



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY March 5, 2025

Barnes Sawyer Rooms
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Anthony DeBone, Patti Adair and Phil Chang. Also present were Nick Lelack, County Administrator; Kim Riley, Senior Assistant County Legal Counsel; and Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant.

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 DeBone called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. He reported the commissioners just returned from attending the National Association of Counties (NACo) conference in Washington, D.C.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZEN INPUT:

- Connie Lane of Bend spoke about her concerns over the dissolution of the DEIA committee and referenced Janice Garceau's letter submitted to the Board. She suggested a problem-solving approach to collaboration and urged the Board to reconsider their dismantling of the committee. She expressed her gratitude to the DEIA committee for their work.

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

1. Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Bend regarding the jurisdictional transfer of a segment of Yeoman Road
2. Approval of a Termination of Development Contract with Vic & Vicki Russell and Sagebrush Development LLC associated with the Newberry Neighborhoods, La Pine
3. Approval of Board Order No. 2025-006 reopening the record for an application to authorize commercial activity in conjunction with a Farm Use (Winery) in the Multiple Use Agricultural Zone - Lava Terrace Cellars, 20520 Bowery Lane
4. Consideration of Board Signature on letters reappointing Joseph Mauti, Sarah Canham, Jake Derksen and Elizabeth Johnson, for service on the Noxious Weed Advisory Board
5. Consideration of Board Signature on letters appointing Phil Henderson, Dan Ladesma and Bruce Barton for service on the Facility Project Review Committee
6. Consideration of Board Signature on letter appointing Linda Nolte, for service on the Behavioral Health Advisory Board
7. Approval of the Minutes of the February 21, 2025 Legislative Update Meeting
8. Approval of the Minutes of the February 21, 2025 Legislative Delegation Update Meeting

Item 3 was pulled for discussion.

ADAIR: Move Board approval of the Consent Agenda as presented, minus item 3
 CHANG: Second

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

Item 3. Commissioner Chang recused himself from the deliberations and vote.

ADAIR: Move Board approval of Item 3
 DEBONE: Second

VOTE: ADAIR: Yes
 DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion carried 2 - 0

ACTION ITEMS:

9. Request Addition of 1.00 FTE Building Safety Inspector III for A-Level Plumbing

Peter Gutowsky, Community Development Department (CDD) Director and Sherri Pinner, CDD Senior Management Analyst presented this item. Their department is being proactive and planning for upcoming FMLA leave in the department and succession planning. The proposed budget amendment would add a highly specialized building inspector position for plumbing inspections. It is difficult to find qualified commercial-level inspectors. Gutowsky directed the Board to the agenda materials for details on financial impacts.

Pinner wouldn't expect this position to be filled until June at the earliest, noting that the funding for this position and the corresponding vehicle purchase is in their department's FY 26 budget.

The Community Development Department provides commercial level inspections for the cities of La Pine and Sisters and has experienced a heightened demand for these inspections.

Gutowsky coordinates with the Central Oregon Builders Association on recruitments such as this one. He shared that CDD is currently onboarding someone with B-level electrical certifications, from the City of Hillsboro. The plumbing community is tightknit, and Gutowsky is confident the right individuals will learn of this opportunity.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Pinner stated they do plan to purchase a new vehicle for \$30,000 but can work with Randy McCulley at the Road Department for any potential used vehicle opportunities.

CHANG: Move approval of Resolution No. 2025-006 increasing FTE within the Community Development Fund 295 and the 2024-25 Deschutes County Budget

ADAIR: Second

VOTE: CHANG: Yes

ADAIR: Yes

DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 3 – 0

10. Notice of Intent to Award 2025 Qualified Pool of Fuels Reduction Contractors

Kevin Moriarty, County Forester, indicated that this is an annual process. Each year, the County issues a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a pool of fuels reduction contractors interested in bidding on fuels reductions projects throughout the year. He received 20 applicants this year, as compared to 17 last year. He recommends all

20 applicants be included in the qualified pool. Some of the new applicants may have resulted from their notice in the Daily Journal of Commerce. Some contractors from last year dropped off, and this may be attributed to them not having been awarded any contracts last year. Chair DeBone spoke to the seasonal nature of this work.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Moriarty was unsure of the contractor who completed the Eagle Crest fuels reduction work two years ago, but he will get back to Commissioner Adair as they did a good job.

