



WASCO COUNTY EXTENSION & 4-H SERVICE DISTRICT
BUDGET COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 17, 2016

PRESENT: Pat Davis, Committee Chair
Ken Polehn, Committee Member
Scott Hege, County Commissioner/Committee Member
Steve Kramer, County Commissioner/Committee Member

STAFF: Lynn Long, Budget Officer
Kathy White, Executive Assistant

ABSENT: John Carter, Committee Member
Rod Runyon, County Commissioner/Committee Member

At 9:02 a.m. Chair Davis opened the Annual Meeting of the Wasco County Extension & 4-H Service District Budget Committee.

Election of Officers

{{{Commissioner Kramer moved to nominate Pat Davis Chair and Ken Polehn, Vice Chair. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

There were no further nominations.

{{{Commissioner Kramer moved to elect Pat Davis, Chair and Ken Polehn Vice Chair of the Wasco County Extension and 4H Service District. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Minutes

{{{Commissioner Hege moved to approve the 5.19.2015 minutes. Commissioner Kramer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Budget Message

Mr. Long reviewed his budget message (attached). He explained that 4H Leader Lynette Black has been appointed as the Co-County Leader and 4H Family and Consumer Science Coordinator; they are looking for a new 4H Leader.

Mr. Long went on to say that they have recognized that the Family and Community Development Coordinator is in need of help. She runs programs on Childhood Obesity, Strong Women and Master Food Preservers. He reported that they have added \$19,000 to help support hiring an Education Program Assistant. He stated that they have also strengthened support for the Small Farm Agent who helps facilitate the farmer network to connect small farmers with consumers and also offers educational opportunities to small farmers.

Mr. Long continued by saying that Ann Harris works with Latino families to encourage them to think about higher education for their children. He said that she works with the schools at all levels – kindergarten through college – and works with families to plan for that economically. He reported that it has been very successful over the last couple of years and they are adding \$6,500 to that program.

Mr. Long stated that 4H Youth Development is still running the traditional farm programs but continues to branch out to STEM and much, much more. Last year they reached 1,500 youth and are teaching computer programming classes to youth at NORCOR. In addition, they have a robotics program in which 42 youth are enrolled; two of the teams qualified for the state Lego robotics competition. He said that they have two program assistants.

Mr. Long announced that Sandy McNab is retiring this year; he recently revived the Bull Tour which has 115 participants this year.

Mr. Long stated that the Strong Women program has 60 participants; the Master Food Preserver program has been taught 4 times in the last 6 years. Through a federal grant program, Patty Florez goes to grade schools to teach nutrition and healthy cooking.

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Mr. Long reported that he continues to work with cherry growers for labor efficiency. He helps orchardists with methods for training trees to make the harvest more efficient; local pickers are able to harvest 53-72% faster which is a win for both the grower and the workers. He said that the higher rate of harvest will attract pickers and motivate them to return. He stated that our pickers are already the envy of the world – they are faster and more efficient by far. He noted that our supply of workers returning is finite and we need to look at how we are growing crops and explore the possibility of mechanical harvesting which would eliminate the stem of the cherries – with the increase in orchard acreage, there may not be enough pickers. He stated that right now, with the new system, we can remain competitive using pickers. He added that the new system will allow for trees to grow closer together – sometime from 16 feet apart, down to 10 feet apart. He invited the committee members to join him for the pre-harvest tour on May 31st, saying that our cherry growers are leading edge in the world.

Mr. Long reported that the Master Gardener program has been working with NORCOR since 2008. There is a greenhouse on-site and product is sold to the public. He said that the master gardeners have served as mentors to the kids in the program in which the kids have to earn the right of participation. He observed that the skills the kids gain are valuable, but it is the relationships that prove to be most important. He reported that 22 new Master Gardeners were added this year.

Commissioner Hege asked if the computer related programs are supported in anyway by funding from Google. Mr. Long replied affirmatively saying that the salary for that program is funded through Google. He said that they have a computer program that runs at NORCOR twice each week as well as in-school and afterschool programs that benefit from the Google funding.

Commissioner Kramer asked if it is recurring funding. Ms. Black responded that it is a one-year grant but they hope to have an extension for another year. Mr. Long stated that they receive significant grant funding for their programs.

Chair Davis stated that the original rate for the Extension District was set to allow for the building of reserves to mitigate increased future costs of running the District and its programs. He stated that it is exemplary that the District has been able to continue to build those reserves while not only maintaining but expanding services. Mr. Long replied that he does not see the need to expand those reserves much more after this year but he

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hopes to maintain the level of reserves for a number of years; they would like to keep it between \$750,000 and \$1 million. Mr. Davis commented that seems prudent and is very responsible stewardship.

{{{Commissioner Kramer moved to approve the Wasco County 4-H & Extension Service District 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Budget for \$ 1,344,750 as presented. Vice-Chair Polehn seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

{{{Commissioner Kramer moved to set the tax rate for the Wasco County 4-H and Extension Service District at 25¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Chair Davis adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

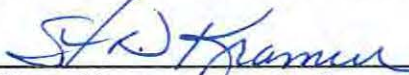
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Scott Hege, County Commissioner

Absent

Rod Runyon, County Commissioner



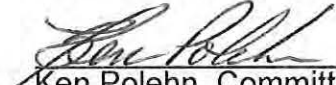
Steve Kramer, County Commissioner



Pat Davis, Committee Chair

Absent

John Carter, Committee Member



Ken Polehn, Committee Member