



Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District (MCE4H)

Meeting Minutes – June 25, 2024

SERVICE DISTRICT MEETING

The meeting of the Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District (MCE4H) was called to order by Director Kevin Cameron at 1:33p.m. Introductions were made.

Note Attendance:

Attending: Commissioner Kevin Cameron, MCE4H Director; Commissioner Colm Willis, MCE4H Director; Commissioner Danielle Bethell, MCE4H Director; Scott Norris, MC Legal Counsel; Trevor Lane, MC Board's Office; Chad Ball, MC Board's Office; Alvin Klausen, MC Board's office; Matt Lawyer, MC Board's Office; Chris Eppley, MC Community Services Director and MCE4H Budget Officer; Laura McClellan, MC Community Services; Elvira Alvarez, OSU Extension; Dana Castano, MCE4H Budget Committee Member; Richard Riggs, OSU Extension; Kayla Bordelon, OSU Extension; Glen Ahrens, OSU Extension

Attending Virtually: Laura Primm, OSU Extension

District Board Meeting was recessed by Director Cameron at 1:35p.m.

Meeting convened as District Contract Review Board by Director Cameron at 1:35p.m.

Contract Review Board

Consider approval of an order granting an exemption to Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District's Public Contracting Rules.

Chris Eppley narrated the following:

The Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District uses Marion County staffing and systems to manage the day-to-day operations and finances of the district. One of these systems is participating in an annual audit, which is coordinated through the County's Finance Department. The County has a contract with Moss Adams LLP to perform these services. The district was recently notified by the County Finance personnel that the contract with Moss Adams had expired and was reinstated by the County. As the district contracts with the County for these services, we must also reinstate a contract with Moss Adams LLP to match the County's terms. Due to the timing of the audit work that Moss Adams performs for the County and special districts that the County provides staffing for, the contract expired in advance of our ability to reinstate it in a timely manner per the County's contracting rules, which the district abides by.

Therefore, staff is requesting that the Board of Directors, acting as the district Contract Review Board, waive the written request for reinstatement ninety (90) day limit after the expiration of the original contract by passing the attached Board Order. Then, as the Board of Directors, approve the amendment to the contract with Moss Adams LLP for annual audit services. The contract review board agreed.



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MOTION: Director Willis made a motion to approve the order granting the 90-day limit exemption to Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District's contracting rules. Director Cameron seconded the motion. **MOTION APPROVED.**

District Contract Review Board was recessed by Director Cameron at 1:39p.m.

Meeting was reconvened as District Board Meeting by

Director Cameron at 1:39p.m.

District Board Business

MOTION: Director Willis made a motion to approve the reinstatement of the contract with Moss Adams LLC for annual audit services for the Marion County Extension and Service District in full force and effect as if it had not expired. Director Cameron seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED**

Consider approving minutes from May 21, 2024

The minutes from May 21, 2024 were presented for approval and signature.

MOTION: Director Willis made a motion to approve the May 21, 2024 Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District board meeting minutes as presented. Director Cameron seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED**

GK Machine, Inc tax exemption request

Chris Eppley presented the GK Machine, Inc Tax Exemption request and made the following points:

1. On May 1, 2024, the Marion County Board of Commissioners approved a request from GK Machine for a property tax exemption under MCC 3.35.020 and ORS 307.340 (5) (6), which allows for a property tax exemption for newly constructed rural industrial improvements valued between \$1M and \$25M.
2. GK Machine anticipates an investment of \$25M at their Hubbard, OR location. The exemption on land and building construction would be for a period of 3-years, from 2024-2026 and would exempt approximately \$313,000 of property tax annually for this time-period.
3. As part of the expansion, GK Machine will hire an additional 25-positions for a total of 180 full-time employees working at the Hubbard location.
4. GK Machine is required to obtain approval letters from 75% of the taxing entities that would be affected by this exemption, of which, the MCE4H service district is one.

Chris Eppley recommends that the Board of Directors approve the included letter of approval for the requested property tax exemption by GK Machine if the Board so desires.



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Director Cameron and Director Willis both expressed their support on reasons this tax exemption was approved in their roles as Marion County Commissioners as they believe this will support local businesses, help create value in the rural area, and increase our local economy.

MOTION: Director Willis made a motion to extend and acknowledge the rural industrial tax exemption letter request from GK Machine, Inc for the years 2024 to 2026. Director Cameron seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED

Public Hearing

Director Cameron opened the Public Hearing for the Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District 2024-2025 Fiscal Year budget at 1:48.

Chris Eppley stated the following:

1. MCE4H has received a letter of request from OSU College of Agricultural Sciences of an increase of annual funding from \$50,000 to \$62,333 based on increases in expenses for the NW Research and Extension Center in Aurora.
2. The OSU Extension Service includes \$50,000 in their annual budget request as a line item for this purpose. The request from the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences equates to an annual increase of \$12,333.
3. The Board of Directors can deny the request. They can deny the request for this year and direct OSU College of Agricultural Sciences to include this funding as part of the OSU Extension Service budget request the 2025-26 fiscal year, approve the request and reduce Unappropriated Ending Fund Balance by an equal amount or request that the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences make application for the additional funding through the YEDAAG Grant program.
4. It is recommended that the Board of Directors deliberate this matter during their FY 2024-25 Budget deliberations and provide direction to staff.

Richard Riggs expressed support for this program and mentioned that other counties pay for this from economic development funds as an alternative resource. Director Willis commented that he is willing to partially fund the request from NWREC. Their full asking is for \$12,000 and he is willing to give them a \$6,000 increase. Director Cameron agreed with this and asked for NWREC to come back next year if they are still in need of more funding.

