

**Marsh River Cooperative Members in good standing- please be prepared to vote on these proposed bylaw changes at the upcoming Annual Forum and Potluck November 12, 2017 4:30 pm**

**4.2- Qualifications and Term**

As written: The Directors shall be elected by the membership ... To qualify for one of these seats, a prospective director's membership in the Marsh River Cooperative must be in good standing for 6 months prior to election.

We propose that this part be struck from the bylaws:

...must be in good standing for 6 months prior to election.

Rationale: So an interested new member could be seated on the board and also to increase the pool of eligible members who could be seated.

Yes No \_\_\_\_\_

As written: Neither the general management nor employees of the Marsh River Cooperative are eligible to run for or hold seats on the Board of Directors.

We propose that this sentence be struck from the bylaws.

Rationale: To allow for those people who best understand all aspects of running the coop to bring their expertise to a seat on the board, as well as to increase the potential pool of eligible members. FYI This is a practice allowed by some other co-ops including Belfast Coop.

Yes No \_\_\_\_\_

We propose this addition to the bylaws under section 4.2

In the case of a non-member who is willing to stand for a board seat or to be appointed to an interim board seat, where financial considerations inhibit purchase of an equity share, membership in good standing will be granted during service on the board without purchase of an equity share. An equity share will be awarded on completing 1 year of full participation and service on the board.

Rationale: To attract and retain qualified and committed individuals that would like to serve on the board for whom the purchase of an equity share is a hardship and would preclude them from service.

Yes No \_\_\_\_\_

**4.6- Vacancies, Resignations, and Removals:**

As written:

Additionally, the Board may appoint, by a vote of no less than 2/3 of current Board members in good standing, qualified interim members to vacant Board seats up to a number not to exceed 25% of the currently sitting member-elected members of the Board, for a period not to extend beyond the next annual meeting.

Proposed change: We propose to change the 25% to 50%.

Rationale: To be able to seat up to 3 interim board members if needed to perform the business of the co-op's board and maintain the coop as a legal entity.

Yes No \_\_\_\_\_