

**Wasco County Library Service District  
Board Meeting  
Tuesday, May 20, 2025  
Location: The Dalles Public Library & Zoom**

**Board Members Attending:** Dave Mason, Rita Rathkey, Mary Beechler, Tina Coleman

**Staff Members present:** Jeff Wavrunek, Rita Squires

**Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Dave Mason

**Visitors/Interested Parties:** none

**Minutes:** Rita Rathkey moved to approve the minutes of the April meeting as presented, seconded by Mary Beechler. Vote was unanimous, and the minutes were approved.

**Director Reports:** were submitted by email; there were no questions

**Addition to Agenda:** Tina would like to add Dufur Library to the agenda under New Business.

**Old Business:** A copy of the proposed Board self-evaluation was in the board packet; it was decided to change “ED” to “Library Director.” Dave will send the corrected form out by June 1<sup>st</sup>; and the Board will review and respond by the June meeting. If Jeff feels that other staff members should give input, he will let them know. It was decided that the self-evaluation will be done every year in June.

Strategic planning – Jeff reminded everyone that there had been 3 possibilities; he explored the benefits of joining the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO), which costs \$2,100 per year. At this time, he doesn’t see any added value in doing so. In addition, Mary-Kay Dahlgren is very busy at this time, and would not be available for a while. The second person under consideration, Erin McClusky, would charge \$17,000, and we would have to do a lot of the work ourselves. Jeff suggestion is to use Darci Hanning.

Since the City recently did a community survey, information from that can be used to move things along quicker - maybe. In addition, Jeff shared that just before Maggie retired, she had found the old strategic plan. It has some very useful information. Our current mission statement looks good, a vision statement can be done at some point in the future. The Board wants to see the survey the City has. Jeff will get a link to that and make it available to the Board. He shared that some of things in the survey pertaining to the library show that the community wants more programming and family friendly events, and mentorships.

Mary asked for clarification regarding joining the SDAO and using Mary-Kay; would her services be free if we join, or would we have to pay her in addition to the \$2,100 fee? Jeff said that her services would be free if you were a member of SDAO. Mary stated that for \$2,100, perhaps they need to compare the two people. Dave asked Jeff for his recommendation. Jeff stated that both Mary-Kay and Darci have experience doing strategic planning; neither of them are available right away. It would probably not be until October. Tina pointed out that the information Darci shared is very professional looking, very doable. Jeff commented that we couldn't go wrong with either one; a lot of what's going to happen will be generated by us. Rita agrees with the choice of Darci, you can see what she plans to do; it's very comprehensive. Dave asked Jeff to proceed with Darci. Regarding a couple of her questions, asking for community feedback, it is agreed that this has started with the City's community survey. Other Board members would like to see that survey first, as they would like time to study that and get familiar with it before going to any meetings. It was also pointed out that they need to get input from staff members, as well as the other librarians in the district. In addition, other organizations and stakeholders in the community need to be involved.

**New Business:** 25/26 budget update, the budget committees for both the city and the county have passed the library budgets. The next step is seeking budget approval from the city council and the county commissioners in early June.

OLA Conference reports – Rita went to several really good workshops. The one on customer service was very interesting. There was also a fascinating one on AI. Mary was excited about News Bank, a service that would provide online access to newspaper archives from across the country. Jeff is already exploring that option, and is interested if reasonably priced.

Mary Beechler won the Library Supporter of the Year Award, which was presented at the conference.

Director Evaluation – Board members submitted their input in plenty of time, and it has been submitted to the City.

By-Law Review – Jeff will research wording on staggered Board terms. Where appropriate, the term “Wasco County Court” needs to be changed to County Commissioners; and change “chairman” to chairperson, or just chair. In the section regarding the Library Director being the secretary, change that to “the Library Director shall appoint a secretary to be responsible for taking the minutes of the meeting.” Article V, under Duties, section d can be removed, as it is no longer applicable. The same with f, as that is a Foundation responsibility, not the Board. In addition, g and h can also be removed, as g is covered by e, and h is covered by i. Under j, after the word “expenditures” add “over \$50,000”. Article VII, under Amendments, after the word “Board” add “after being read at two previous meetings” and remove “two-thirds”.

Under Article VI under Order of Business, following Call to order, add b. Opportunity to amend agenda; remove e, change g to Old business, and change i to Financial Review. Change the lettering to reflect these changes.

Dufur Library – Tina shared some concerns she had, the Dufur Library is being used as a classroom more than previously, and the librarian is being required to supervise these students; which changes the availability of the library to the public. Another concern is that the librarian is being used as a teacher, but not getting paid as such. During the discussion, concern was expressed that the community library is not available to the public during school hours.

It is time to start setting up a preliminary discussion regarding the MOU between the City of Dufur, Dufur School, and the Library District. Prior to that, Jeff will reach out and talk to Sarah.

Mary shared that the Maupin MOU goes before the Maupin City Council next week. Once it approved, it will be ready to go to the County.

**Financial Review:** No concerns, there was an update on the HVAC, a bid for \$420,000 has been accepted, with an anticipated October start date.

**Next meeting:** will be Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in Dufur.

**Meeting adjourned:** at 6:16 p.m.

**Wasco County Library Service  
District, Board of Directors**

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Dave Mason, Chairman

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Rita Rathkey, Vice Chairman

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Corliss Marsh, Board Member

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Mary Beechler, Board Member

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Tina Coleman, Board Member