



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

# BOCC MEETING MINUTES

1:00 PM

**WEDNESDAY February 26, 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](http://www.deschutes.org/meetings).

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **CITIZEN INPUT:**

- Sarah Provencio, co-owner and veterinarian at Riverside Animal Hospital, spoke about the unintended consequences of the City of Bend's "road diets" which reduce vehicle capacity and increase emergency response time. Additionally, she expressed concerns for evacuation time during wildfire events. She believes the city can improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians with a balanced approach that doesn't harm small businesses. She wants a transportation plan that meets the needs of everyone in our community.
- Debbie Putnam, co-owner and veterinarian at Riverside Animal Hospital, spoke about the Olney Road project. She supports the project but has requested a gap in

the proposed median so that westbound customers can access their main entrance off Olney. She fears that her business will lose clients due to the impacted access from the east due to the Olney Road project. She has testified before the city council regarding the Olney Road project. Commissioner Adair commented on the Greenwood Avenue road diet's impact to local businesses.

- Judy Trego, a delegate for the Homeless Youth Civic Assembly, provided testimony. The assembly worked for five days to come up with recommendations, using a bottom-up approach. They spoke to young people in various stages of homelessness. She suggested the Board consider flexible spending opportunities.

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

1. Approval of a Notice of Intent to Award a contract for the paving of Powell Butte Hwy: McGrath Road to US20 and Nelson Road: Powell Butte Hwy to Dickey Road
2. Consideration of Board Signature on letters reappointing Ted Wise, Kris Knight, Shaun Pigott and Lori Faha, for service on the Deschutes River Mitigation and Enhancement Committee
3. Consideration of Board Signature on letter thanking Melissa Brewster, for service on the Public Health Advisory Board
4. Consideration of Board Signature on letters changing Tamara Kuntz and Greg Brady from alternate to regular members on the Dog Control Board of Supervisors
5. Consideration of Board Signature on letters reappointing Steven Curley, Arron Curtis and Bill Kuhn, for service on the Deschutes County Fair Board
6. Approval of minutes of the January 27, 2025 BOCC Annual Retreat
7. Approval of the minutes of the February 14, 2025 BOCC Legislative Update Meeting

ADAIR: Move Board approval of Consent Agenda as presented  
CHANG: Second

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

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**ACTION ITEMS:**

**8. Audit Committee By-Laws**

Elizabeth Pape, County Internal Auditor, presented the Audit Committee By-Laws to the Board for consideration. The committee developed the by-laws and adopted them unanimously. These by-laws reference County Code in many parts, and the Committee was seeking more formality for those items not mentioned in Code.

Chair DeBone spoke about member removal, citing page 5 of 7 of the by-laws which indicates that a committee member may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote by the committee. He noted that members are appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Adair noted her appreciation for the professionalism of the current committee.

Responding to Chair DeBone, Pape said there is no formal review cycle for the by-laws but as County Code is reviewed every other year, review of the by-laws may coincide or alternate with the Code review.

CHANG: Move approval of Board Signature of Deschutes County Audit Committee By-Laws

ADAIR: Second

VOTE: CHANG: Yes

ADAIR: Yes

DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 3 – 0

**9. Consideration of first and second reading of Ordinance No. 2025-002 approving Clear and Objective Housing Text Amendments - Definitions, Dimensional Standards, and Accessory Uses, and adoption by emergency**

Kyle Collins, Associate Planner, said that a Public Hearing and deliberations for this item took place two weeks ago. He referenced his memo dated February 19, 2025. He recommends adoption by emergency, due to a time constraint. They have until July 1 to adopt as many Clear and Objective amendments to their development code related to housing. Any discretionary language submitted after that date can be appealed by the applicants and ignored. Additionally, several packages are ready for review by the Planning Commission to go before the Board so this first package needs to be in place so the subsequent packages can proceed.

He recommends adoption by emergency, with first and second readings today.

CHANG: Move approval of first and second reading of Ordinance No. 2025-002 by title only  
ADAIR: Second  
VOTE: CHANG: Yes  
ADAIR: Yes  
DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion carried 3-0

*At 1:19 p.m., Chair DeBone conducted the first reading of Ordinance No. 2025-002.*

*At 1:20 p.m., Chair DeBone conducted the second reading of Ordinance No. 2025-002.*

ADAIR: Move adoption of Ordinance No. 2025-002 by emergency, with an effective date of 30 days after adoption  
CHANG: Second  
VOTE: ADAIR: Yes  
CHANG: Yes  
DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion carried 3-0

#### **10. Discussion and Possible Action on Recommendations from the Deschutes Civic Assembly on Youth Homelessness**

Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator, provided background information on the Civic Assembly, noting that Josh Burgess was unable to attend this meeting due to illness.

