



**TSCC Regular Business Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, May 28, 2025
11:05 a.m.**

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

REGULAR MEETING

Executive Director Allegra Willhite called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

District Budgets to be Considered

Executive Director Willhite said the commissioners were scheduled to discuss the 2025-26 Approved Budgets for Mid-County Lighting District, Dunthorpe-Riverdale Sewer District, Multnomah County and Multnomah County Library District.

Mid-County Lighting District Budget Review

Mid-County Lighting District is a small service district operated by Multnomah County with independent taxing authority. The district's FY26 budget remains status quo, continuing services such as street lighting in unincorporated areas and a few East County cities. The budget carries forward about \$2 million for the 257th lighting enhancement project due to delays. There are no changes in assessment rates in this budget. The conversion to LED lighting was previously completed, and maintenance is now managed internally rather than through PGE. Last year's inaccuracies in the budget have been resolved through pre-submission reviews, and the budget is fully compliant with legal requirements. Chair Quiroz moved to certify, Commissioner Burton seconded and all commissioners voted to certify the Mid-County Lighting District budget.

Dunthorpe-Riverdale Sewer District Budget Review

This service district, also managed by Multnomah County, is working on the significant Elk Rock Pump Station project, anticipated to be completed in FY27. To finance this effort, they are borrowing from the county's risk fund and increasing monthly service fees from \$210 to \$240 to pay the debt service. The district serves 574 unincorporated customers and contracts with the City of Portland for sewer treatment. The county administers operations and planning. Commissioners approved certification of this budget. Commissioner Burton moved to certify, Chair Quiroz seconded and all commissioners voted to certify the Dunthorpe-Riverdale Sewer District Budget.

Multnomah County Budget Review

The Commission discussed major aspects of Multnomah County's FY26 budget. Allegra highlighted that while the total budget has increased due to carry over for large capital projects and the Preschool for All growing fund balance, the operating budget is decreasing. Revenue pressures are mounting as supportive housing tax revenues slow, as are property tax revenues. COVID-related federal dollars have ended. The deflection services program, which received \$25 million last year, was delayed but is now underway. Commissioners discussed the process for new programs being launched.

There was detailed discussion on the breakdown of property tax revenue growth, which has



slowed due to declining downtown property values. Commissioners raised questions about the equity of the Preschool for All program, especially for bilingual families.. The Commissioners also discussed Preschool for all and the intersections with local school districts. More broadly, Commissioners discussed program coordination and communication among various taxing districts in the region, expressing interest in seeing close coordination from entities working on similar program aims.

Allegra presented a draft recommendation regarding repeated overexpenditures in Multnomah County's budget. TSCC policy calls for recommendations for repeated overexpenditures, defined as three or more overexpenditures in five years. This is the case with the County. The county responded with a detailed plan for addressing the issue, and the certification letter will acknowledge the County's corrective actions and encourage them to implement these to stay within budget law compliance in the future. Commissioners accepted this recommendation and it will be presented at the budget hearing.

While developing questions for the hearing, commissioners discussed topics including: how newly available data will improve the county's response to homelessness; the balance between long-term shelter solutions and short-term emergency housing; and the recent changes to the county's budget process, in particular the engagement with the community.

Multnomah County Library Budget Review

The Commission discussed the progress and funding related to Multnomah County Library's capital bond projects. Allegra noted that although many large-scale public construction efforts in the region have experienced delays, the library projects appear to be on track and within budget. Commissioners expressed interest in what factors have contributed to this.

Commissioner Lugo Knapp discussed her work with early literacy programs in East County Library, particularly around accessibility issues for bilingual and bicultural families. She shared feedback from Latino families about the need for stronger outreach and culturally relevant offerings. Commissioners also discussed the overlap between library programming and early childhood services, emphasizing the importance of coordination across County departments and partner agencies to maximize equity and access.

While developing questions for the hearing, commissioners discussed topics including: progress on capital projects, changes to programming in the community, including early childhood literacy programs, and the Library's new staffing plan.

Closing Remarks

The meeting concluded with reminders about the hearing with Metro, which will begin at 11 AM the following day. Allegra will prepare and distribute cleaned-up question sets and other review materials by the evening.

There being no other business, Chair Quiroz adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.