Responding to Commissioner Chang, Moriarty noted they are unable to limit the list to local contractors only and they do try to work with as many local contractors as possible. If local contractors lack capacity, then they will look at contractors outside of the local area. Commissioner Chang asked Moriarty for data on how many contracts last year, and the dollar amounts of each, went to local contractors and how many went to contractors outside the area. Moriarty agreed to look back three years and provide the Board with this information, adding that of 7 contracts this year, 5 went to locals.

Commissioner Adair requested that Moriarty work on a press release for the qualified pool to get the word out.

ADAIR: Move approval of Document No. 2025-012, a Notice of Intent to Award the 2025 Qualified Pool of Fuel Reduction Contractors

CHANG: Second

VOTE: ADAIR: Yes

CHANG: Yes

DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion carried 3 - 0

11. Update from Oregon Living with Fire

Jodie Barram and Dr. Jen Fenton, Oregon Living with Fire (OLWF), provided an update on annual accomplishments. As stated in their 2024 Annual Report, OLWF is part of the National Cohesive Strategy. She summarized OLWF's annual accomplishments. OLWF brings together a diverse range of stakeholders and adds capacity.

Dr. Fenton summarized some of their grant funding. Last year, they applied for the Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities (BRIC) for a project for wildfire protection for the High Desert Museum and the Museum at Warm Springs. They were not awarded the grant last year due to a funding constraint, so they strengthened their application and reapplied this year. Their application is currently under review by the Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) department.

Dr. Fenton is working with the Alfalfa Fire District, who is having difficulties securing funding. Funding freezes at the federal level have made funds scarce.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, they received \$500,000 from the Oregon State Fire Marshall for sweat equity projects, which helped fund Fire Free. OLWF has two reimbursable grants, USFS and NRCS. The NRCS grant has been frozen, and they are processing their reimbursable USFS grant and are hopeful the funds will be released. Barram said they have enough in their accounts to fund their work for the upcoming year even without federal funding, and credited Joe Stutler's foresight.

Barram further described OLWF's accomplishments. As they head into 2025, they are adding to their Program of Work and noted some changes. April will be a busy month for Wildfire Preparedness fairs.

Barram thanked Chair DeBone for serving on the OLWF Steering Committee and welcomed Commissioner Adair to the committee. Commissioner Adair reported that Commissioner DeBone's term ends December 31, 2025 so they will coordinate. Chair DeBone said the meetings take place on the second Thursday of each month from 10-11:30 a.m. in the DeArmond room, October through June only.

Responding to Commissioner Chang, Barram said that OLWF works with the Heart of Oregon Conservation Service workforce. Barram reported that Inflation Reduction Act federal funding has been frozen. Commissioner Chang suggested it would be helpful to prepare communications regarding the impacts of federal funding freezes on this important work. Chair DeBone was supportive of some form of communication. Dr. Fenton reported on the economic impacts of wildfires, noting that Oregon's tourism industry lost \$52 million in Oregon and \$460 billion nationwide. Commissioner Adair asked Dr. Fenton about these economic impacts since 2017.

Commissioner Adair met with Congressman Cliff Bentz and Congressman Bruce Westerman while she was in Washington, D.C. She advocated for increasing logging operations. Barram said the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project is currently working on some language as they are feeling the impacts of federal funding freezes. Responding to Barram, Commissioner Adair thinks it is important to take a regional approach, and to include Jefferson County noting a case study of their missed grant funding opportunity due to the portal going away and layoffs occurring. Chair DeBone advocated for a more local approach to expedite the communication, and Commissioner Adair said that having more names on a letter will have greater impact.

