



**Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District (MCE4H)  
Meeting Minutes – June 22, 2023  
SERVICE DISTRICT MEETING**

The meeting of the Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District (MCE4H) was called to order by Director Colm Willis at 3:05 p.m. Introductions were made.

**Attending:**

Commissioner Colm Willis, MCE4H Director; Commissioner Kevin Cameron, MCE4H Director; Commissioner Danielle Bethell, MCE4H Director; Jessica Stanton, MC Board's Office; Alvin Klausen, MC Board's Office; Matt Lawyer, MC Board's Office; Scott Norris, MC Legal Counsel; Chris Eppley, MC Community Services Director and MCE4H Budget Officer; Elvira Alvarez, OSU Extension; Richard Riggs, OSU Extension; Laura McClellan, MC Community Services; Nick Zehring, Salvation Army Kroc Center; Tony Frazier, Salvation Army Kroc Center; Sara Hastings, Chemeketa Community College; Holly Nelsen, Chemeketa Community College

**Attending Virtually:**

Dana Castano, MCE4H Budget Committee Member

**District Minutes**

The minutes from May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 were presented for approval and signature.

**MOTION:** Director Cameron moved to approve the meeting minutes from May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. Director Willis seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. **MOTION PASSED**

**Presentation of Budget Committee Member Application**

MCE4H Budget Committee Member Gordon Lintner resigned his position, creating an opening on the MCE4H Budget Committee. As a result, the position has been listed publicly under Marion County's volunteer application procedures and an application from Amy Goulter-Allen was received and is now presented for review.

Chris Eppley stated he would provide an order for the board to sign at the next MCE4H meeting if they approve of Amy's application. The board gave Chris Eppley direction to create a board order to appoint Amy Goulter-Allen to the MCE4H budget committee.

District meeting was recessed at 3:11 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Director Willis opened the public hearing regarding the adoption of the MCE4H Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget at 3:11 p.m.



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**OSU Budget Request for Water Management Research Assistant**

OSU Extension Service presented a proposal for consideration of the addition of a part-time research assistant to conduct outreach activities to Marion County agricultural producers and to measure and study the hydrologic cycle of common irrigated crop and pasture systems at the field level to characterize surface water, shallow groundwater interactions, and riparian-stream water quality conditions in critical watersheds to help guide producers and stakeholders in their riparian/stream management decisions. The total cost of the proposal is \$35,000 per year for three years from Marion County Extension Service District.

Chris noted that if the Board wishes to proceed with this request, staff recommends reducing line item 525999 - Other Contracted Services by \$35,000 from \$217,789 to \$182,789 and increasing Line Item 525185 – Community Education Services by \$35,000 from \$1,233,680 to \$1,268,680.

Richard Riggs explained that this research will provide Marion County farmers science-based information to improve irrigation and water management. Richard Riggs stated that this research assistant will only work in Marion County and listed the stakeholders who are supporting this proposal.

Director Willis expressed reservations about the proposal and requested more information be provided along with research from other participating counties and vocalized he might be interested in accepting this proposal in the next year. Director Bethell commented that she would like to hear from different crop farmers to verify their need for this program. There was discussion about funding it as a supplemental budget if they can confirm a need before the 2024-2025 budget. Richard Riggs stated he would contact Derek Godwin who is the faculty member leading this research to collect the information requested. Director Bethell asked to be included in future stakeholder meetings and to have additional supporting documents on this research sent to her before the scheduled October MCE4H meeting later this year.

**Kroc Center GED Proposal**

The Salem Kroc is proposing a program that partners with Chemeketa Community College to provide GED instruction at the Kroc Center. Chemeketa provides the instruction and office support, and the Kroc Center provides the classroom/office space, and other services including Kroc Center membership and meals for the student participants.

Chris noted the total cost of the program is \$71,473, which includes instruction, classroom technology and supplies, and operational costs for a full year. The budget line item this proposal would be paid from is 525999 – Other Contracted Services. This line item currently has \$217,789 allocated to it with \$83,000 of identified expenses anticipated in FY 2023-24, leaving \$134,789 still unallocated. As such, no



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adjustments need to be made to the Budget Committee Approved budget to accommodate this proposal, should the Board wish to approve it as an identified program for this upcoming fiscal year.

Tony Frazier presented this program and described what it will look like at the Kroc Center. Tony voiced how it will help the youth and diverse community that they serve as they work in the lowest income zip code in Salem. Sara Hasting described how Chemeketa Community College will help this program by providing in-person and off-site instruction as they are already providing similar services onsite at Chemeketa Community Services. Director Willis scrutinized the program and asked for more details on why this is a need in the community. Discussion ensued on the barriers of receiving a GED in the Salem/Keizer district and subsequent need for this program. Dana Castano asked how many students would benefit from the program and Tony responded that they plan to target 15 students at start of the program. Director Cameron stated he liked this program. Director Bethell noted she wants an update of the program in 6 months. Chris Eppley wanted to state under public comment that this program meets the goals of the Service District in that it offers opportunities to our youth.

**Public hearing was closed at 3:48 p.m.**

Service District Hearing was re-opened at 3:48 p.m.

Chris Eppley received direction to pursue a contract to start the GED program with the Kroc Center.

Director Willis inquired on the Youth Wage Grant and the Soccer Grants. Chris Eppley answered that the Youth Wage Grant is being extended for the remainder of its allocation which is estimated at around \$17,000 until the end of 2023 and that the Soccer Grant programs will be continued into the following fiscal year if the budget presented is approved. Director Bethell asked for Chris to share information about the Youth Wage Grant with Tony.

**MOTION:** Director Cameron made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget in the amount of \$3,318,194 by category and fund and to impose the ad valorem property tax rate of \$0.05 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value as the permanent rate. Director Bethell seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. **MOTION PASSED**

**Meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.**




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**MARION COUNTY EXTENSION and 4-H SERVICE DISTRICT**

 8/31/2023  
Chair, Danielle Bethell Date

 8/31/2023  
Director, Colm Willis Date

 8.31.2023  
Director, Kevin Cameron Date

Orig: Clerk

Cc: Board of Commissioners – MCE4HSD  
Community Services