



**TSCC Discussion Meeting  
Minutes  
Thursday, May 14, 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.

**Legislative Update and General Discussion**

The meeting began with an overview of recent local budget committee sessions. Executive Director Willhite reported on her attendance at the Lusted Water District budget meeting, detailing the district's prospective transition from Portland water to Gresham well water to mitigate steep wholesale cost hikes, which is projected to save thousands of dollars annually.. Willhite also summarized the Gresham-Barlow School District budget committee meeting, highlighting emotional public comment protesting the proposed elimination of elementary school music teacher positions.

**Dunthorpe Riverdale Sanitary Sewer Services District Budget Review and Certification**

Budget Analyst Brittanie Abayare presented an overview of the Dunthorpe Riverdale Sanitary Sewer Services District budget, which totals \$7.4 million. The district serves 574 residential connections across Multnomah and Clackamas counties and is governed by the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners. The beginning fund balance carries \$3.6 million, reflecting internal loan proceeds from Multnomah County to fund the Elk Rock Pump Station replacement project, which is scheduled for completion in fiscal year 2028. Monthly residential sewer service charges will remain flat at \$240 per connection. Contracted operational services include sewage treatment and disposal through the City of Portland. The budget was found to be in substantial compliance with budget law, and the independent audit contained no exceptions.

Commissioner Kvarsten motioned to certify the budget with no recommendations or objections, and Commissioner Burton seconded the motion.

Chair Donahue, Vice Chair Moore, Commissioner Kvarsten, Commissioner Burton, and Commissioner Terry voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Budget Review and Certification**

Willhite presented the approved \$4 million budget for the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, which serves 145,000 residents across 86,000 acres covering downtown Portland, Forest Park, and Sauvie Island. Expected property tax revenues remain flat due to stagnant commercial real estate growth in the downtown core. The overall budget reflects a

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significant contraction from the previous year due to the loss of an anticipated United States Forest Service grant that was defunded at the federal level. Operating under new executive and finance leadership, the district implemented programmatic budget cuts and budgeted to retain a six-month operating contingency balance. The budget substantially complies with budget law, though staff noted a minor timeline discrepancy where public meeting notice was published one day earlier than the statutory window.

Chair Donahue motioned to approve the budget without recommendations or objections, and Commissioner Kvarsten seconded the motion.

Chair Donahue, Vice Chair Moore, Commissioner Kvarsten, Commissioner Burton, and Commissioner Terry voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Multnomah Rural Fire Protection District No. 10 Budget Certification**

Budget Analyst Abayare presented the \$4.7 million budget for the Multnomah Rural Fire Protection District No. 10, marking a 19% increase driven by higher beginning fund balances and transfers. The district provides fire emergency protection via contracts with the City of Gresham for \$1.4 million and the City of Portland for \$225,700, serving unincorporated East Multnomah County and the City of Maywood Park. Property taxes provide 95% of operating revenue, projected to rise by 5% to \$2.3 million dollars. Having eliminated all long-term debt early in fiscal year 2026, the district expanded its capital spending to \$987,000, which includes \$950,000 for a fire engine replacement, and doubled its capital reserve transfers to five hundred thousand dollars. The budget is substantially compliant with local budget law, and the audit report contained no exceptions.

Commissioner Burton motioned to certify the budget without recommendations or objections, and Chair Donahue seconded the motion.

Chair Donahue, Vice Chair Moore, Commissioner Kvarsten, Commissioner Burton, and Commissioner Terry voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District Budget Review and Hearing Preparation**

Willhite presented the budget review and hearing preparation session for the Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District, also known as the Flood Safety District, which is entering its third year of consolidated operations. The expanding budget reflects accumulated prior-year revenue and fund balances designated for major infrastructure maintenance, with nearly 53% of total expenditures dedicated to capital projects. Funding is driven by a unique mechanism combining property tax assessments within the managed flood plain based on lot area and impervious surfaces, along with a municipal flood safety benefit fee passed to consumers on water bills; both lines are increasing by 3% rate this year. Staff highlighted past public friction concerning staff compensation scales and reliance on un-secured federal and state matching funds for capital projects, though no public feedback was submitted during this year's budget committee cycle. The district scaled back personnel projections by removing several vacant finance and bond administration roles. The budget was found to be in compliance with local budget law with a clean audit and no recommendations or objections. The Commissioners reviewed and finalized hearing

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## Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission

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questions addressing capital project timelines, unsecured contingency safety nets, the establishment of the bond oversight committee, performance measurements, and a \$400,000 program partnership with the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District.

### **Wrap Up and Other Business**

The Commissioners concluded the meeting by coordinating logistics for the upcoming dual hearings with Multnomah County and the Multnomah County Library. Willhite outlined the upcoming review pipeline, which includes finalized summary sheets for TriMet and Metro. Preliminary scheduling discussions were held regarding a summer retreat tentatively planned.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.