Barram and Dr. Fenton will draft a letter, to get to the Board before next Wednesday.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Chair DeBone reported the commissioners returned late last night from the NACo conference in Washington, D.C. While there, he partnered with NeighborImpact and the Latino Community Association. These organizations are in a similar spot with funding freezes. He also had the opportunity to sit down with Senator Wyden.
- Commissioner Adair visited the Holocaust Museum during her visit and cautioned that history can repeat itself, noting the spread of antisemitism across the country.
- Nick Lelack introduced Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager, and Community Justice Director Deevy Holcomb joined via Zoom. Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) has requested adding the Deschutes County logo onto a letter of support for workforce re-entry bills, HB 2972 and HB 3669. These bills support the re-entry of justice-involved individuals into the workforce. This item will be revisited at the Friday morning Legislative Update meeting.
- Patterson also requested to add the County logo onto Association of Oregon County's (AOC's) letter supporting fully funded community corrections. Holcomb elaborated on the letter, which reads that a 2024 study indicates that \$18.18 per justice involved individual is required each day to be adequately funded. The Board was supportive of adding the County's logo to this letter.
- Erik Kropp spoke about the draft letter to the Citizen's Assembly on Youth Homelessness, following last week's discussion on the assembly's recommendations. Discussion ensued as to whether the letter should be addressed to the Deschutes Civic Assembly or the citizens of Deschutes County, and a press release be initiated.
 - Commissioner Adair spoke about The Drop's website, which lists their limited hours of operation. She'd like the website to reflect the operating hours if they have been expanded, and to accurately reflect the purpose of the services provided.
 - The Board went through each bullet point of the letter and engaged in productive discussion on making some minor edits to the letter. Chair DeBone noted that publishing the letter and doing a related press release will increase the community's awareness of important services being provided by the County, such as The Drop and the School-Based Health Centers.

- The Board made the decision to remove the bullet statement on recommendation 12 from the letter. This recommendation relates to creating another civic assembly on the housing affordability crisis.
- Commissioner Chang wished to focus recommendation 14 on the fact that the County provides services which reduce factors that contribute to homelessness.
- Related to recommendation 16, Commissioner Adair spoke about the 16-bed rule. She learned that a youth psychiatric care facility could have two 16-bed facilities with a shared physical firewall but separate entrances. Commissioner Chang reported that a 15-bed facility is currently planned for Redmond. More research is needed.
- Related to recommendation 21, Commissioner Chang wished to add that the County is contributing financially to J Bar J Youth Services as a service partner.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

At 12:34 p.m., the Board entered executive session under ORS 192.660 (2)(h) Litigation, ORS 192.660 (2)(e) Real Property Negotiations and ORS 192.660 (2)(d) Labor Negotiations.

At 1:48 p.m., the executive session concluded, and the public was invited to return to the room. The Board then directed staff to proceed as discussed during the executive session.

OTHER ITEMS (continued):

- For the Board’s consideration, Nicole Mardell presented Board Order no. 2025-004, an order to reconsider Ordinance No. 2024-007. It would direct County Legal to withdraw the decision from LUBA for reconsideration. This is due prior to filing the respondent’s brief and would allow the Board to hold a subsequent public hearing limited *de novo* to clarify the specific changes that were made to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. They are also requesting the Board direct staff to request a time extension to 180 days, from 90 days.

ADAIR: Moved adoption of Order No. 2025-004

CHANG: Second

VOTES: ADAIR: Yes

CHANG: Yes

VOTES: All yes. Motion passed 3 - 0

- Chair DeBone noted that the Friday, March 7th Legislative Update will begin an hour earlier than usual, at 7:00 a.m.

ADJOURN:

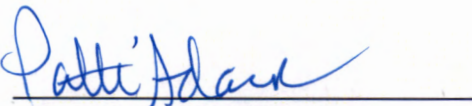
Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

DATED this 2nd Day of April 2025 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.


ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR

ATTEST:


RECORDING SECRETARY


PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR


PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER