

EXTENSION TAX DISTRICT WORK SESSION
QUARTERLY MEETING – FEBRUARY 15, 2012
MINUTES

1. At 10:02 a.m., Chairman Pope declared the Quarterly Work Session of the Extension Tax District in session. Commissioner Ainsworth and Commissioner Wheeler were present. Also in attendance were:

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer	
Derek Godwin, Regional Administrator	
Pamela Rose, County Leader	
Jim Clawson, PECAN Chairman	
Barbara Nichols	Tina Andersen
Darrell Ward	Don & Betty Duhrkopf
Norbert Hartmann	Suzy Wexler
Mike Calef	

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 4, 2011**

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 4, 2011.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **RE-APPOINTMENT TO BUDGET COMMITTEE**

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED TO RE-APPOINT DARRELL WARD TO THE POLK COUNTY 4-H, MASTER GARDNER, AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, EXTENSION DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Derek Godwin updated the Board on staffing changes: Derek is now the Regional Administrator for Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Linn, and Benton Counties, and Pamela Rose is the new County Leader for Marion and Polk Counties. The Regional Administrators are responsible for providing leadership, direction, and budget authority for the Extension offices within the counties served and supervising program faculty. The County Leader position is now responsible for providing leadership for the advisory committees, completing needs assessment, outreach, and developing and cultivating community relationships and partnerships.

There is an expected 12% budget reduction this coming fiscal year, on top of the 10% that was cut last fiscal year. This funding from the State mainly affects faculty. There has been a reduction of field crop staff down to two, and vegetable crop staff to one, in the Willamette Valley. The current Forestry staff will now be covering Linn, Benton, and Polk Counties. Forestry staff are holding focus groups with clientele to determine needs and focus areas to better utilize time and resources.

Derek went on to describe accomplishments and highlights from the last year. In 4-H, a countywide youth needs survey was completed in partnership with Polk County Commission for Children and Families, a Visionary Council for youth development was established, and a 'Parents of Young Children' resource group is in development. On the Family and Community Health side, there have been education programs focusing on Living with Chronic Diseases, Living with Diabetes, Buying and Cooking for One, and Food Nutrition and Preservation. In Agriculture, staff is working on a needs assessment to determine how best to connect the farm and food network with small and larger farms,

increasing communication between farmers, developing a growing farms training program for new farmers, and organizing the small farms conference held in Corvallis.

Derek reported that there have been record enrollments on campus, and a large increase in distance education demand. Looking toward the future, Extension will be focusing on hands on learning and job experience for these undergraduates, working with partners to develop courses, and utilizing and integrating technology into Extension programs. Staff will also be working toward completing the Agriculture Economic Development study to help identify areas to invest in to better promote agriculture and improve the local economy.

5. **PECAN UPDATE**

Jim Clawson gave an update on the Advisory Network. They have been working with faculty on developing a strategic plan. A draft copy of the plan should be completed by the end of February and a final draft complete by April, which should assist with budget planning and preparation. The plan calls for oversight committees for each program, with a PECAN member on each committee. PECAN is also interested in shortening the name of the district, to be more reader/user friendly. The Board supports this idea. The advisory network would like to continue to be involved in the 'visioning phase' of the building committee, and will continue to work towards increasing communication with citizens and partners.

It was decided that the next meeting will be held in June, once budget is complete. The Board requested that in future meetings, they would like to have "day in the life..." snapshots of program leaders.

Chairman Pope adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Minutes: Heather Alvarez
Approved: June 13, 2012