



**TSCC Regular Business Meeting
Minutes
Monday, May 7, 2025
11:06 a.m.**

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

REGULAR MEETING

Chair Quiroz called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

District Budgets to be considered

Executive Director Willhite said the commissioners were scheduled to discuss the 2025-26 Approved Budgets for Alto Park, Valley View Water District Budget, and Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District.

Budget Hearing Scheduling and Time Allocation

The meeting began with a discussion on the varying lengths of TSCC budget hearings. Staff explained that tax measure hearings are kept to 60 minutes due to their narrow focus, while larger agency budgets like Multnomah County and Metro often require 90 minutes based on past Commission requests for more discussion time.

Chair Quiroz noted a social media post that incorrectly claimed Portland Public Schools' (PPS) board resolution had changed the bond language to include seismic safety and transparency requirements. Harmony clarified that the resolution only provided spending guidance and did not legally alter the bond.

PPS Bond Hearing Recap

The Commission discussed the PPS Bond hearing and with the community's voiced concerns on delayed projects and enrollment declines. Commissioners noted that commitments from the 2020 bond, for the Jefferson rebuild and the Center for Black Student Excellence remain incomplete.

Review and Certification of Alto Park Water District Budget

Allegra introduced the Alto Park Water District budget review, noting that the district no longer provides water service but contracts with Lake Oswego for fire protection. The budget remains stable with minimal changes aside from a slight increase in the contract amount. The district funds its services through its permanent rate and a local option levy last approved in 2022. Despite budgeted numbers showing higher expenditures than revenues, historical patterns indicate conservative budgeting with actual spending consistently below projections. TSCC has no recommendations or objections to the Approved budget.

Chair Quiroz moved to certify the budget, Commissioner Moore seconded, and all



Commissioners voted in favor of certifying the budget.

Review and Certification of Valley View Water District Budget

Budget Analyst Brittanie Abayare presented the Valley View Water District's \$3.34 million FY26 budget, down 25% following the completion of the under-budget Shattuck-Windsor Water Line Project. The district will continue levying \$400,000 in property taxes and has budgeted \$50,000 for smaller capital projects. Debt service and wholesale water costs are rising, and while the district has absorbed rate increases for several years, future customer rate adjustments may be needed.

Brittanie noted a minor calculation error on the LB-10 form, which staff flagged for correction. Chair Quiroz moved to certify the budget with no recommendations or objections as recommended by staff, Commissioner Donahue seconded, and all Commissioners voted in favor of certifying the budget.

Public Comment

Maryhelen Kincaid, a former interim board member of the Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District, joined the meeting to observe. She expressed appreciation for TSCC's work and confirmed that her written testimony had been received and posted. Maryhelen emphasized concerns about the district's long-term financial stability and the reliance on federal funding that has not yet been confirmed, urging the Commission to consider these issues in their upcoming hearing.

Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District Budget Review

Allegra presented the FY26 budget for the newly consolidated Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District, highlighting plans to issue \$15 million in bonds as part of the \$150 million voter-approved package. Key revenues include a property assessment and a benefit fee. The benefit fee is administered by cities and the county for their populations. The City of Portland currently covers theirs via their general fund but that may potentially shift to customers in the future. Minor budget corrections for the property tax levies have been discussed with UFSWQD staff who will make the needed adjustments in this year or next. Staff is not recommending any recommendations or objections. The Commissioners finalized draft hearing questions focusing on board priorities, financial strategy, contingency planning, federal funding risks, equity efforts, and the formation of a bond oversight committee.

The Commissioners confirmed that members would attend a lunch hosted by the district prior to the upcoming in-person Urban Flood hearing on May 19.

Portland Community College (PCC) Budget Review

Allegra presented PCC's biennial budget review, noting a minimal 1% increase over the prior biennium, signaling significant cost-cutting. PCC plans to reduce personnel costs by \$11 million and has announced tuition increases. Commissioners discussed the potential enrollment impacts of tuition increases and economic downturns. They agreed to ask PCC about its enrollment management strategies and plans to scale up if enrollment rebounds more sharply than projected.

The Commission also discussed PCC's ongoing bond program, ERP system transition, and student services expansions. PCC's budget was found to be compliant, with minor errors in the proposed budget corrected before approval. Staff is not recommending any recommendations or



objections for the certification letter.

Public Engagement and Role Clarification

The Commissioners discussed confusion expressed by public commenters about TSCC's role. Staff proposed developing clearer public guidance and a formal public comment policy. The Commission agreed to review a draft policy at its May 22 discussion meeting.

Other Business and Announcements

- Metro Budget Review: Commissioners confirmed scheduling and hearing preparations for Metro.
- East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Tour: Commissioners expressed interest in participating in a facility tour before the upcoming hearing.
- Future Meetings: The next discussion meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13. PCC's hearing will follow on Thursday, May 15.

There being no other business, Chair Quiroz adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.