



**TSCC Regular Business Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday May 18, 2022
12:00 p.m.**

Chair Quiroz, Commissioners, Ofsink, Norton, Wubbold and Donahue 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 noon.

The meeting opened with a discussion about the changes made to the schedule for budget hearings, and a recap of the East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District and the Multnomah Education Service District hearings held the previous day.

These two hearings applied the changes made to the schedule, which rearranged when public comment would be taken during TSCC's hearings. Everyone agreed that taking public comment following introductions improved the hearing process. Allowing the public to make comments before the commissioners' questions helped TSCC control the time allowed for their questions since they could estimate the time available to discuss the prepared questions. It is also more considerate of the public.

East Multnomah Soil & Water District's hearing went well. The commissioners were hoping for more interaction from the board but felt it was an informative hearing. They are looking forward to hearing about the strategic plan next year.

There were several board members at the Multnomah Education Service District hearing. Commissioners are glad to see the board members attend the hearing and hope they will get more involved in the discussions.

District Budgets to be considered

Today's agenda for discussion is Metro review and hearing questions and the certification letters for Corbett Water and Riverdale Rural Fire Protections Districts'.

Metro's review

Executive Director Willhite gave a brief overview of the Metro's Approved budget, followed by the commissioners discussing the questions they would be asking at Metro's hearing. Using feedback, the information received in collaborative Google Docs, and the commissioners' comments during this meeting, Executive Director Willhite changed the arrangement of some of the questions, deleted portions of others, rephrased to some and added a couple of possible follow-up questions. When the commissioners finished discussing the questions, they had eleven questions to send to the district, with the last one identified as a question that would only be asked at the hearing if time allowed. This hearing is scheduled for ninety minutes, so it should allow for discussion of these questions.



Executive Director Willhite will send the questions to Metro Staff tomorrow morning so their staff will have time to research and prepare responses for the hearings.

The commissioners will hold a hearing on Metro's Approved 2022-23 budget along with their governing board, staff and members of the public next week. This meeting will be held via Zoom at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, May 26.

Corbett Water District's Review and Certification

Next, the commissioners discussed Corbett Water District's review. Ms. Betschart gave a brief overview of the budget, explaining that the district is experiencing a lot of staff turnover, including the District Manager and Office Manager. Many decisions, including preparing the Master Plan for the water district, will be created once the management position is filled. The Office Manager position has been filled, and she is working to familiarize herself with the office procedures and Local Budget Law.

Ms. Betschart explained that they did not ask for public comment when the district held the first budget committee meeting. The notice for the Public Meeting stated that public comment would be taken at the first budget committee meeting. Staff suggested including a recommendation in the certification letter to closely follow the schedule to ensure the opportunity for public comment is given as described in the public notice.

Commissioner Norton moved to certify the FY 23 budget for Corbett Water Districts 2022-2023 Approved Budget to include the above recommendation. Commissioner Ofsink seconded the motion which carried with a unanimous vote.

Riverdale Fire Protection District's Review and Certification of FY 23 Budget and Budget Process

Then commissioners reviewed Riverdale Fire Protection District's Approved Budget. Executive Director gave a summary of the district's biennial budget stating they rely on property taxes to support operations. The voters have approved a series of local option levies in addition to the permanent levy. The district levies only twenty-five cents or half the approved levy, which will expire in 2024. The commissioners discussed this and decided to ask the district representatives more about the need for the local option levy when they hold the hearing to renew the levy. Executive Director Willhite said the Riverdale budget complied with local budget law and recommended the certification letter contain no recommendations or objections.

Chair Quiroz moved to certify Riverdale Rural Fire Districts's 2022-2024 biennial budget with no recommendations or objections to the budget or the budget process. Commissioner Wubbold seconded the motions which carried with a unanimous vote.

Executive Director Willhite and Ms. Betschart left the meeting following the Regular Business Meeting. The commissioner convened via Zoom to discuss performance-based adjustments to Executive Director Willhite's salary.

Commissioner Ofsink provided the following addition to the meeting minutes.

The Commissioners weighed several factors, including our statutory maximum budget, this year's high inflation, and the excellent work that our new Executive Director has been doing to date.



The Commissioners wanted to make sure that we matched the COLA number the County is using for Executive staff if it has been reset higher than the 4.0% estimated several months ago, which we were concerned may be low at this point.

The Commissioners discussed the challenges of fairly compensating this position as it is so unlike other positions. The last compensation study was performed in 2013, and the Commissioners recognized we may need to invest in another in the next year or two to make sure our compensation is comparable with relevant positions.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05, following the important discussion.