In early January, the Civic Assembly presented their findings to the Board. 30 participants spent 30 hours discussing the topic of youth homelessness and came up with a series of 23 recommendations. Kropp referenced the agenda packet which includes the 23 recommendations, noting a numbering error making it appear there are only 22. Another document outlines the Civic Assembly's suggestion for the County's role in these recommendations, as well as County Staff's proposal for the County's role in each of these recommendations.

Kropp said this discussion is a starting point for the Board's consideration, and the Board can advocate for any topic they choose. Chair DeBone referenced a draft letter from the Board to the Civic Assembly, which is a starting point, and the content may change.

Chair DeBone highlighted recommendation #12, to create another civic assembly focused on the housing affordability crisis, noting that housing affordability is the crux of all these items.

Commissioner Adair promoted the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, as it relates to recommendation #3. It is critical for foster children to have advocates, and she asked to add this advocacy effort to the letter. Responding to Commissioner Chang, Lelack said that CASA is one of the County's service partners.

Responding to Commissioner Chang, Kropp said that J Bar J Youth Services is one of the County's service partners and receives approximately \$15,000 in annual funding from the County. Additionally, J Bar J receives community justice reinvestment grant funding. Commissioner Adair promoted J Bar J's annual horse show as a fundraising event for the community to support. Commissioner Chang asked that this investment in J Bar J be added to the letter.

Commissioner Adair highlighted item #8, expanding public transit in Deschutes County. As a Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) Board member, Chair DeBone noted some upcoming changes to public transit in Central Oregon including new buses, route optimization, and charging fares. Kropp added that the Board's involvement in its approval of the annual Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) budget.

Commissioner Chang spoke about recommendation #2, the central hub concept, noting that the County operates The Drop with locations in Bend and Redmond. The Drop is a center that serves at-risk youth and young adults and is meant to be a safe and supportive place where youth can make connections having a positive impact on their lives. The Civic Assembly has tasked Bend Park and Recreation District (BPRD) with taking the lead on this project. Commissioner Chang suggested the County could have a role beyond advocacy and might consider partnering with BPRD on the design and operation of a hub. Commissioner Adair suggested the County consider promoting The Drop on social media (related to social media/public awareness recommendation #7) and expanding their hours of operation. Chair DeBone distinguished between design and advocacy versus operation. Kropp noted The Drop is very different from a teen recreation center. Commissioner Chang would like to offer the County's experience in operating The Drop to the central hub effort and play a partner role in the design or operation of a hub and requested this be added to the letter.

Related to childcare recommendation #5, Commissioner Chang spoke of the County's investments in Morning Star Family Relief Nursery, as an annual service partner. Additionally, the County supports Neighbor Impact, and their Head Start programs. Commissioner Adair noted the region's large financial investment in childcare.

Related to recommendation #14, providing education on homelessness and human trafficking, Commissioner Chang noted this ties in with the County's Health Schools program. This program educates youth on other topics such as substance use, suicide, bullying, and teen pregnancy, and as such are youth homelessness prevention programs. He'd like to add these efforts to the letter. Commissioner Adair noted that the Healthy Schools program is in Bend La Pine schools only, and not in Redmond.

Related to Judy Trego's earlier comments and recommendation #19, the Board was supportive of flexible spending opportunities.

Kropp said that Staff will update the draft letter and come back before the Board next Wednesday with an updated letter.

## **11. Courthouse Expansion Project Update**

Lee Randall, Facilities Director, Eric Nielsen, Facilities Capital Improvement Manager, Wayne Powderly, Cumming Group and Cory Lumis, Pence Contractors, were in attendance.

Nielsen provided a brief project overview, noting this expansion will meet the growing needs of our community. The 50,933 square feet expansion will include two new courtrooms, improved security screening, improved in-custody, holding and transport facilities. A tower crane is currently on site, allowing for the movement of materials during concrete work. Nielsen summarized work completed to date. He shared photos of the concrete cores for elevators and stairwells.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Loomis said that 5 or 6 geotechnical borings 15 feet in depth were completed. Soil compactions are tested onsite before concrete work commences.

Loomis spoke about ongoing and upcoming work. Project completion is estimated for August 2026. Responding to Commissioner Adair, he said the roof will go on in late summer to early fall 2025.

