



Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District (MCE4H)
Meeting Minutes – February 22nd, 2024
SERVICE DISTRICT MEETING

The meeting of the Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District (MCE4H) was called to order by Director Danielle Bethell at 3:11p.m. Introductions were made.

Attending: Commissioner Danielle Bethell, MCE4H Director; Commissioner Colm Willis, MCE4H Director; Matt Lawyer, MC Board's Office; Chad Ball, MC Board's Office; Alvin Klausen, MC Board's Office; Trevor Lane, MC Board's Office; Lisa Novack, YMCA; Jessica Otjec, YMCA; Chris Eppley, MC Community Services Director and MCE4H Budget Officer; Laura McClellan, MC Community Services; Joshua Mills, MC Community Services; Derek Godwin, OSU Extension; Richard Riggs, OSU Extension Western Regional Director; Yuridia Reyes, OSU Extension; Audrey Comerford, OSU Extension; Elvira Alvarez, OSU Extension Marion County Office Manager; Dana Castano, Volunteer; Amy Goulter-Allen, Volunteer; Scott Norris, MC Legal Counsel

Attending Virtually: Destinee Schuster, volunteer

District Minutes

The minutes from January 25th, 2024 were presented for approval and signature.

MOTION: Director Willis made a motion to approve the January 25th, 2024 Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District board meeting minutes as presented. Director Bethell seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. **MOTION PASSED**

Program Updates

Yuridia Reyes from OSU Extension introduced Juntos, a college access program designed for Latino youth and families to assist youth in obtaining higher education that is being partly funded by MCE4H. Yuridia works in multiple schools in Marion County and is based at the Chemeketa Community College Woodburn Campus. Juntos has served 335+ youth and are maintaining a 100% High School graduation rate and a 90% post secondary enrollment. Yuridia presented recorded testimonials from Mauricio Rosales Sanchez, Luciana Escalona, and Jonathan Salgado Gutierrez. All youth that were involved and impacted by Juntos

Audrey Comerford is an Agritourism Coordinator for OSU Extension and Audrey stressed the growing need for agritourism to keep farms afloat. The newest 2017 census was presented proving the continued pattern of Oregon's loss in farms and farmland. Audrey introduced a handout detailing a new study in which she partnered with multiple organizations and worked on a project within the Willamette Valley about the economic impact of agritourism. Audrey states that this is information that will assist in future discussions with farms about agritourism.



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Director Bethell requested that the MCE4H logo be added to the Juntos Flyer to help promote the Extension as much as possible. Richard Riggs agreed with this request.

Fiscal Updates

Chris provided a current update on the Willamette Workforce Partnership Youth Wage Grant. They have served 38 Youth, 9 companies provided funding, and they have \$32,794 expended with an extension to their contract ending December of 2024.

Director Bethell asked Audrey if she was familiar with this program and asked if she could spread this information to farms in which she has conversations about Agritourism. Destinee Schuster commented that the feedback she has received from a personal connection informed her that even with this reimbursement, this program is not taken advantage of due to the difficulty in finding a that job meets all of the minor restrictions. There was discussion for tractor driving costs being included in this program in the future to help offset costs to farms. Amy voiced that Chemeketa Community College offers these classes. Richard mentioned that 4-H also offers classes however he admitted that there is more need for it then what they are able to provide. The Director stated the would like to see both programs promoted.

Chris updated that as directed, the contracts for Mid Valley Soccer Club and Capital Futbol Club have been extended for an additional year with funding extended by an amount equal to their original funding. Chris presented the latest report from Capitol Futbol Club. The board expressed concern over not having received reporting from Mid Valley Soccer Club and Chris assured that they will not receive funding until Community Services receive a report. Chris mentioned that he will present a report in the next meeting about the Kroc Center GED program.

Budget Priorities and Forecast for FY 2024-2025

Chris presented a snapshot of the FY 2023-2024 budget to date. All the costs are as expected and there are no concerns. Chris highlighted the priorities that were adopted in the Budget Message for MCE4H and asked if there are additional education or services to the public that they would like staff to consider as preparation begins for the FY 2024-2025 budget.

Richard Riggs updated that they are on 2nd interviews regarding the Rural Education Outreach Position.

Chris noted that the YMCA applied for funding from CDBG towards non-soccer programs and that it was observed during this application process, that due to this program from YMCA being geared toward low-income youth, it can be potentially funded from MCE4H. Director Willis and Director Bethell spoke with YMCA to comment that they are willing to fund their program in full for the first year however they noted that do not fund operational sustainability. Director Bethell stressed regular reporting for



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continued funding. Chris declared he would contact YMCA once the grant program is close to completion.

Chris disclosed that Marion County Finance has requested the creation of a grant program similar to a grant program currently being used by Community Services Economic Development in order to potentially provide funding to YMCA and other potential future projects. Chris stated funds would be available as early as 7/1/2024.

Chris Eppley verified with the directors about continued support for the Youth Wage Grant, Soccer Grants, and Chemeketa GED program.

Director Bethell clarified that her expectation with the Chemeketa GED Program was to help get the program off the ground but that her end goal was for them to find funding elsewhere once the program was running. Director Bethell stated she is willing to support the program if they still required it.

Director Bethell asked Richard Riggs to connect Yuridia Reyes with Junto to Tony Frazier from the Kroc Center GED Program to see if they could potentially assist each other. Chris stated he would send Tony's contact information to Richard.

Director Bethell asked for Chris to share the Boys & Girls club with the YMCA and OSU Extension and 4-H and stressed that is important for our community to work together as funding is limited. Chris and Richard agreed on making this connection.

Director Bethell asked if there were any questions. Dana Castano asked if there could be any opportunity for funding to public libraries like the Salem Public Library. The directors replied that in their role as Commissioners they have helped support the Dolly Parton Library for children under the age of 5 and that they are willing to explore other ways to help children receive books however they are not currently interested in financially supporting the City of Salem regarding funding to their Public Library.

Richard Riggs mentioned that during the last MCE4H Budget Meeting, the budget committee requested more information from Derek Godwin and his need for funding and noted that Derek is working on getting ready to present for the upcoming Budget Committee meeting. Director Bethell requested a highlight of Derek's ask. Derek noted a discussion with Marion County Farm Bureau about work he has done in Polk County about needs they see relating to water management regarding water use and water quality. Derek stated he is proposing to expand his research from Polk County to Marion County. This will include research and providing tours to help farms with water management. Director Willis stated he wants to make sure this research is realistic and not based on what other entities would like to be required for farming. Derek replied that he would bring more information on the upcoming budget committee meeting to present his proposal for funding.





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Meeting was adjourned at 4:12p.m.

MARION COUNTY EXTENSION and 4-H SERVICE DISTRICT

 6-9-2024
Chair, Kevin Cameron Date

 6-5-2024
Director, Danielle Bethell Date

 6/5/2024
Director, Colm Willis Date

Orig: Clerk

Cc: Board of Commissioners – MCE4HSD
Community Services