

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Budget Committee Meeting

Location: Marion SWCD Conference Room
338 Hawthorne Ave NE - Salem, OR 97301
Date: May 15, 2019
Time: 7:03 PM to 9:20 PM

Actions and follow-up items (notes) are italicized.

ATTENDANCE:

SWCD DIRECTORS PRESENT	CITIZEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT
Scott Walker	Ken Palke
Doug Krahmer	Brent Stevenson
Tim Bielenberg	Rebecca McCoun
Rochelle Koch	Sarah Bishop
	Tim Johnson
SWCD DIRECTORS ABSENT	Bob Dettwyler
Terry Hsu	Ralph Fisher
Darin Olson	
	PUBLIC
STAFF	Dave Budeau – Associate Director
Jane Keppinger, DM/Budget Officer	
Tom Wilson, Administrative Assistant	

Called to order: Previous chair Stevenson called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Introductions were made, and Administrative Assistant Wilson announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Elect Officer (Chair):

Previous chair Stevenson opened the floor for chair nominations.

ACTION: Dettwyler nominated Stevenson for budget committee chair, 2nd by Bielenberg. Stevenson was selected by a unanimous vote.

Role of Budget Committee

Keppinger reviewed the purpose and outline of the meeting. The budget message will be presented, and the budget reviewed. Next, any public questions and comments will be heard. Then, the Committee will deliberate the budget. Finally, the proposed budget will be voted on, as well as the recommended taxation rate. She explained that if the budget is passed tonight, the Budget Hearing will be held on June 12, 2019 at 7 PM to take public comment; the Board will then approve the final budget and the tax rate resolution. If the budget isn't passed, there will be another committee meeting next week May 22, 2019 at 7 PM.

She explained the budget committee is the overseer for the public, to be a check and balance to the governing body, for the good of the public. She thanked the committee for a strong showing tonight with full attendance.

Receive the Budget Message and Review the Budget

Keppinger presented the budget message, explained the history and background of the permanent tax rate, and the process she used to make the budget (see handouts 1, 2, & 3). She used a zero-based budget set on a fiscal year (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020). She explained how she figured the estimated tax revenues for the next year. She said they cut back the budget last year on the recommendation of the committee and have spent prudently this year. There have been more taxes and interest income collected than in previous years.

Keppinger answered questions from the committee regarding carryover. She will be asking for .05/\$1000 of assessed value. Total of all funds is \$3,634,872.

Keppinger went thru the budget line by line and answered questions from the committee.

- Johnson asked about the flat rate, and why the District wants to take more money than they need for operations. Walker replied that the district is interested in building up reserve funds for a new building.
- Palke would like to have a copy of the Conservation Cover Crop Program when it is finalized by the board.
- Fisher commented on the increase in program funding, and Keppinger replied that staff have worked very hard to expand the LAP thru community outreach, one of the goals of the budget committee.
- Dalke asked about the programs that are reaching the general public (taxpayers, urban population). Keppinger explained that we are partnering with several entities to build greater urban outreach, but currently focus on mostly on education.

Chair Stevenson recessed for a break at 8:00 PM and reconvened the meeting at 8:13 PM.

Public comment: None

Deliberate the Budget:

On page 4, 'Requirements' line 3, Keppinger explained the new 'Housing for Office Space' line item, and the process of adopting the new resolution along with the budget (see handout #4).

Walker explained that the board wants the funds to be available this year to start investigating properties.

Bielenberg stated he doesn't support the change, as it should be a budget committee decision, and not made by the board alone, which this budget line item will allow them to do with only 4 votes, and that the money was not originally collected to buy property, but do conservation on the ground.

Krahmer also feels strongly that the board needs to come to the committee, to get the input of as many people in the community as possible.

McCoun stated the new reserve fund is a red flag for her as it makes funds available before there is a plan to spend them.

Koch stated she is outraged by the amount of rent the District is paying.

Discussion regarding supplemental budget process, current lease, and contingency fund.

Bishop explained that the board has not changed the resolution yet, and she feels uncomfortable adopting a budget that contradicts a current resolution, and she stated that funds to explore options for housing could come out of 'Professional Services'.

Approve the Proposed Budget:

Bishop offered the final changes to the proposed budget:

- Reallocate \$45,000 on page 3 line 30, to line 26 'Contingency', making the total \$195,000.
- Remove \$45,000 on page 4, line 5, reducing line 12 'Total Resources' to \$1,073,319.
- Split Total Resource 50/50 percent between Requirements line 1 and 2, removing line 3. This leaves \$536,660 for line 1 and \$536,559 for line 2.

ACTION: Bishop moved to approve the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District 2019-2020 Budget as amended. The motion was 2nd by Fisher. Motioned passed 10-1 (Walker NAY).

Recommend Rate of Taxation

Keppinger stated that the district can ask for a maximum tax rate of \$.05/\$1000 assessed value, or a lower rate; an alternate option is the district could ask for a flat rate amount. She is asking for a tax rate of \$.05/\$1000 assessed value.

ACTION: Fisher moved that the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Budget Committee approve the recommended tax rate of \$.05/\$1000 assessed value. For the 2019-2020 Fiscal year for operating purposes. The motion was 2nd by Bielenberg. Motioned passed unanimously (11-0).

ADJOURN: Stevenson adjourned the Budget Committee meeting at 9:20 PM.

Next meeting: Budget Hearing-June 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM
Meeting Location: Marion SWCD – Conference Room
338 Hawthorne Ave NE
Salem, OR 97301-4607

Minutes submitted by: Tom Wilson, Administrative Assistant