

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)

Full agenda, presentations, transcripts, and video recordings are available at
RedistrictingMichigan.org

Thursday, April 15, 2021

9:00 AM – 11:49 AM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark (attending remotely from Rochester Hills, MI)
Juanita Curry (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)
Anthony Eid (*joined meeting at 10:26 AM*) (attending remotely from
Wayne County, MI)
Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)
Steven Terry Lett (attending remotely from Lee County, FL)
Cynthia Orton (*left the meeting at 9:30 AM*) (attending remotely from
Idaho County, ID)
MC Rothhorn (attending remotely from Lansing, MI)
Rebecca Szetela (attending remotely from Wayne County, MI)
Janice Vallette (attending remotely from Highland, MI)
Erin Wagner (attending remotely from Charlotte, MI)
Richard Weiss (attending remotely from Saginaw, MI)
Dustin Joseph Witjes (*joined meeting at 10:26 AM*) (attending remotely
from Ann Arbor, MI)

NOT PRESENT: Brittni Kellom

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

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to order at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

MDOS staff called roll. All commissioners except Commissioners Eid, Kellom, and Witjes were present and a quorum was met.

Commissioner Eid joined the meeting at 10:26 AM

Commissioner Witjes joined the meeting at 10:26 AM

Commissioner Orton left the meeting at 9:30 AM

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Lange. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioners discussed the draft minutes of April 8, 2021 and Commissioner Lange offered one edit.

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a motion to approve the minutes with Commissioner Lange's edit. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Weiss. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, opened the floor to public comment. There was one request from Dr. Tamara Mitchell, who shared live public comment. A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at RedistrictingMichigan.org.

CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Director Hammersmith reported there was no correspondence to address.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Hammersmith updated the Commission on the contract with Election Data Services. The contract is close to being finalized and Director

Hammersmith extended her thanks to Chad Bassett from MDOS for his help in securing the contract. MICRC staff conducted interviews with Executive Assistant candidates this week. The Executive Director also hosted a brief icebreaker activity.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE (MDOS) UPDATES

MDOS staff had no report. An update will be provided at next week's meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Bid for Video Production Services-Resolution 2021.04.08. Communications and Outreach Director Woods detailed the necessity for securing video production services to promote the activity of the commission.

MOTION: Adopt Resolution 2021.04.08 To Issue Bid Requests for Video Production Services. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Curry. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

2. Reconsideration of Resolution 2021.04.01-Extend Contract for VRA Legal Counsel. Commissioners engaged in a discussion on reconsidering Mr. Adelson's contract.

MOTION: Adopt a Motion to Reconsider Resolution 2021.04.01 (Extend Contract for VRA Legal Counsel). **Motion by Commissioner Lange. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. Voting Yes:** Commissioners Lange, Weiss, Wagner, Rothhorn
Voting No: Commissioners Vallette, Szetela, Curry, Lett, Clark

BY A SHOW OF HANDS VOTE OF 4-5, THE MOTION FAILED (RESOLUTION 2021.04.09 TO RECONSIDER THE VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2021.04.01 WAS NOT ADOPTED)

3. Updates from General Counsel Pastula. General Counsel Pastula provided three updates to the Commission. First, the Commission will continue to meet virtually through April 30th based on the state of emergency in Ingham County. There has been no movement on Senate Bill 207 which would amend the Open Meetings Act to permit virtual meetings to be held for any reason through June 30th. Second, the Oregon Supreme Court granted the state legislature an extension on its deadline for submitting new legislative and congressional maps due to delayed census results. Third, the “We the People Act” is still pending in the United States Senate.

General Counsel Pastula also presented an update on legacy format data and the petition to the Michigan Supreme Court.

MOTION: Adopt Resolution 2021.04.11 to Add Language to the Request for Relief in the Petition to the Michigan Supreme Court. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

BREAK

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a brief break from 10:12 PM to 10:26 PM.

4. Administrative Updates: Executive Director Hammersmith announced a dry run for the upcoming public hearings will be conducted on April 29th. Director Hammersmith will be providing the commission a sample agenda for the one-hour meetings accompanying public hearings. MICRC and MDOS staff are looking at different ways to facilitate public comment. Staff is anticipating a dialogue with the Commission on how to interact with consultants and decision-making for the mapping process.
5. Communications and Outreach Updates: Communications and Outreach Director Woods discussed the outcomes of the communications and outreach meeting. Director Woods presented the updated Communications and Outreach plan. Director Woods will begin producing daily media coverage reports for the Commission. Any postponed public hearings will take place in July.

Richard Czuba, president of the Glengariff Group, presented the results of a statewide survey about Michigan’s new redistricting process.

MOTION: Approve the Communications and Outreach Plan. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Commissioner Curry. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

BREAK

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a brief break from 11:10 PM to 11:20 PM.

Future Meetings and Agenda Items

There were no additional agenda items to discuss, however Commissioner Clark requested a few meeting topics for future discussion.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Adjourn the Meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 AM.