

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Webinar due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic,
pursuant to 2020 PA 254 (MCL 15.263)

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RedistrictingMichigan.org

Saturday, January 30, 2021

10:00 AM – 12:41 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark
Juanita Curry
Anthony Eid
Brittni Kellom (joined at 10:19 AM)
Rhonda Lange
Steven Terry Lett
Cynthia Orton
MC Rothhorn
Rebecca Szetela
Janice Vallette
Erin Wagner
Richard Weiss
Dustin Joseph Witjes

ABSENT: N/A

OTHERS PRESENT: Michigan Department of State (“MDOS”) staff
Suann Hammersmith, Executive Director
Julianne V. Pastula, General Counsel

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chair Lett called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 10:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

MDOS staff called roll. All commissioners were present and a quorum was met.
Vice Chair Kellom joined the meeting at 10:19 AM.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

One addition to the agenda was added under Old Business regarding outstanding action on Resolution 2021-01-07 (Voter Right Act Legal Counsel RFP). Chair Lett called for a show of hands to approve the agenda as amended. **AGENDA UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioners discussed the draft minutes and noted one minor error to be corrected. Chair Lett called for a show of hands to approve minutes, as amended. **MINUTES UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Lett opened the floor to public comment. There was no public comment. A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at RedistrictingMichigan.org.

CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Director Hammersmith reported there was no specific correspondence to address.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Hammersmith updated commissioners that today's meeting will include a review of the updated 2021 meeting calendar and a key dates timeline. She also advised commissioners that Resolution 2021-01-07 –VRA Legal Counsel RFP has been posted and the Commission will review vendor questions today. A revised draft of Resolution 2021-01-08, the framework for the Commission's Rules of Procedure, is ready for consideration. Per earlier questions from the Commission regarding the need for office space, Executive Director noted as a point of reference that the State of Michigan is currently requiring state employees to work remotely through May 1, 2021.

The Executive Director also provided follow-up to Commissioner Lange's question pertaining to the role of the Secretary of State's office, per the state's Constitution, that should the Commission fail to agree upon a map: "... the secretary of state shall randomly select the final plan from among all submitted plans pursuant to part (14)(c)(i)." Executive Director Hammersmith reported that the Secretary of State's Office will follow the same three primary criteria followed during the constitutionally required random selection of commissioners which will include:

1. Random selection
2. Commitment to transparency (livestreamed)
3. Independence (independent accounting firm to do the random selection)

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

General Counsel Pastula reported that a revised draft for Rules of Procedure is ready for the Commission to consider.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Administrative Items. MDOS staff provided an update on the Commission's administrative requests.
2. Edited 2021 Regular Meeting Calendar. The revised calendar was reviewed by commissioners.

Chair Lett called for a vote by show of hands to approve the revised calendar. EDITED 2021 REGULAR MEETING CALENDAR UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

3. Key Dates Timeline. Commissioners reviewed the timeline and briefly discussed deliverables.
4. Equipment Purchase Policy. Legal Counsel Pastula advised the Commission that a policy will be available for review at the next meeting.
5. Resolution 2021-01-07 – VRA Legal Counsel RFP, Chair Lett confirmed he will sign the Resolution regarding the action taken at the January 28, 2021 meeting to and provide it to Executive Director Hammersmith.
6. Rules of Procedure – Second Draft. Legal Counsel Pastula reviewed second draft revisions and presented additional edits proposed by Commissioner Eid. Vice Chair Kellom led the discussion.

Chair Lett called for a vote by show of hands to request a third draft of the Rules of Procedure, per changes noted by the Commission. REQUEST FOR A THIRD DRAFT APPROVED.

BREAK

Chair Lett called for a brief break from 11:12 AM TO 11:25 AM.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Answers to Bidders for Line Drawing RFP Questions. Executive Director Hammersmith advised that 26 questions have been received. Vice Chair Kellom led the discussion.

MOTION: Accept answers as submitted. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Lange. Chair Lett held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**

2. Timeline for VRA Legal Counsel RFP Process. Commissioners discussed the timeline shared by Executive Director Hammersmith, who indicated she would provide a timeline for reviews of proposals and the presentations from the bidders.
3. Line Drawing RFP Subcommittee: Commissioners discussed utilizing a consistent process as was done for the VRA Legal Counsel RFP by creating a subcommittee and timeframe.

MOTION: Create a subcommittee to review Line Drawing proposals that includes Commissioners Witjes (Democrat) as subcommittee chair, Wagner (Republican) and Lett (Independent). **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Chair Lett held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

4. VRA Legal Counsel RFP Subcommittee. Commissioners voted to replace Commissioner Witjes on the VRA Legal Counsel Subcommittee with either Commissioner Curry (Democrat) or Vice Chair Kellom (Democrat).

Chair Lett called for a roll call vote for Commissioner Curry.

Voting Yes: Commissioners Clark, Kellom, Rothorn, Eid, Lett

Voting No: Commissioners Lange, Orton, Wagner, Curry, Witjes, Szetela, Vallette, Weiss

Absent: N/A

BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 5-8, THE MOTION TO REPLACE COMMISSIONER WITJES ON THE VRA LEGAL COUNSEL RFP SUBCOMMITTEE WITH COMMISSIONER CURRY FAILED.

Chair Lett called for a roll call vote for Commissioner Kellom.

Voting Yes: Commissioners Lange, Orton, Wagner, Curry, Kellom, Rothhorn, Witjes, Eid, Vallette, Weiss

Voting No: Commissioners Clark, Lett, Szetela

Absent: N/A

BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 10-3, THE COMMISSION REPLACED COMMISSIONER WITJES ON THE VRA LEGAL COUNSEL RFP SUBCOMMITTEE WITH VICE CHAIR KELLOM.

The amended VRA Legal Counsel Subcommittee now includes Commissioners Szetela (Independent) as subcommittee chair, Eid (Independent), Clark (Republican) and Kellom (Democrat).

5. Upcoming Meeting Agenda Topics.

Proposed schedules for standing subcommittees

Third draft for Rules of Procedure

Edward Woods, III – New Communications and Outreach Director

Draft of Equipment Purchase Policy

CLOSUP webinar on communities of interest (Feb. 25 at 7:00 PM)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Lett called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Lange. Supported by Commissioner Curry. Chair Lett held a voice vote. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 PM.