
Docket Item:

Motion to Propose Beginning Formal Proceedings to Change the Boundaries of COCC and KCC

Summary:

At the August 2019 HECC meeting, the Commission directed staff to explore the feasibility of transitioning the northernmost territory of Lake County from the service district of Central Oregon Community College (COCC) to Klamath Community College (KCC). This directive was contained in a broader motion rejecting the petition from residents of North Lake County seeking to be detached from the COCC Service District.

Since the August meeting, HECC staff Patrick Crane and Kyle Thomas have consulted with representatives of COCC, KCC, and the Oregon Community College Association to gauge initial interest from these parties in facilitating a transfer of the North Lake territory from COCC to KCC. All parties expressed interest in the transfer.

ORS 341.565 states “The Commission on its own motion ... may propose changes in the boundaries of a community college district.” Statute then directs the commission to set dates for a public hearing in the territory in question and in the district in which the territory shall be included. The statute requires hearings be held before the Commission can issue a final order and advise the legislature of the Commission’s action.

Today’s staff recommendation is for the Commission to adopt a motion that opens the process required to consider transitioning the territory, and to authorize public hearings. The motion does not propose final action. After public hearings, further discussion with stakeholders, and additional guidance from the Commission’s counsel regarding the process of dividing assets and liabilities, staff will return with further analysis and potential recommendations for the Commission.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission approve the following motion:

The Commission moves to propose that the territory included in voting precincts 13 and 14 of Lake County be excluded from the Central Oregon Community College Service District and included in the Klamath Community College Service District, and that public hearings be held both in the affected Lake County territory and in Klamath Falls on dates to be determined by staff.