
Docket Item:

Motion to Issue a Final Order Removing Portions of Lake County from the Central Oregon Community College Service District and Annexing it to the Klamath Community College Service District.

Summary:

At the October 2019 Commission meeting, the Commission formally opened the process necessary to consider removing voting precincts 13 and 14 of Lake County, comprising the northernmost area of the County, from the Central Oregon Community College (COCC) Service District, and annex it to the Klamath Community College (KCC) Service District. This motion was made after approximately 18 months of investigation and consideration of the status of this portion of the county involving concerned citizens, the administrations of both involved colleges, school and other county officials in Lake County, and the Oregon Community College Association.

In response to the Commission's motion, HECC staff Kyle Thomas and Patrick Crane held two required public hearings on October 28th on the campus of the Silver Lake School District in Silver Lake, and October 29 on the campus of KCC in Klamath Falls.

In the opinion of staff, the public hearings and the broader investigation and stakeholder engagement process support the transition of the concerned territory from COCC to KCC. Particularly, the process has resulted in several key findings:

- The territory is currently being served by distance learning technology offered by KCC
- Residents present at the hearing believe KCC offers programming that is more aligned with the educational needs of the territory that that offered by COCC
- Lake County has a current contractual relationship with KCC and the Lakeview ESD has a positive relationship with KCC
- COCC does not have current plans to increase or improve educational services provided by COCC to the territory
- The current district boundaries are not aligned with the current contracts, relationships, and interests of the territory or broader Lake County
- The administrations of both COCC and KCC support the transition of the territory
- The COCC Board of Directors has taken formal action to support the transition
- The majority of residents present at the hearings supported the transition of the territory
- The tax liability of residents of the territory will decrease, as the KCC mill rate is currently lower than the COCC mill rate, without any loss in educational services

Therefore, staff recommends the Commission move forward with the process of transitioning the concerned territory from COCC to KCC through the issuance of a final order. In accordance with ORS 341.565(4), the order requires approval by the Legislative Assembly, in the form of a bill or resolution, prior to taking effect. Staff intends to submit the order in advance of the February 2020 legislative session. If approved, the Order would take effect on June 30, 2020. If the legislature does not take action prior to adjournment of the 2020 session sine die, the Order would not take effect, and future action on this issue would require the Commission to begin the process again.

Material:

Proposed and Final Order.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission approve the Proposed and Final Order, and direct staff to cause a copy of such Order to be delivered to the Legislative Assembly for approval pursuant to ORS 341.565(4).



HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

December 12, 2019

Docket Item #: 7.1

PROPOSED AND FINAL ORDER

The Commission, upon motion and after the required public hearings, finds that the proposed changes will have no substantially adverse effect upon the ability of the affected districts to provide and continue their programs and is not made solely for tax advantages to property owners in the districts affected by the proposed changes.

The Commission orders that the territory of the Central Oregon Community College Service District (COCC) defined by voting precincts 13 and 14 of Lake County, generally comprising the northernmost section of the County, is removed from COCC and the same territory is annexed into the Klamath Community College Service District.

Approved by a vote of the Commission on December 12, 2019

David Rives, Chair

Ben Cannon, Executive Director