



Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District
Budget Committee Teleconference Meeting Minutes
Hybrid Meeting: In-person and via Teleconference
May 4, 2022

- Directors:** Bill Hammel Bob Krein Ken Bailey
Pat Davis Stan Shephard
- Appointees:** Dave Wagenblast Bryce Molesworth Chuck Covert
Robert Wallace
- Appointees via Teleconference:** Robert Lindell
- Staff:** Shilah Olson, District Manager and Budget Officer
Josh Thompson Jennifer Sampson
- Staff via Teleconference:** Abbie Forrest
- Guests:** Jason Lewis

10:00 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. The committee recommended the following changes:

- Increased the DCS Current Year on page 3, line 10 to \$150,000 from \$125,000.
- Increased Capital Outlay in the Vehicle Reserve Fund to \$41,980 from \$0, in anticipation of purchasing a vehicle.

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% 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 \$630,000. Shilah noted that the SWCD will receive slightly more than that amount since one of the Google tax abatements has expired and the facility will come on the tax rolls this fall; however, she did not factor that in so 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, Robert Wallace moved that the Budget Committee approve the budget as amended. Bryce Molesworth seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bob Krein moved that the Budget Committee approve the tax levy in the amount of \$0.25/\$1,000 for operating purposes in the general fund. Ken Bailey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjourn 12:05PM

Jennifer Sampson