



**TSCC Discussion Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, May 12, 2026
11:00 AM.**

Chair Matt Donahue, Vice Chair Moore, Commissioners Burton, Kvarsten and Terry were present, as were Executive Director Allegra Willhite and Budget Analyst Brittanie Abayare.

Chair Donahue called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Hearing Review and General Discussion

The meeting began with a brief recap of the recent Local Option Levy hearing with Burlington Water District. The Commissioners discussed the necessity for Burlington Water to develop long-term contingency plans, such as researching whether they can use utility fees to fund public safety, before their fire and emergency service contract faces renegotiation in 2030. Executive Director Willhite noted that upcoming review materials would help clarify fire service contract formulas for further comparison.

East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Budget Review and Hearing Preparation

Budget Analyst Brittanie Abayare presented an overview of the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District budget, which totals \$23.4 million and represents a minor increase from the previous year. Property taxes serve as the primary revenue source, and the district currently carries no debt and remains substantially compliant with local budget law. The Commissioners discussed the district's significant reserves, particularly the \$7.1 million held in the Land Conservation Fund. Several questions were drafted for the upcoming hearing to address the strategy and written policy surrounding these land easement reserves, plans for scaling up urban programs based on public feedback, and potential partnerships with private developers and local governments, including the Kelly Creek Dam removal project.

Multnomah Education Service District Budget Review and Hearing Preparation

The Commissioners reviewed the \$140 million budget for the Multnomah Education Service District. Executive Director Willhite highlighted the unique financial challenges the district faces due to regional declines in school enrollment, inflation, and severe staffing shortages within alternative programs like the Wheatley School. The district is experiencing high employee burnout alongside an increase in workers' compensation and paid leave claims, prompting the addition of an employee safety training coordinator position. Due to the uncertainty of service purchases by component school districts and a change in accessibility requirements for publications, the proposed budget was presented with minimal descriptive narrative. TSCC noted that the district is compliant with budget law but plans to request more comprehensive narrative details in future cycles. The Commissioners drafted hearing questions regarding the drawdown of reserves,

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collective advocacy for the Quality Education Model, student absenteeism tracking, state funding cuts to the outdoor school program, and the expansion of the Rivercrest substance use recovery program.

Wrap Up and Other Business

The Commissioners finalized logistical details for the upcoming hearings, including adjusting the scheduling order for Multnomah County questions to accommodate the District Attorney's schedule for the hearing date. The upcoming schedule for Commissioners includes online discussion meetings and upcoming in-person hearings. Because the session was dedicated entirely to budget reviews for large districts and hearing preparation, no formal motions were made and no votes were taken.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.