

# **Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission**

Hybrid Meeting held in-person and via Zoom Webinar due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, pursuant to 2020 PA 254 (MCL 15.263 and 15.263a), and in compliance with Section 6(10) of Article 4 of Michigan's 1963 Constitution

Full agenda, presentations, transcripts, and video recordings are available at [www.michigan.gov/micrc](http://www.michigan.gov/micrc)

**Thursday, July 15, 2021**

**5:04 PM – 7:27 PM**

**at**

**Grand Upton Hall, Lake Michigan College  
1100 Yore Avenue, Benton Harbor, MI 49022**

## **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Douglas James Clark (attending remotely from Rochester Hills, MI)  
Juanita Curry  
Anthony Eid  
Brittni Kellom (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)  
Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)  
Steven Terry Lett  
Cynthia Orton  
MC Rothhorn  
Rebecca Szetela  
Janice Vallette  
Richard Weiss  
Dustin Joseph Witjes

**ABSENT:** Erin Wagner

**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 Kellom, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to order at 5:04 PM.

## **ROLL CALL**

MDOS staff called roll. All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Wagner and a quorum was met.

## **PRESENTATION ON THE MICRC**

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, put the motion “for Executive Director Hammersmith to provide a presentation”. Director Hammersmith gave a presentation on the purpose of the MICRC.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Upon separate motions, the Commission discussed changing the order of items on future agendas.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 12-0.**

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

**Voting No:** n/a

**MAIN MOTION:** Approve Future Meeting Agendas, as Amended, to reflect: call to order, roll call, adoption of the agenda, presentations, public comment, unfinished business, new business, review and approval of minutes, Executive Director report, General Counsel report, Communications and Outreach Director report, MDOS report, Correspondence, Announcements, Adjourn. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Weiss. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**

**Voting No:** Commissioner Eid

**MOTION:** Amend the Main Motion to Have Public Comment after the Adoption of the Agenda and Any Presentations by Commissioners or staff. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by**

**Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**

**Voting No:** Commissioner Eid

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon separate motions, Commissioners discussed the Redistricting Process Committee minutes from June 28<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners discussed the June 29<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup> public hearing minutes. The Commission also discussed the June 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes. The Commission noted the scrivener's error on page 4 where "present" is duplicated in Roll Call for the June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a motion to approve the Redistricting Process Committee minutes from June 28<sup>th</sup>. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 29<sup>th</sup>. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a motion to approve the public hearing minutes from June 29<sup>th</sup>. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 30<sup>th</sup>. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 1<sup>st</sup>. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Orton. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a motion to approve the public hearing minutes from July 1<sup>st</sup>. **Motion by Commissioner Lett.**

**Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERTAINING TO AGENDA TOPICS**

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, put the motion "to begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of the agenda" which was adopted. Twelve individuals provided in-person public comment: Ezra Scott, Elena Oelke, Bishop Melvin Burton, Jan Baumgrass, Jay C Eddie, Joey Andrews, Terry Trecartin, Antoinette DeFoe, Sandy Tardi, Heather Cole, Rick Catherman, Chokwe Pitchford. Three individuals provided remote public comment: Susan Smith, Douglas Helzerman, James Gallant.

A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at [www.michigan.gov/micrc](http://www.michigan.gov/micrc)

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. MICRC Meeting Calendar-Resolution 2021.07.01. The Commission held a discussion about the long-term calendar and Commissioner availability.

**MOTION:** Adopt the MICRC Meeting Calendar to Move July and August Meetings on Mondays and Tuesdays to Thursdays and Fridays (July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>). **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION APPROVED 11-1.**

**Voting Yes:** Commissioners Clark, Lett, Orton, Rothhorn, Szetela, Vallette, Weiss, Witjes, Curry, Kellom, Eid

**Voting No:** Commissioner Lange

- b. Updated Resolutions 2021.06.06-16 Regarding Mapping Decisions Made During the June 30 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, put the motion "for Executive Director Hammersmith to discuss the resolutions". Executive Director Hammersmith reported that the resolutions documented decisions the Commission had already made regarding the mapping process and no further action was required on them.

## **RECESS**

**MOTION:** Motion to Recess Until 6:45 PM. **Motion by Commissioner Szetela. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 6:47 PM.

**PRESENT:**

- Douglas James Clark (attending remotely from Rochester Hills, MI)
- Juanita Curry
- Anthony Eid
- Brittni Kellom (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)
- Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)
- Steven Terry Lett
- Cynthia Orton
- MC Rothhorn
- Rebecca Szetela
- Janice Vallette
- Richard Weiss
- Dustin Joseph Witjes

**ABSENT:** Erin Wagner

## **ROLL CALL**

MDOS staff called roll. All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Wagner and a quorum was met.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Assuring Quorums and Notification of Absence. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, put the motion "for the Executive Director to share about Assuring Quorums and Notification of Absences" which was adopted. Executive Director Hammersmith outlined how Commissioners should report their absences and what to do in case of an emergency departure during a meeting. Director Hammersmith explained that due to the costs associated with meetings, such as

closed captioning, language translation, and AV, it was important to ensure there would be a quorum.

**MAIN MOTION:** Motion to Accept as Standard Procedure the Assuring Quorums and Notifications of Absences Memo as Policy with the Paragraph Beginning with “If you are eligible to attend remotely” struck out in its entirety. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**  
**Voting No:** Commissioner Lange and Eid

**MOTION:** Motion to Amend the Assuring Quorums and Notifications of Absences Memo to Strike Out the Paragraph that Begins with the Header “if you are eligible to attend remotely”, and Leave the Remainder of the Memo the Same. **Motion by Commissioner Szetela. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**  
**Voting No:** Commissioner Lange and Witjes

- b. Financial Reports. Executive Director Hammersmith outlined the invoice process. Director Hammersmith also provided contract overviews for Kristen Taylor and Chase Creative.

**MOTION:** Approve Financial Procedures. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**MOTION:** Approve Resolution to Receive and File Documentation of Emergency Procurement for Audio-Visual For July 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meetings. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Szetela. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

- c. Communications & Outreach Report. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, put the motion "for the Communications & Outreach Director give a report" which was adopted. Communication & Outreach Director Edward Woods III reported that MICRC table banners, flyer holders, business cards, participation flyers, and pens have arrived. The PR

packages should ideally be checked on a weekly basis at meetings. Director Woods thanked the Commission for their engagement. The Commission will reduce the engagement with Good Fruit.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There will be another emergency procurement for AV next week. Director Hammersmith hopes to get budget information from the Legislative Services Bureau to provide a budget update next week. At the request of Commissioner Wagner, Dr. Petering will join the Commission next week to provide a presentation. Election Data Services will also join the Commission next week as the Commission starts drawing regions. There will be a future discussion on time off for staff.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There will be a group photo in the future. Commissioner Eid presented to the City Council of Allen Park, and they plan to submit a map of their community of interest. Commissioner Eid recommended that the Commissioners re-watch the previous week's meeting with vendors and consistently review the public comment portal.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.