas Tree Bill. Public Defender's budget will get a bump in the Christmas Tree Bill, as it was woefully underfunded in the initial budget. He is hopeful that we will see a bump in the Public Health budget.

Responding to Commissioner Chang, Doug clarified that all of the bills, approximately 302 in total, that have advanced to the Senate floor from committee will be acted upon. There are several hundred more bills in committee (especially Ways & Means) that are unlikely to move out of committee, aside from the Christmas Tree Bill and the bonding bill.

Commissioner Adair asked about **HB 3003**, the biomass bill in the drought package. This is the tax credit that would make juniper management sustainable over the long-term. Doug said that he believes this bill to be dead for now, adding that many tax credit bills have failed to get across the finish line.

Commissioner Adair asked about a funding program for wells that went dry, and how to gain funding for counties moving forward. Doug said that they typically look at past precedence. Relative to the drought package, Commissioner Chang shared that AOC solicited from counties their needs for well deepening funding, and perhaps pursuing this through AOC would be the best path forward.

## 5. Other Items

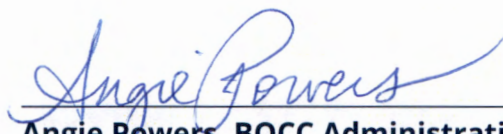
- Responding to Commissioner Adair, Doug reported that Representative Greg Smith has been a valuable resource to the Deschutes County legislative delegation, in providing inside information. He works for all of rural Oregon, and is the Vice Chair of the Ways and Means Committee. He represents House District 57, but has a second home in Deschutes County.

---

**Next Meeting:** The next virtual legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 23, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

**Adjourn:** Commissioner Adair adjourned the meeting at 8:36 a.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by:*



---

**Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant**