

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 and 15.263a)

Full agenda, presentations, transcripts, and video recordings are available at
www.Michigan.gov/MICRC

Thursday, May 6, 2021

1:00 PM – 4:02 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark (attending remotely from Rochester Hills, MI)
Juanita Curry (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)
Anthony Eid (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)
Brittini Kellom (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)
Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)
Steven Terry Lett (attending remotely from Grand Traverse County, MI)
Cynthia Orton (attending remotely from Battle Creek, MI)
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 (attending remotely from Ypsilanti, MI)

ABSENT: N/A

OTHERS

PRESENT: Suann Hammersmith, Executive Director
Julianne V. Pastula, General Counsel
Edward Woods III, Communications and Outreach Director
Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson (*joined the meeting at 1:05 PM, left at 1:11 PM*)
Michigan Department of State (“MDOS”) staff

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to order at 1:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson called roll. All commissioners were present and a quorum was met. Secretary Benson thanked Director of Special Projects, Sally Marsh, for her service and reiterated the administration's support for the Commission.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioners discussed the draft minutes and offered no edits.

MOTION: Commissioner Kellom Chair, called for a motion to approve the minutes from April 29th. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, opened the floor to public comment. There were two individuals who provided live public comment: Andrew Nurmi and Susan Smith.

A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC and michigan-mapping.org.

CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Director Hammersmith reported no specific correspondence to address.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Hammersmith and Communications and Outreach Director Woods introduced Kristen Taylor who will serve as an event planning consultant. The notice of intent to hire the VRA Counsel was posted on May 4th, and other bidders may state their objections over the next five days. The Commission is also seeking an Executive Assistant for 10-20 hours per week. The Executive Director also hosted a brief icebreaker activity.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE (MDOS) UPDATES

Director of Special Projects, Sally Marsh, provided the Commission a walkthrough of the public comment portal. Director Marsh showed the Commissioners the website branding, directions for additional information, the submission form for different types of comment, the “tagging” feature, the gallery of submissions, and the mapping feature. Director Marsh and the Executive Director of MGGG Redistricting Lab, Moon Duchin, fielded questions from Commissioners. The Commission engaged in a discussion about requiring a Michigan address for public commenters for the public comment tool.

MOTION: Request that MDOS Staff Contact Previous Individuals who Gave Public Comment on Mapping or Communities of Interest to encourage use of the Public Comment Portal. **Motion by Commissioner Orton. Supported by Commissioner Wagner. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Clark, Curry, Kellom, Lange, Lett, Orton, Rothhorn, Szetela, Vallette, Wagner, Weiss

Voting No: Commissioners Eid and Witjes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Issuance of Bid Requests for Legal Staffing Agency. General Counsel Pastula returned to the Commission with additional research on rates for a legal staffing agency for project-based support and an updated procurement timeline.

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.05.01 Issuance of Bid Requests for Legal Staffing Agency. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

2. Audio Visual Vendors for Public Hearings. Executive Director Hammersmith indicated that the event center in Jackson, MI did not have an AV contractor, therefore, the Executive Director secured an AV contractor utilizing the emergency procurement procedures. Director Hammersmith also requested the Commission to approve contracts with two more AV vendors to assist at additional public hearing facilities that do not have AV contractors.

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.05.02 Formally Receive Notification of the Executive Director's May 3, 2021 Emergency Procurement for the Jackson Public Hearing Audio-Visual.

Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.05.03 Authorize the Executive Director to Execute the AV Contract for Muskegon Public Hearing with Chase Creative. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.05.04 Authorize the Executive Director to Execute AV Contracts with Encore for the Flint, Warren, and Dearborn Public Hearings. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Szetela. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

BREAK

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a brief break from 2:17 PM to 2:27 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Communications and Outreach Update. Communication and Outreach Director Woods introduced consultants Darci McConnell with McConnell Communications and Maureen Saxton with Van Dyke Horn to the Commission. Both consultants introduced themselves, and along with Director Woods, took questions from the Commission about outreach and awareness. Director Woods updated the Commission on the Communication and Outreach strategy.

MOTION: Approve an edit to Goal 1-Ensure Fairness, Objective 3 in the Communications and Outreach Plan to read, “Emphasize that MICRC requires hiring decisions to include at least one affiliate and adopting maps to include at least two affiliates from the Democrats, Independents, and Republicans.”

Motion by Commissioner Lange. Supported by Commissioner Szetela. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

2. Legal Counsel Report. General Counsel Pastula presented and took questions on a Conflict-of-Interest policy that is intended to supplement existing state law and MICRC policy dealing with unethical conduct or conflicts of interest. General Counsel Pastula sought approval of seeking bids for Litigation Counsel to provide legal advice and representation to the MICRC, including the defense of the final redistricting plans. General Counsel Pastula took questions on both items. The Commission determined which members to serve on a Committee to review RFP bids for the Litigation Counsel.

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.05.05 Conflict of Interest Policy. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Clark, Curry, Eid, Kellom, Orton, Rothhorn, Szetela, Vallette, Wagner, Weiss, Witjes.

Voting No: Commissioners Lange and Lett.

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.05.06 Issuance of a Request for Proposals for Litigation Counsel. **Motion by Commissioner Lange. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Develop a Committee to Review RFP Bids for the Litigation Counsel **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Appoint Commissioners Lett, Clark, Witjes, and Curry to serve on the Litigation Counsel Committee with Commissioner Lett as Chairperson. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Weiss. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Administrative Issues. Executive Director Hammersmith provided an updated budget and took questions from the Commission. She also indicated that the Line Drawing and Redistricting Services Committee, as well as the VRA Legal Counsel Committee had completed their work, and recommended dissolving the committees, since any future discussion or decisions regarding these would come back to the full Commission.

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.05.07 Revisions to the MICRC Budget. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.05.08 Discharge Consultant Procurement Committees. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Weiss. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

Executive Director Hammersmith made a recommendation to cancel the May 13 Commission Meeting, unless Commissioners had proposed topics for discussion.

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.05.09 Cancel May 13 Regular Commission Meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Curry. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Curry, Eid, Kellom, Lett, Orton, Rothhorn, Szetela, Vallette, Wagner, Weiss, Witjes.

Voting No: Commissioners Clark and Lange.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Director Hammersmith will send some TED Talk links on listening. Director of Special Projects, Sally Marsh, gave her farewells and the Commission thanked her for her service.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 PM.