



**TSCC Discussion Meeting
Minutes
Thursday, May 28, 2026
1:00 PM.**

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 1:00 PM.

General Discussion

The meeting opened with a discussion recapping the preceding Metro hearing. The commissioners discussed the conversation around the homelessness crisis, noting it was fascinating because it addressed what the community sees but does not feel answered on.

Burlington Water District Review and Certification

The commissioners reviewed the budget for the Burlington Water District who were awaiting election results. The local option levy was failing by approximately five votes. If the levy does not pass, the district has the option to either remove it from the budget before adoption or leave it in and choose not to spend it. Due to staffing capacity constraints, as the work is performed by a part-time employee in their spare time, the district might not change the budget before adoption.

The district faces a low fund balance next year and must navigate contracts with the City of Portland for water and fire services. The commission discussed potential solutions including expanding the Portland contract for annexation, which faces contiguous boundary limitations, or implementing a utility fee, which is legally restricted to cities. The volunteer fire unit at Sauvie Island lacks the capacity to assist due to limited rolling stock. Financially, the water district is utilizing its fund balance to smooth operations while water rates are nearly doubling. The approved budget is in compliance with no recommended objections.

Commissioner Burton motioned to certify 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.

Mid-Multnomah County Street Lighting Service District Budget Review and Certification

The commissioners evaluated the Mid-Multnomah County Street Lighting Service District, which is a component district of Multnomah County managed by contracted county staff. The district retains authority for general obligation bond debt and provides street lighting for Maywood Park, Fairview, and Troutdale. It was historically named the Tulip Acres Lighting District. The district's *Otter Meeting Agent* was used to generate the transcript referenced above. The content was reviewed and edited before being published by Brittanie Abayare, on 6/15/2026.

LED conversion lowered energy costs, but Portland General Electric shifted streetlight maintenance and outage response responsibilities to the district, increasing certain operational costs. The budget was submitted early with no recommendations or objections.

Commissioner Kvarsten motioned to certify the budget without recommendations or objections, and Vice Chair Rita 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.

Gresham Barlow School District Budget Review and Certification

The budget review for the Gresham Barlow School District was highly contentious due to staffing cuts that fully eliminated elementary school music teachers, leading to hours of public comment. The combined budget committee approved the budget as proposed because amendments to restore the teachers lacked an alternative funding source. Staff and the board maintained reserve levels to prevent worse cuts in future years despite public pressure to spend down balances. The standard Oregon budget committee structure requires equal board and community members, but the TSCC carve-out allows the commissioners to represent the public, removing the need for a 24-person committee for large districts. The district general fund reserve is just under 7%, while board policy mandates 8%. Board Chair Blake Peterson supported the decision as fiscally responsible despite the impact on his family. The district met publishing requirements, shifted meeting rooms for high attendance, and had no audit exceptions or objections. High public comment is anticipated for Mount Hood Community College due to cuts to the AVID student center. Staff noted administrative strain from late budget submissions from other entities, including the island fire district and the Corbin school district. Corbin faces extreme staffing vacancies, a business staff member who resigned before the first meeting, and a superintendent leaving at the end of June, complicating upcoming recommendations and objections.

Commissioner Terry motioned to certify the budget without recommendations or objections, and Vice Chair Moore 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.

Port of Portland Review and Hearing Preparation

The commission conducted a budget review and hearing preparation session for the Port of Portland. The port shows lower fund balances as its major terminal core renovation project wraps up by the end of June, leading to decreased capital spending next year. Terminal Six container operations transitioned to a lease model with Harbor Industrial because direct operations were not cost-effective despite past state subsidies of \$30 to \$40 million. This transition decreased marine operating revenues by 41% and costs by 38.8%, shifting longshoremen union negotiations to the operator. Airport passengers are rising, though international flights dropped 7% over the last six months. Terminal Two continues development on its Mass Timber and Housing Innovation Campus, matching regional trends seen at the new East County Library. A nearby employee-owned firm named Uberland was discussed. The port will pay a city transportation utility fee.

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Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission

Alyssa Mahar became the new CFO on April 15, replacing Antoinette after arriving from Seattle Pacific University. The finance team has no compliance issues or recent capital overspending violations. Hearing questions were finalized covering the new CFO, terminal core feedback, customer response to parking lot exit gate failures, a question on the Governor's Prosperity Council co-chaired by CEO Robin Hold instead of an enterprise resource planning question, fuel cost impacts from the war that began on February 28, Alaska Airlines schedule changes and its Hawaiian Airlines integration, the Portland Superfund site liability cost-share allocation, a project to move non-hazardous sediment to Ross Island, and regional air pollution mitigation partnerships.

Wrap Up and Other Business

Staff noted that no hearings are scheduled for next week. Two discussion meetings will be held to review large budgets for the City of Portland, Mount Hood Community College, and Prosper Portland.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.