Wayne Powderly discussed the budget, with a \$2.9 million budget adjustment added last month for a total of \$46.8 million. The construction budget currently sits at \$47.4. He noted that approved change orders are included in the packet. The owner contingency has been replenished. Pending cost changes are discussed weekly, and they have a risk log.

Randall thanked the Board for their support. They are 50% through the overall schedule and 27% of the overall project spending is completed. Responding to Commissioner Adair, Powderly said there is a 30-day delay in the payment of invoices, and there is a multi-step review process for all invoices prior to payment.

Chair DeBone asked about the lead time and materials, Powderly said most materials have already been procured but they are closely tracking tariff impacts on materials and supplies. Loomis noted they've had meaningful conversations scope to scope, related to materials and storage. Powderly said they analyze potential extra costs related to additional materials costs and storage weekly.

## **12. Department Performance Measures Updates for FY 25 Q2**

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager, noted the County's objective of safe communities is the focus of these department performance measures for fiscal year 2025, quarter 2.

Judge Charles Fadeley and Krystal Cozine from Deschutes County Justice Court were in attendance to update the Board on their department's performance measure. Their objective was to reduce crime and recidivism through prevention, intervention, supervision and enforcement. Their measure was to collect 50% of their fines within 90 days of judgement. Judge Fadeley said they are far exceeding this goal, with a 78% collection rate within the defined time period. Cozine said clients are given an additional 90 days beyond the original 90 days before being sent to collections, and payment plans are offered.

Chris Perry, 9-1-1 Operations Manager, was in attendance. His department's first objective was to provide safe and secure communities through coordinated public safety and crisis management services. This measure was to support and enhance the call taking triage processes for mental health crisis calls in partnership with the Community Crisis Response Team Program (CCRT). The CCRT identified a need to transition some of their calls to the State 9-8-8 mental health crisis line and this went into effect February 3, 2025. So far, 16 first party mental health crisis calls have been transferred. Most of the mental health calls they receive are second- or third-party callers, those who call on behalf of someone else.

9-1-1's second objective was to collaborate with partners to prepare for and respond to emergencies, natural hazards and disasters by increasing Deschutes Alerts subscribers. At the end of Q2, there were 63,000 subscribers for Deschutes Alerts and their goal was 53,000. Perry noted that 2,000 people have been identified as needing assistance during evacuations. Two annual campaigns are

coming up. In mid-March, they will send out a reminder to this vulnerable population, reminding them to update their information. In May, a test message will go out to all subscribers. They typically see a spike in subscribers following a test event. 9-1-1 and the Emergency Management team meet twice monthly to collaborate. Everbridge, the platform used by Deschutes Alerts, will fine tune the system in late March. Commissioner DeBone stated fine-tuning is necessary to ensure that people pay attention to the Alerts that matter.

Tanner Wark, Community Justice Deputy Director, joined the meeting via Zoom. His department's objective was to reduce crime and recidivism through prevention, intervention, supervision and enforcement by Parole Officers ensuring that those under supervision have active and updated Behavior Change Plans. Their target is 75% and they are currently at 71%. With some staff at the academy or on vacation, this metric fell a bit short.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Wark said that he has not worked with those participating in Deer Ridge Correctional Facility's welding program. Commissioner Adair believes this skill is making a difference in their reintegration into society.

County Administrator Nick Lelack shared that he recently attended the event "Understanding Homelessness in Central Oregon" at Westside Church. It featured testimony from a former Adult Parole and Probation (P&P) client. He told a compelling story about how his P&P Officer changed the trajectory of his life. He also spoke about services he received from Deschutes County Behavioral Health. Community Justice Director Deevy Holcomb was also in attendance.

Kathleen Meehan Coop and Mary Overman, Management Analysts at the District Attorney's Office, spoke about their department's measures to reduce crime and recidivism through prevention, intervention, supervision and enforcement in the Veterans Intervention Strategy (VIS) and Emerging Adults Programs (EAP).

Related to VIS, Overman said their measure was for VIS participants' recidivism rate to be lower than 20%. The program began in 2020, and the first participant enrolled in 2021. Of the 28 enrolled individuals of VIS since its inception, they've experienced a 4% incarceration (prison) recidivism rate. Additionally, they've had a 5% post-graduation recidivism rate and a 21% jail/arrest recidivism while still in the program.

Commissioner Adair spoke about the success of Veteran's Village. Chair DeBone spoke about the difference that relationship-building makes for participants of these programs.



