



**UMATILLA COUNTY
SPECIAL LIBRARY
DISTRICT**

Strengthening our community libraries

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Ad Hoc Tax Distribution Committee Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2015

10:30 am

Pendleton City Hall – 2nd Floor Jury Room

Pendleton, Oregon

ATTENDANCE – COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jean Eckles, Chair

Mardel James-Bose, Vice Chair

Blair Larsen

Erin Wells

Marsha Richmond

COMMITTEE MEMBERS – ABSENT

Larry Dalrymple

Robb Corbett

Ann Burnside

CALL TO ORDER

Jean called the Board Meeting to order at 10:40 am.

Blair opened with a discussion of a revision of his allocation chart from last meeting. His distribution formula used theoretical numbers and city names to give a possible scenario to distribute tax revenue. Allocations were based partially on Erin’s presentation at the last meeting. He said the District should use “economies of scale.”

There was a discussion on relative merit of base fees. Erin felt the larger libraries should have a larger base fee, while Blair thought the base fee should be consistent among the libraries, with the larger libraries increasing funds through other allocations – population and circulation. Blair proposed the population and circulation be based on a three year running average. A discussion ensued on whether allocation based on circulation numbers created an unhealthy atmosphere of competition.

Blair asked what other statistics the allocation could be based on. Erin suggested assessed value. Jean believes the allocation cannot be based on a single marker. Blair asked “how do you secure adequate funding for all the libraries when no single statistical marker is really fair?” The creation of this formula is fraught with importance.

Suggestions of possible markers: physical plant size and infrastructure, hours open, how well libraries are meeting OLA standards, and continuing education of Directors and staffs.

Discussion followed on how cities support their libraries. Erin asked if we can look at how other cities support their libraries. Blair said if you look at how other cities support their libraries, then you invite

the risk of basing the formula on what other cities are doing, which has the potential of creating an unfair comparison. Jean reminded the committee the District was formed to ensure there were libraries in the smaller cities.

Marsha said we need a formula to make sure there is consistent support for libraries, as city personnel change. Blair said we need to create a “non-emotional” formula that is defensible and is based on hard numbers and not biases. He also said that any changes made to the formula need to be done gradually.

Jean said that at the January meeting the hard markers need to be determined. Erin said the formula needs to be reviewed every five years.

Blair suggested the District’s 20% allocation should be reexamined. Mardel stated that should be a different committee’s responsibility, as this committee’s responsibility is to review the distribution formula to the libraries.

Jean brought the meeting to a close with a reminder that each member of the committee needs to bring a list of relevant allocation markers to the next meeting. They will be reviewed one at a time at that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.
Respectfully submitted by Mardel James-Bose

Signed by Jean Eckles, Chair

Next Ad Hoc Tax Distribution Committee Meeting Date: January 26, 2016

Time: 10:30 am

Note: *The meeting is planned to last 1½ hours*

Place: Pendleton City Hall, Community Room, 501 SW Emigrant Ave., Pendleton, Oregon