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MICRC

20240321-1000 Meeting

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>> CHAIR ORTON: As Chair of the Commission, I call the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 10:00 a.m.

This Zoom webinar is being live streamed on YouTube on The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission YouTube channel.

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using, please visit our social media at Redistricting MI. Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and Spanish and Arabic and Bengali translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. Please E-mail us at Redistricting@michigan.gov for additional viewing options or details for accessing language translation services for this meeting.

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This meeting is also being recorded and will be available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC for viewing at a later date.

This meeting also is being transcribed and those closed-captioned transcriptions will be made available and posted on the Michigan.gov/MICRC website along with written public comment submissions. There is also a public comment portal that may be Accessed visiting Michigan.gov/MICRC.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, Executive Director for the Commission at WoodsE3@Michigan.gov or 517-331-6309.

For the public watching and the public record I will turn to the department of state staff take note of the commissioners present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Good morning, Commissioners and happy spring 2024. Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely please announce during roll call you are attending the meeting remotely and unless absence is due to military duty state the county, City, Township or the village and state which you are attending the meeting remotely. I will begin roll call alphabetically with Elaine Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Present attending from Imlay Township, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Donna Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Present attending remotely from Mexico.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present attending remotely from

Detroit Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present; attending remotely from Detroit,

Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Attending from Detroit Michigan.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present; attending remotely from

Osceola County, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Steven Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present; attending from Lee County, Florida.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Marcus Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Present from Carrollton, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Present; attending remotely from Battle

Creek, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rebecca Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Present; attending remotely from

Wayne County, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Janice Vallette?

>> VICE CHAIR VALLETTE: Present; attending from Highland Township, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present attending remotely from Charlotte,

Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present; attending remotely from

Saginaw Township, Saginaw Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Madam Chair, you have a full house, 13 members present. You have a quorum. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you very much.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: You're welcome.

>> CHAIR ORTON: As a reminder to the public watching you can view agenda at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. I would now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So moved.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Moved by Commissioner Lett and seconded by Commissioner Weiss. Is there any discussion on the motion?

Seeing none, all in favor of approving today's agenda raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any opposed raise your hand and say nay. The ayes prevail and the agenda is adopted.

Without objection Vice Chair Janice Vallette will facilitate public comment.

>> VICE CHAIR VALLETTE: Without objection we will begin the public comment pertaining to the agenda topics portion of our meeting. Hearing no objection we will now proceed with public comment.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide live remote live public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed. I will call your name and our staff will unmute you. If you are on a computer you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak. If you are on the phone a voice will say the host wants you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute. I will call you by your name or by the last four digits of your phone number. Also please note that if you experience technical or audio issues or we do not hear from you for three to five seconds, we will move on to the next person in line and then return to you after they are done speaking. If your audio still does not work you can e-mail redistricting@Michigan.gov and we will help you to troubleshoot so that you can participate during the next public comment period at a later meeting.

You have 90 seconds to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line to provide public comment is James Gallant. Please allow a moment for our staff to unmute you.

>> Can you hear me now?.

>> Yes we can.

>> This is James Gallant, Marquette Suicide Prevention Coalition. These are my opinions. And first of all I would like to thank the Commission and Commissioner Eid for formally and by hearing no objections identifying my community of interest as the entire map of the State of Michigan, the entire perimeter of the map is my community of interest, everybody involved in this situation. As a due process right for you to follow the rules. So that is what I was hoping maybe we could figure out what we can agree on. You know, because I think that I could go to the Supreme Court, I could file a case in the Supreme Court first of all about that first amendment issue we had at the meeting then of course we have declaratory stuff and say hey what is common law parliamentary procedure in Michigan in the United States of America and get the Supreme Court to decide that. We would be on the same playing field here and get to address the part about decision making is repugnant to the Constitution Marxist style Communism is what it is. You are not making the motion first. Maybe you believe Mike Brady lied to you when he said you must follow Robert's Rules of Order, is Mike Brady right or you right. Madam Chair, you said it's not in the amendment and don't have to follow it but I think you have a pack of lawyers giving you bad advice so that is what I'm

asking you to do is please hire a-parliamentarian and some of the comments and the Motown Sound map was based.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Anthony-Scannell. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Thank you, Commission, happy spring 24. I agree with that. I will go to agenda item 6A new business proposed schedule to draft the Senate remedial plan. It looks like eight days of mapping, I think you can do it in eight days no problem. Last date on there, August 30th, still says House directing plan so if you want to fix that draft, okay. Agenda 5B unfinished business rules of procedure. What is the revision in the rules of procedure?

