



## 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 13, 2025

ZOOM MEETING

A legislative work session was held on Friday, June 13, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform.

| Deschutes County Attendance: |  |   |  |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|
| x                            | Commissioner Anthony DeBone, Chair             |   | Nick Lelack, County Administrator              |
| x                            | Commissioner Patti Adair, Vice Chair           | x | Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator        |
| x                            | Commissioner Phil Chang                        | x | Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator      |
|                              | Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager            |   | Tim Brownell, Director Solid Waste             |
|                              | Sara Crosswhite, Director 9-1-1                |   | Steve Dennison, County Clerk                   |
| x                            | Chris Doty, Director Road Department           | x | David Doyle, Legal Counsel                     |
|                              | Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace          | x | Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney             |
| x                            | Peter Gutowsky, Director Community Development | x | Holly Harris, Interim Director Health Services |
|                              | Geoff Hinds, Director Fair & Expo              | x | Deevy Holcomb, Director Community Justice      |
|                              | Heather Kaisner, Director Public Health        |   | Sean Kirk, Manager Veteran's Services          |
| x                            | Bill Kuhn, Treasurer                           | x | Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager        |
|                              | Scot Langton, Assessor                         |   | Tania Mahood, Director Information Technology  |
| x                            | Kevin Moriarty, Forester                       |   | Elizabeth Pape, Internal Auditor               |
| x                            | Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager   |   | Lee Randall, Director Facilities               |
|                              | Kim Riley, Senior Assistant Legal Counsel      |   | Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer         |

|                        |  |   |   |
|------------------------|--|---|---|
|                        | Kent van der Kamp, Sheriff                     |   | Aaron Wells, Undersheriff                           |
|                        | Heather Herauf, Procurement Manager            |   | Daniel Kieffer, Budget & Financial Planning Analyst |
|                        | Cody Smith, Assistant Director Road Department | x | Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant         |
| <b>Others Present:</b> |  |   |   |
| x                      | Doug Riggs, Director NW Policy Advocates       | x | Corey Barber, Outreach Director NW Policy Advocates |
| x                      | Emma Innes, Associate NW Policy Advocates      |   |   |

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

### 2. Commissioner Updates

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Doug Riggs stated that **SB 916** passed the House and is headed to the governor's office with a 10-week availability of unemployment insurance.

Commissioner DeBone shared that AOC recently sent out an alert regarding the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) Bill **HB 3962A**. Another important topic to AOC is Behavioral Health funding.

Commissioner Chang reported that **HB 1154**, related to groundwater protection areas, has been modified and Goal 11 exception opportunities are available in areas of groundwater concern and management.

### 3. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs reported that Ways and Means has stopped listening to input as the end is near.

The TLT bill moved out of the House Finance and Revenue Committee. This bill changes the formula from 70-30 to 60-40, providing opportunities for local communities to fund projects related to tourism.

There is still no clarity on wildfire bills. **SB 83** and **SB 75** are both held up.

Related to transportation, there was a series of hearings on a proposal rolled out last week which Republicans opposed. Negotiations continue, and a group has formed to refer a package to the ballot. Riggs is doubtful that a package will pass

before the end of session. Additionally, no accountability measures for ODOT have yet been clarified.

The Community Corrections cost study has not been adopted. Neither AOC, nor Riggs, is optimistic. Some counties are already announcing layoffs.

Related to Behavioral Health funding, the governor is asking counties to pay a larger share, and for a longer period of time for up to six years.

**SB 1153** exempts municipal water providers (cities, counties, and special districts) and has opposition from the agricultural community. This bill has moved out of Rules Committee and is headed to Ways and Means. However, aside from Capital Construction, Ways and Means has shut down all subcommittees.

The water quality bill, **SB 1154**, has been significantly modified so it may have a better chance at going through.

Riggs believes that CORE3 will get some funding in the Capital Construction bill but believes that most programs will be cut. For example, rental assistance funding has been cut by 80%, early childhood learning programs have been cut by 5%, and homeless youth programs have been cut by 20%. Riggs said the state is trying to preserve money in case the federal government cuts Medicaid funding due to the state using General Fund dollars to provide medical care to undocumented workers.

#### **4. Review Bill Tracker Report by Department**

Commissioner Adair reported that Rep. Owens recommended a position of neutral or support on **HB 1154** and opposition on **SB 1153**.

Commissioner DeBone shared that the University of Oregon completed an Economic Impact study on CORE3 and Capital Construction.

Holly Harris reported on her recent attendance at a Behavioral Health meeting in Salem. There is a sliver of hope on a potential compromise and a two-year agreement may be a path forward. Responding to Commissioner DeBone, the motivation is likely driven by the federal contempt order related to OHA.

Riggs discussed potential scenarios for the end of session.

Commissioner Adair shared recent communications from Rep. Levy, noting her support of the Terrebonne Sanitation System \$2.5 million request. Rep. Levy is a co-sponsor of the juniper bill, and relayed that it will likely not pass.

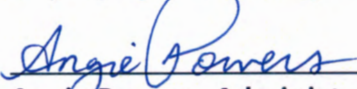
Responding to Harris, Riggs reported no news on the region's proposed child psychiatric facility. The overarching theme is no funding for new programs, only funding existing programs and staffing.

Patterson reminded there is no Legislative Update meeting scheduled for Friday, June 20.

**Next Meeting:** The next virtual legislative debrief is scheduled for Friday, June 27 at 8:00 a.m.

**Adjourn:** Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at 8:22 a.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by:*



**Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant**