



MT. HOOD CABLE REGULATORY COMMISSION
Annual Planning Retreat
McMenamins Kennedy School, Portland
March 5, 2016 Retreat Minutes -- [APPROVED](#)

SUMMARY MINUTES

MINUTES AS APPROVED AT THE MARCH 21, 2016 MHCRC MEETING.

Call to Order: 9:00 am

Commissioners Present: Carol Studenmund (Chair), Leif Hansen (Vice Chair), Sue Dicile, Mike Bennett, Scott Harden, John Branam and Rich Goheen

Commissioners Absent: Norm Thomas

Staff: Julie Omelchuck, Mary Beth Henry, and Rebecca Gibbons

Other:

Paula Manley, Facilitator

Steve Rider and Kristi Manseth, Pacific Research and Evaluation (10:30-12:00)

Marc Farrar, Comcast

Retreat Goals:

- Review the past year's challenges and successes
- Develop a shared understanding of TechSmart Initiative evaluation plan and reporting.
- Explore the implications of the broadband environment for the Commission's jurisdictions and the potential for a collective planning process
- Provide opportunities for Commissioners to get to know each other and strengthen working relationships.
- Revisit the Commission's operating agreements and meeting protocols

The Year in Review

Commissioners and staff reflected on key accomplishments and challenges over the past year.

TechSmart Initiative Evaluation Presentation and Discussion

Staff gave an overview of the TechSmart Initiative and summarized the Commission's framework for ensuring successful technology implementation, which includes: teaching effectiveness; digital age learning (culture shift); visible leadership; data-driven approach using current, high quality data; aligning with school district strategic planning (and student outcomes); and engaging stakeholders (including parents). In addition to an IGA with Portland State University for the purpose of evaluating student level data, the Commission contracted with Pacific Research and Evaluation (PRE) to develop and conduct the evaluation.

PRE consultants Steve Rider and Kristi Manseth handed out and discussed a TechSmart Initiative Evaluation timeline outlining key data collection points and reports through Fall 2018.

Commissioners and PRE discussed the following:

- Data will be evaluated for the rate of change for different sub-group student populations (e.g. by race and ethnic background, students with disabilities, etc.).
- PRE and staff may revisit the option to survey elementary age students, about topics such as level of engagement with learning, as younger students are enabled through technology to track their own progress data and self-direct learning.
- PSU conducted a literature review and PRE used the results to inform the evaluation design and also to validate the surveys.
- With so many variables in the classroom, PRE said correlating student outcomes with specific investments in a school or classroom is the challenge for all projects in the real world, but use of qualitative methods can help to identify the other variables and determine the impact of the TechSmart grant. Working with different cohorts of teachers over the life of the Initiative will also serve as a control group.

Staff and Commissioners acknowledged a shared understanding of the TechSmart Initiative evaluation plan and deliverables and thanked PRE and MHCRC staff for the thoughtful process taken to develop and launch the evaluation.

Future-Focused Planning

Commissioners and staff discussed the Commission's work in Digital Equity, Consumer Protection, Communications Infrastructure Planning, and Public Policy Advocacy and identified key contributors for success in this work as follows:

- Stakeholder engagement
- "Better together" (e.g. advantage of scale and leveraging benefits across all jurisdictions)
- Facilitate, coordinate and convene across and among institutions and jurisdictions; both large and small have a voice
- Depth of staff expertise and knowledge
- Commitment and focus on needs of underserved
- Proactive future-focused work and leadership
- Data driven approaches for Digital Equity and Infrastructure Planning
- Understand the interplay of federal-state-local developments and translate into local strategies and actions
- Impartial convener and partnership developer (e.g., identifying stakeholder needs, fostering partnerships for joint solutions)
- Stewardship of public resources for the public good
- Every jurisdiction approves the budget (annually acknowledges collective nature of the MHCRC's work)

Commissioners and staff brainstormed and discussed ideas and possible steps to advance collective planning with the MHCRC member jurisdictions in light of the need for adaptation as the communication technology environment continues to change.

Review Commission's Operating Agreements and Meeting Protocols

Commissioners reviewed and discussed their current operating agreements.

The retreat adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Gibbons
Program Coordinator