

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman Regional Hospital Commissioners Date: 1-06-2021
Observer Reporting: Judy Stone Length of Meeting: 2 hours
Members Present: All present
Members Absent: _____
Others Present (e.g., media, public): Anthony Kuipers, MPDN; Several other non-identified persons

Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:

Finances: Increase in Foundation contributions and lower expenses allowed the Hospital District to show a net gain of \$375,726 in November.

Hospital District Taxing Boundaries: The Commissioners voted to go forward with preparing a proposal for the November, 2021 ballot to expand the Public Hospital District 1-A to include the **entire Pullman and Palouse School Districts**. Currently the taxing District is the city of Pullman only. History: 2 Ballot proposals were defeated in 2019 that asked for tax increases and the Commissioners received quite a bit of feedback from the community with concerns about the hospital serving the entire county but only taxing Pullman residents. The proposal will avoid including other hospital districts like Colfax and Garfield.

COVID-19 Wastewater Testing Partnership: WSU, WCHD, Pullman School District, and PRH formed a partnership, using CARES Act funds from the WCHD, to assay sewage samples from designated facilities of the Pullman School District to provide ongoing surveillance for increased **shedding of the COVID virus**. Testing will occur between January 4th through June 30th, 2021. Up to 60 samples per week will be collected from the four elementary schools with the capacity to expand to Lincoln Middle School and Pullman High School if recommended.

Public Meetings of interest to League:

June 21, 2021 -- Public hearing for the issue of increasing the hospital district's taxing boundaries.

Process & Protocol: The current Commission Officers were re-elected tonight.