

Meeting Minutes for Crook County Ag Extension Service District Budget Hearing and Advisory Board Meeting

May 11, 2026

Board Members Present: Tory Kurtz, Jerry Brummer, Brett Dunn, Janice Flegel, Laura York

Board Members Absent: Hunter Neuharth, Janelle Geddes, Nancy Condron John Dehler

Commissioners Present: Susan Hermreck, Brian Barney

Staff Members Present: Nicole Strong, Reaza Hacker, Scott Duggan, Gordon Jones, Carmen Shelton, Gina Hallam, Scott Duggan, Shawna Holland

Budget Officer: Tim Deboodt

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Janice Flegel @ 6:10 p.m.

Janice called for volunteers from the Board to serve as the citizen representatives on the Budget Committee. Janice, Jerry and Laura volunteered to serve. Janice appointed these individuals to the Committee. The Budget Committee chose Janice to serve as its Chair. Budget Committee membership is Janice Flegel, Laura York, Jerry Brummer, Brian Barney (Commissioner) and Susan Hermreck (Commissioner).

Janice asked Tim to read the Budget Message (See Attachment).

Janice opened the public comment period for discussion/input to the proposed Budget. Questions were asked in regard to impacts of eliminating funding to the Juntos and Master Gardener support for Crook County in FY 2027. Due to total expenditures exceeding revenues for the 3rd year in a row, these two programs, total cost of \$46,000, are being suspended for FY027. The District retains the ability to revisit these programs and/or other program needs in preparation of the FY2028 budget.

Other questions about set asides for the Building Maintenance and Vehicle replacement were discussed. While no expenses are anticipated for these to expenses, setting aside funds and calling for their expenditure allows for needs to be addressed should they come up. Tim is recommending that the Building Maintenance fund be built to a range of \$50000 - \$60000 dollars set aside annually. This can be done over the next 3 - 5 years. The Building Maintenance expenses cover both the office building and the 4H Clover building.

Janice closed the public comment period and opened discussion for the Budget Committee. Budget Committee discussed the public comments. The Committee

stressed that they too believe that the programs being cut have been important to the citizens of the County but that with the need to align revenues with expenditures, adding those programs into the FY 2027 budget would result in a continued decline in ending year balance, an additional \$46000.

Jerry moved that the Budget Committee of the Crook County Agricultural Extension Service District of Crook County, Oregon, approve the budget for the 2027 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, as proposed in the amount of \$852,000. Laura seconded. All Committee members voted yes, there were no members voting no. Vote passed unanimously.

Laura moved that the Budget Committee of the Crook County Agricultural Extension Service District of Crook County, Oregon, approve the property tassess for the 2027 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, in the amount of \$ 0.1207 (twelve point zero seven cents) per \$1000 of assessed value for the permanent rate tax levy. Jerry seconded. All Committee members voted yes, there were no members voting no. Vote passed unanimously.

Janice closed the meeting of the Crook County Agricultural Extension Service District Budget Committee.

Janice opened the meeting of the Crook County Ag. Extension Advisory Committee.

Janice asked for nominations for the Chair position of the Advisory Committee for the next year. Brett moved to Janice serve as Chair for the FY 2026-27 year. Laura Seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Committee had no new business to address.

Nicole Strong, Regional Director, OSU Extension provided an overview of the legislative session this winter. Nicole reminded the group that Extension is funded from three sources, Federal, State and Local. Federal support is formula and grant based and Oregon's portion of this funding source continues to decline (for many years). Nicole gave a special thanks to Brett for his effort to write the legislature, and his advocacy of Extension. Janice and other committee members expressed their appreciation as well to Brett for providing leadership to that effort. Nicole shared that the legislature made no further cuts in Extension's budget during the short session but that the current budget did not fully fund Extension for this biennium. Extension will be looking for support going into the next legislative session (January, 2027).

Nicole shared that Extension has just completed a new strategic plan. She will share those details at the fall meeting of the Advisory Committee.

Extension Staff provided brief updates for the committee:

Gordon shared that he is working on spray trials for Alfalfa weevils (Madras), farm visits for wheat mites, a deficit irrigation trial in Madras @ Experiment State and getting ready to make first cutting on an Orchard grass variety trial (50 varieties).

Reaza shared a very busy spring 4H schedule. Contest season, knowledge skills, food and sewing contests coming up, getting ready for County Fair (89 days). This year, 439 kids are enrolled in 4H for Crook County.

Shawna shared her work in nutrition. Funding for SNAP-ED work will end in September. Then in October, her new duties will kick in, in which Crook County is funding .4 FTE of her position. Current work in the areas of rural population health and rural communities preparing for disaster. With her new work starting in October, her region will include Wheeler and Gilliam Counties (frontier counties). Shawna shared that the Green Bag program received recognition from Senator Merkley at his last townhall meeting in Prineville. There is an effort to initiate a Green Bag program in Wheeler County. Wheeler County currently has only 1 food pantry and is open only once a month.

Gina introduced herself and is looking forward to continuing to provide support to staff and the County.

Carmen shared that all is going well in the office.

Scott reported that he participated in the Boots and Roots program at the Fairgrounds. 400 4th graders participated. Recent programs include Toxic plants and pasture management. Wild horse castration workshops at Warm Springs along with equine dental clinic and cogins testing held at Warm Springs. Future programing includes an upcoming "Raising Freezer Beef" event. Scott, Gordon and a few other Extension faculty members are finishing up a Pasture Management workshop.

No other business, Brian moved to adjourn. Susie Seconded. All voted yes, and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Video link to meeting's recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yijeznzEA24>