

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

Thursday, February 18, 2021

9:00 AM – 12:08 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Douglas James Clark
Juanita Curry (*left the meeting at 9:36 AM*)
Anthony Eid
Rhonda Lange
Steven Terry Lett
Cynthia Orton
MC Rothhorn
Rebecca Szetela
Janice Vallette
Erin Wagner
Richard Weiss
Dustin Joseph Witjes

ABSENT:

Brittini 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 Lett, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

MDOS staff called roll. All commissioners except Commissioner Kellom, Vice Chair, were present and a quorum was met.

Commissioner Curry left the meeting at 9:36 AM.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Executive Director Hammersmith offered minor changes to the agenda.

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lett, Chair, noted minor typographical corrections.

MOTION: Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a motion to approve the minutes as amended. **Motion by Commissioner Rothorn. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Lett, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Lett, Chair, opened the floor to public comment. No verbal comments were received. One written submission was noted by the Chair and placed in the record.

A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at RedistrictingMichigan.org.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Hammersmith reported that commissioners will review three resolutions today, including the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Guidelines and Procedures, the Communications Plan and the Procurement Review Procedures and Guidelines. The process for selecting consultants is moving forward. On February 19, MICRC staff will provide the Line Drawing Review

Committee with a ranking of proposals and the rationale for the rankings. The Committee meets on February 23 to review proposals and will offer recommendations to the full Commission on February 25. February 17 was the deadline for Voter Rights Act (VRA) Legal Counsel proposals however no bids were received. MICRC staff will meet to discuss how to move forward with seeking a VRA legal consultant and will report back to the Commission next week with options. Commissioners were also provided the Princeton Budget Memo to review. A brief ice-breaker activity was conducted.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

General Counsel Pastula reported that commissioners will continue their discussion today on FOIA, Procurement and Communications policies. The Commission will also start an overview of the state's Constitution, including Subsection 13 criteria. Future items include a memo on census issues covering timing of data release, its impact on the Commission and options moving forward. This will likely be a Privileged and Confidential Memorandum. Other items to expect from the general counsel at future meetings include a Records Retention Policy and a Conflicts of Interest policy.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH REPORT

Communications and Outreach Director Woods reported that next week commissioners will have official portraits taken and individual statement videos recorded. All will be made available on the MICRC website. The Detroit Free Press will be hosting its own webpage on the Commission to identify the 13 citizens serving as commissioners and how to engage in the redistricting process. Outreach efforts to township, city and county governments, resulted in more than 50 requests for presentations. Director Woods will follow up with commissioners about availability to participate virtually in these meetings. He is also continuing to meet with statewide organizations on how to engage the public in the redistricting process. Interested organizations can contact him directly via email at woodse3@michigan.gov. Today, commissioners will review a Communications Policy, potential dates and locations for MICRC public hearings and a Statement of Work relative to needed communication and outreach efforts for MICRC. Per a request from Commissioner Lett, Chair, commissioners will receive weekly media reports.

Director Woods requested that for the official record that the Commission note the great work of six students from the University of Michigan who assembled a list of communities of interest as part of a project for the University. The students included: Monika Anderson, Christian Colon, Kaitlyn Colyer, Natalie Fitzpatrick, Jordan Daniel Lippert, and Ryan Scott Woork. Their sponsors were Debra Horner and Tom Ivacko.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE (MDOS) UPDATES

MDOS staff had no updates to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. FOIA Procedures and Guidelines-Resolution 2021.02.03. General Counsel Pastula discussed minor edits to the second draft of the resolution.

MOTION: Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a motion to approve Resolution 2021.02.03 as amended. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Commissioner Orton. Commissioner Lett, Chair, held a vote by a show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

2. Communication Policy-Resolution 2021.02.04. Communications and Outreach Director Woods discussed the inclusion of requested edits to the second draft of the resolution including a MICRC P.O. Box for the public to utilize, along with a process for the Commission to review press releases prior to dissemination.

MOTION: Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a motion to approve Resolution 2021.02.04. **Motion by Commissioner Vallette. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Lett, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Resolved that the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission approves the designation of the following individual members under Subpart 6 of the Communications Policy being Commissioner Curry and alternate Commissioner Szetela. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Lett, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

BREAK

Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a brief break from 9:36 AM to 9:46 AM.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Procurement Review Procedures and Guidelines Resolution 2021.02.05. General Counsel Pastula presented a second draft for the Commission's

consideration.

MOTION: Table Resolution 2021.02.05 until the next meeting and provide different scenarios with tier amounts relevant to emergency expenditures.
**Motion by Commissioner Eid. Supported by Commissioner Witjes.
Commissioner Lett, Chair, held a vote by a show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

2. Key Provisions of the Constitutional Amendment and Census Timing. General Counsel Pastula provided an overview of key provisions in Article IV, Section 6 of the Michigan constitution (subsections 7, 9 and 13). She specifically noted the recently announced delayed date for the delivery of census data to states (changed from March 31, 2021 to Sept. 30, 2021). This is untenable with Michigan's constitutional requirement to have final proposed maps by Sept. 17 to accommodate 45 days of public comment. Options to address the delay will be presented to the Commission via a Privileged and Confidential Memorandum. A quick briefing was provided on Subsection 9 and the requirements pertaining to public hearings. A partial overview was provided of Subsection 13 and the ranked criteria for redistricting were reviewed with commissioners. The remaining criteria will be covered at a later meeting.
3. Multi-Media Education Campaign. Communications and Outreach Director Woods reported that we are going out to bid for market research and a multi-media education campaign about redistricting. Information will be presented next week.
4. Potential Public Hearing Dates. Communications and Outreach Director Woods proposed the Commission host public hearings at large-scale venues across the state for maximum participation and to meet applicable laws and safety guidelines. Woods suggested 15 locations for the first round and seven locations for the second round. The proposal includes the following:
 - a. Gaylord – 1st and 2nd
Treetop Resorts
May 4
 - b. Marquette
Northern Michigan University
May 6
 - c. Benton Harbor
Lake Michigan College
May 11

- d. Muskegon
Lakeshore Convention Center
May 12
- e. Grand Rapids – 1st and 2nd
Devos Center
May 13
- f. Ann Arbor
University of Michigan
May 17
- g. Lansing – 1st and 2nd
Lansing Center
May 18
- h. Midland
Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center
May 19
- i. Flint – 1st and 2nd
Dort Financial Center
May 20
- j. Southfield
Southfield Pavilion
May 24
- k. Dearborn
Ford Conference Center
May 25
- l. Novi – 1st and 2nd
Suburban Collection Showcase
May 26
- m. Detroit – 1st and 2nd
TCF Center (Cobo Hall)
May 27
- n. Warren – 1st and 2nd
MRCC Banquet Center
June 2
- o. Port Huron
Blue Water Convention Center
June 3

Commissioners discussed additional potential locations and offered suggestions. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting for further

consideration.

5. Princeton Budget Memo. Executive Director Hammersmith provided this memo for commissioner consideration, which includes budget estimates from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs regarding the MICRC.

BREAK

Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a five-minute break from 11:00 AM to 11:05 AM.

CALIFORNIA COMMISSIONER PANEL 2010 California Citizens Redistricting Commissioner Cynthia Dai led a panel consisting of Commissioner Vince Barabba, and Tamina Alon, former member of their mapping team. They presented on the ways they assessed the line drawing bids and how they worked with their mapping consultants.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 PM.