



**TSCC Regular Business Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday May 14, 2024  
12:05 p.m.**

Chair Harmony Quiroz, Commissioners Wubbold, Donahue, Burton and Lugo Knapp were present, as were Executive Director Allegra Willhite and Budget Analyst Tunie Betschart, all via Zoom meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Chair Quiroz called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**District Budgets to be considered**

Executive Director Willhite said the commissioners were scheduled to discuss the 2024-25 Approved Budgets for Multnomah Education Service District's dget and East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District.

**East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District's Approved Budget Review and Hearing Questions**

Executive Director Willhite gave an overview of the East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District's Approved budget. She discussed the district's budget changes for the current year and said there were not many changes in this budget. The budget for property tax did increase because a sizeable urban renewal area closed, releasing tax increment financing dollars back to the districts. Kelly Beamer, the new executive director, joined the district this year when Nancy Hamilton retired. The district has an extensive process for approving the budget. They meet as many as three times to discuss the budget before approving it. This year, they met three times and did not change the proposed budget.

Before the meeting, commissioners suggested revisions to some draft questions using Google Docs. The questions and proposed revisions were discussed. The conversations resulted in a question directed to the East Multnomah Soil & Water District's executive director and one to the board, rewording some questions, consolidating, repositioning, and eliminating some questions. Commissioners added follow-ups to some questions. They ended with nine questions to discuss with East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District at the Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> budget hearing. This hearing will be held in person at the district's headquarters on North Williams at 4:00. It will take place following the tour of the district's office and grounds, starting at 3:30 for those who wish to participate.

After this hearing, the commissioners and staff would travel to MESD's district office on Ainsworth Circle for their hearing, which starts at 6:00. With only an hour between hearings, there is little or no time between. Travel time is at least 30 minutes, depending on traffic.



### **Multnomah Education Service District's Approved Budget Review and Hearing Questions**

Executive Director Willhite described the difference in MESD's budget compared to other districts. Determining the revenue they will receive is challenging since the member school districts' purchased services from the ESD significantly impact the district's revenue and will not be determined until the school district has finalized their budgets. So, their budget usually has considerable changes between approved and adopted since they don't have all the revenue information early in the process. The review is based on the February estimates. They are spending the federal dollars received during the pandemic, so there is a decrease in this source of revenue for FY25. Decreasing enrollment within the county and how that will affect MESD's budget was discussed.

Following the overview, the commissioners discussed the questions to be asked at the hearing. They suggested revisions submitted in the Google Doc before the meeting. The commissioners debated the questions and changes; they eliminated, consolidated, and revised some. They added follow-ups to a few and linked some to other questions, ending with eight questions and several follow-up questions to be asked at the hearing.

### **Updates to Commissioners' Calendars**

**Mt. Hood** has offered commissioners a tour of the new Equity Center, a central place for students to learn about and receive various resources. The tour will be available just before the Mt. Hood Community College's Budget Hearing on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Since the hearing starts at 6:30, the tour would likely be at 5:30 or 6:00. Executive Director Willhite will let them know the commissioners are interested in the tour and will let the commissioners know the time to be there for the tour.

**Metro** has offered to provide lunch for the commissioners following the budget hearing on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be about noon since the hearing starts at 10:30 and is a 90-minute hearing. The meeting scheduled to follow that hearing will not be needed that day, freeing commissioners' time to have lunch with Metro councilors.

**Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District** has invited the commissioners to have lunch with them before the district's budget hearing (held at the Port of Portland on June 5<sup>th</sup>). If the commissioners would like to accept the invitation for lunch, the meeting to discuss Mt. Hood Community College can be changed to 11:30-12:30, with a break for lunch with the UFS&WQ district before the budget hearing at 1:00. Commissioners decided this would work well for them. Executive Director Willhite will notify the district of the commissioners' decision to accept the invitation for lunch.

The possibility of **canceling the Regular Meeting of the TSCC Commissioner on June 3<sup>rd</sup>** and adding the districts to certify to the meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May and the meeting held at the Port of Portland on June 12<sup>th</sup> was discussed. The cancellation is possible because the budget reviews were completed earlier than anticipated. It was decided this would work well for the commissioners. The meeting will be left on the schedule if something must be addressed, but the intention is to cancel it if it is unnecessary.

Commissioner Lugo Knapp left for another meeting at this point.

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**Recap of Portland Public Schools Local Option Tax Levy Hearing**

Chair Quiroz gave a brief synopsis of the Local Option Tax Levy Hearing TSCC commissioner held for Portland Public School District on May 7<sup>th</sup>, saying she felt the hearing went well. They presented information on policy changes, and the district plans were discussed. Overall, commissioners felt it was a good interactive discussion.

There was a protester present carrying a sign protesting ROTC. He did not sign up for public comment.

There being no other business, Chair Quiroz adjourned the meeting at 2:01.