Director Bethell joined the public hearing at 1:55p.m.

Director Bethell was updated on the NWREC request and expressed support for the partial funding.

Public hearing was closed at 1:57 p.m.



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Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

Chris presented the following:

1. On May 21, the Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District Budget Committee met to receive and deliberate the MCE4H Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25. The Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the Recommended Budget and forward it on to the MCE4H Board of Directors as the Budget Committee Approved Budget for your review and approval.
2. Chris noted the changes due to the funding request from NWREC. He stated the \$6,000 funding difference will be moved from line item 573010 Unappropriated Ending Fund Balance changing this from \$758,089 to \$752,089 and increasing line item 525185 Community Education Services increasing this from \$1,413,740 to \$1,419,740.
3. Chris asked the directors to consider approval of resolution to adopt the District Budget, make appropriations and impose and categorize property taxes for FY 2024-2025.

Director Cameron asked if there were any more comments before the Budget is approved.

Director Bethell asked for more transparency on how funds from NWREC are being used and requested NWREC provide additional information on how the funds they are requesting are being utilized in future requests. Richard Riggs agreed that they can forward this information to the correct contact.

MOTION: Director Willis made a motion to adopt the FY 2024-2025 District Budget in the amount of \$3,807,123 by category and fund as outlined by the Budget Officer with the changes approved this meeting and to impose the ad valorem property tax rate of \$0.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value, as a permanent tax rate. Director Cameron seconded the motion. Voice vote was unanimous. **MOTION PASSED**

OSU Extension Updates

Richard Riggs introduced Laura Primm who is the new faculty member serving rural Marion County. Richard stated he came with Kayla Bordelon, county forester, and Glen Ahrens, regional fire specialist, to present their work being funded by Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District in response to the previous meetings discussion.

-Glen Ahrens, Regional Fire Specialist

Summary of Presentation:

1. Work covers Clackamas, Marion and Hood River Counties
2. 12 agents in the state throughout the counties doing similar or adjacent work.
3. Most of work includes educating Forest Owners, Forest Tree professionals and Christmas tree owners.
4. Offers education programs and activities such as Tree School, Seasonal Topic workshops, webinars, field days, individual consultations and publications.
5. Identifies major issues and needs regarding wildfire preparedness, wildfire recovery, forest and tree health – climate stress, insects and diseases, forest regeneration & reforestation – key steps and challenges and managing forests in a changing climate



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6. Partners with anyone reaching for help regarding invasive species after wildfires.
7. Worked in Marion County after 2020 wildfires. Encountered need of seedlings however struggled obstacles in finding landowners able to plant them.
8. Working on Landowner Experience After Fire (LEAF) survey and site assessment 2024 to identify key issues and problems to focus education programs assisting landowners and practitioners dealing with challenges of post-fire recovery and reforestation

Director Bethell would like to see a plan for more assistance regarding maintenance after planting during wildfire recovery for a period of time while humans recover. Glen agreed that a large hurdle for small landowners has been having all the tools and costs associated for maintenance while in recovery. Glen stated this survey is being created to identify those needs. Director Bethell requested she be sent this survey.

Director Cameron asked for a list of arborists to contact for possibly hazardous trees. Glen affirmed that he would send him further information. Kayla mentioned that Oregon State Fire Marshalls has a program where they can perform inspections.

-Kayla Bordelon, Regional Fire Specialist

Summary of Presentation:

1. There are 6 regional fire specialists across Oregon. Kayla serves 9 counties in the Willamette Valley where 50% of Oregon population lives.
2. Supports Resilient Communities and Effective Organizations, Fire-Adapted Ecosystems, and Cultures of Adaptation.
3. Current #1 goal is acquiring local capacity.
 - a. Supporting proposals in 2024 for Linn County and Hood River County for a Wildfire coordinator position for a more rapid response.
4. Currently updating the CWPP. Goal 1, Objective 1.1: Provide countywide leadership through partnerships to implement wildland-urban interface fire mitigation strategies in Marion County.
5. Creating a statewide standard for structure ignition assessment.
6. Serves as a conduit for mitigation practitioners regarding support systems.
7. Working with PCUN which is based in Woodburn on Wildfire Preparedness for Spanish speaking farmworkers.

Director Cameron recommended partnering the Linn County position with Marion County as both counties have worked together during fires in the Santiam Canyon.

Director Bethell proposed partnering with the insurance commission as during the Wildfire Recovery in 2020, it was identified that a lot of people did not have the correct insurance needed. Kayla agreed to look into both suggestions.

Director Bethell added that she spoke with an OSU faculty member representing the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network at a conference who asked her what the population is of ag related workers who have committed suicide in Marion County. Director Bethell is interested in obtaining these numbers



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and supporting this helpline. Farmers and Ranchers have the highest suicide impacted rate in the last 10 years in Oregon and Director Bethell would like to know the percentage in Marion County due to Marion County being the agricultural producing county of the state.

Richard Riggs stated he will find more information on how to obtain these numbers for Marion County.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:59p.m.

MARION COUNTY EXTENSION and 4-H SERVICE DISTRICT

Handwritten signature of Kevin Cameron in blue ink.

Chair, Kevin Cameron

Date

Handwritten signature of Colm Willis in blue ink.

Director, Colm Willis

8/21/2024

Date

Not Present at Meeting

Director, Danielle Bethell

Date

Orig: Clerk

Cc: Board of Commissioners – MCE4HSD
Community Services