



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 20, 2021

SUBJECT: Rural Economic Development Opportunities Panel Discussions /
Recommendations

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

N/A

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The Board of County Commissioners (Board) asked staff to prepare a white paper on rural economic development opportunities in Deschutes County. Staff presented the white paper to the Board at its June 28, 2021 meeting. Besides Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS), Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR), and zoning, the white paper also cited other factors influencing rural economic development opportunities such as septic issues, building codes, and rural demographics. During the presentation, the Board requested staff convene a panel discussion with the Planning Commission (PC) that would occur after the agricultural season. The panel would discuss the challenges facing small operators and their entry into new activities in terms of fees, transportation system development charges, and regulations.

The PC held an October 14 panel discussion on Rural Economic Development Opportunities with representatives from state agencies, Oregon Farm Bureau, High Desert Food and Farm Alliance (HDFFA), and County staff. Commissioners reviewed a matrix prepared by staff on October 28 that identified issues and possible remedies, based on the panel discussion (Attachment). Afterwards, they requested an additional panel discussion exclusively with the High Desert Food and Farm Alliance (HDFFA) on December 9. In addition to Katrina Van Dis, Executive Director, HDFFA, three farmers participated in the panel: Linda and Jeff Anspach with D&D Ranch, and John Herman with Lazy Z Ranch.

At the conclusion of the December 9 panel, the Planning Commission recommended the

Board consider several options.

At the conclusion of today's discussion, staff seeks direction from the Board.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

none

ATTENDANCE:

Peter Russell, Will Groves