Meehan-Coop spoke about the Emerging Adults Program, with a measure of maintaining a two-year arrest recidivism rate of 25% or less for all participants. EAP participants have had a 10% recidivism rate. Meehan-Coop said that EAP is a community-based program, held at Central Oregon Community Solutions and at the Lotus Building. EAP has 15 community volunteers who work with the participants.

**13. Deliberations: Application to authorize commercial activity in conjunction with a Farm Use (Winery) in the Multiple Use Agricultural Zone—Lava Terrace Cellars, 20520 Bowery Lane**

*At 2:41 p.m., Commissioner Chang recused himself from deliberations and left the room.*

Nathaniel Miller, Planning Manager and Stephanie Marshall, Senior Assistant Legal Counsel, were in attendance. Counsel Marshall said there has been a development in this matter as the applicant wishes to reopen the record with the current application and submit a modification of application. She noted this will help streamline the process. It is a procedural request, and if approved, they hope to have it back before the Board as soon as possible. Commissioners Adair and DeBone were supportive of granting the applicant’s request. The record can be reopened if the Board does not commence deliberations. Staff will prepare an Order and come back before the Board in one week for Board signature.

*At 2:50 p.m. a break was taken, and the Board reconvened at 2:54 p.m. and Commissioner Chang re-entered the room.*

**OTHER ITEMS:**

- Due to the Board’s travel plans to the 2025 National Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., the Legislative Update meeting on Friday, February 28 was cancelled.
- Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager, presented a letter of support for SB 702 banning flavored tobacco and inhalant delivery products.

ADAIR: Moved approval of Board signature of the letter supporting SB 702

CHANG: Second

VOTES: ADAIR: Yes

CHANG: Yes

DEBONE: No. Motion passed 2-1

Patterson provided the letter to the Board and Commissioners Adair and Chang signed the letter.

- Due to the Board’s return travel schedule, the Wednesday, March 4 Board meeting start time was shifted to 11:00 a.m.

- Patterson spoke of the format of the Bill Tracker report. The Board supported including bill sponsorship and legislative delegates' committee participation to the bill tracker report for weeks in which the legislative delegation will join. Additionally, the blue highlight color has been eliminated as it's been difficult to read.
- Commissioner Adair met with the new Chair and Vice Chair of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) yesterday, noting that Chair DeBone is the new BOCC representative on the BHAB for 2025.
- Kim Riley, Senior Assistant Legal Counsel, received an opinion letter issued by the Oregon Ethics Commission regarding public officials and a potential conflict of interest related to wildfire hazard maps. Out of an abundance of caution, she asked Commissioners DeBone and Adair to disclose if they have property in the high-risk category and in the wildland-urban interface. Commissioner Adair responded that she does live and own property in a high-risk area, but it didn't affect her vote on Monday, February 24. Chair DeBone said he lives in a high hazard rural area in the wildland-urban interface, but this did not impact his vote on Monday.
- Chair DeBone submitted an appeal form from his County email account, to the Oregon Department of Forestry, related to properties in Deschutes County classified as high risk per the Wildfire Hazard Maps.
- Chair DeBone joined a Redmond High School writing class this morning, and heard presentations on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and Policy for Funding a new pool facility for Redmond Area Park and Recreation District.
- Commissioner Chang attended a Regional Housing Council (RHC) and Coordinated Houseless Response Office meeting on Monday. RHC is almost ready to weigh in on legislation. CHRO allocated \$80,000 to the Stepping Stone Shelter for replacement heating and cooling units.
- Commissioner Adair said last week, Oasis Village had 4 open spots, with 14 people living there but Central Oregon Villages is nearly full.
- Commissioner Chang said that the Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) strategic planning session was held today.
- Commissioner Adair reported The Lodge in Sisters, a senior living community, is reevaluating its operations and some residents have been asked to leave.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:**

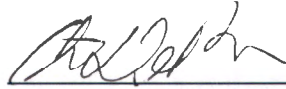
At 3:13 p.m., the Board entered executive session under ORS 192.660 (2)(e) Real Property Negotiations and ORS 192.660 (2)(d) Labor Negotiations.

At 3:40 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.

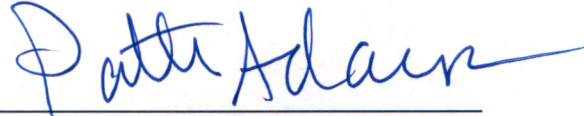
**ADJOURN:**

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

DATED this 19<sup>th</sup> Day of March 2025 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

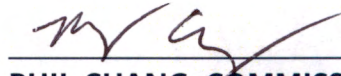


**ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR**



**PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR**

**ATTEST:**

  
**RECORDING SECRETARY**

**PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER**