

## Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District Budget Committee Teleconference Meeting Minutes Hybrid Meeting: In-person and via Teleconference May 3, 2023

**Directors:** Bill Hammel Bob Krein Ken Bailey

Phil Kaser

Appointees: Chuck Covert Robert Wallace Jerod Warnock

Lacy Underhill Jason Lewis Chris Sorensen

Staff: Shilah Olson, District Manager and Budget Officer

Jennifer Sampson Abbie Forrest

**Staff via Teleconference:** Samantha Filbin

**Guests via Teleconference:** 

NRCS: Jon Ludovico, Soil Conservationist

## 9:58 AM Call to Order

SWCD Chairman Bill Hammel called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. Introductions were made around the room.

Budget Officer Shilah Olson reviewed the budget message and asked the committee if they had any questions. None were asked. She then went through the budget detail sheets and pointed out changes that had been made since the mail out to the committee. Shilah noted that she was required to change the overall budget format to include a departmental breakdown, so the budget looks slightly different than it has in past years. The committee did not recommend any changes.

While going through the budget detail, Shilah explained various related aspects of district operations and projects for which the district has either obtained or applied for funding.

Shilah then went through the tax calculation including an estimate of 3.5% increase in County-wide property value and noted the compression loss and other tax estimated losses. With those calculations, estimated levied taxes at the full rate would be \$725,000. Shilah noted the tax revenue is a conservative estimate. The District's max approved tax rate is \$0.25/\$1,000. The committee discussed the pros and cons of levying the full amount. They decided that it would be prudent to levy the full amount this year given the large projects the SWCD is involved with and the uncertain nature of the current economic climate. It was discussed that not levying the full amount doesn't result in savings to the taxpayers. It would simply offset the compression loss of the other taxing entities.

There was no public comment at this time.

After deliberation, Chuck Covert moved that the budget committee approve the budget as presented. Robert Wallace seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bob Krein moved that the budget committee approve a tax levy in the amount of \$.25/\$1,000 for operating purposes in the General Fund. Lacey Underhill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Adjourn 12:08PM**Jennifer Sampson