Can you tell us?

But I have a recommendation for a revision of Section 9.1 abstention voting conflict of interest and I don't agree with that you can abstain with no opinion, and you should change your rules. Agenda 6G Chair parent I support Commissioner Callaghan for that. I think that they are the most you know agenda driven person that I've seen so far on this whole Commission. Agenda item 9 legal liaison report. I actually really agree with, I read the response to the whole Plaintiff objection to the special master thing. And I agree with what you guys said about the incumbency protection, I don't think you did that at all, so good job there. In the conclusion you said the Court should reject the Plaintiff's request and declare the Secretary of State may implement the plan so why are you even still doing the Supreme Court appeal, doesn't that make it a moot point if you want to implement the plan?

It would help on 5D agenda item.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. That concludes our public comment. Please feel free to e-mail public comments to the Commission at redistricting@Michigan.gov. We appreciate everyone who offers public comment in whatever way you choose and invite you to keep sharing your thoughts.

Cynthia, you are muted.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you very much. So I said thank you very much. And next on our agenda is unfinished business 5A revised conflict of interest. Without objection I will ask MICRC Executive Director to facilitate this item. Hearing no objection please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you. As part of our process last while we review the conflict of interest we provided you the changes. You received a clean copy as well as the changes from last month as reviewed. There has been no additions so we are just looking for a motion to accept the changes as presented. And move forward.

>> CHAIR ORTON: And since we had a comment asking what those changes were, those changes are posted on our website; is that correct?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: That is correct.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay just wanted to clarify.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I would move we accept the changes as presented.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so moved by Commissioner Lett and I saw Juanita Curry seconded it first. Any discussion on that motion?

Since we've already discussed it I don't see any so all in favor of accepting those changes raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any opposed raise your hand and say nay.

>> Nay.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, I guess we will need to do a roll call vote because I can't see how many people are saying nay if the picture is not showing.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Yes, ma'am. The motion to accept the revised changes to the conflict-of-interest policy which the conflict-of-interest changes have been posted on the Commission's website is what we are voting on. I'll start the vote alphabetically Elaine Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Donna Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Steve Lett?

>> CHAIR ORTON: You are muted Steve.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: You are muted Steve, sorry Cynthia.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Thank you. Marcus Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rebecca Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Madam Chair with yes and three no, the motion carries.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. So next on the agenda is unfinished business 5B revised rules of procedure. Without objection I will again ask Executive Director Woods to facilitate this item. Hearing no objection please proceed Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you. On the screen two noticeable changes we talked about and debated before it's regarding the reschedule of meetings. It talked about who may reschedule the meeting or public hearing and then it was asked to remove I believe by Commissioner Lange from a five-hour notice to a 12-hour notice as relates to rescheduling of meetings. And the other change that was talked about and discussed comes under 622 regular meetings. That the Commission shall meet in regular session which shall be held no less frequently than one meeting per month unless otherwise determined by a majority vote members present before maps are approved. After maps are approved the Commission shall meet no less frequently than once per quarter unless determined by majority vote of members present. Those are the changes that were made. We highlighted them in red and they were all sent to the public. They have been discussed and reviewed and so now we are looking for action as relates to those changes, Chairperson.

>> CHAIR ORTON: We have a motion to that effect?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So moved.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Motion made by Commissioner Lett, seconded by Commissioner Weiss to accept the changes in the revised rules of procedure. Is there any discussion on that motion?

Seeing none all in favor of accepting these changes to our rules of procedure raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Those opposed raise your hand and say nay.

>> Nay.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay roll call vote again, please.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Yes, ma'am. The motion is before you to accept revisions to the rules of procedures I will begin alphabetically with Commissioner Donna Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Aye.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Aye.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Brittini Kellom?

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- >> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Aye.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Rhonda Lange?
- >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Nay.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Steve Lett?

You're muted, sir.

- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Aye.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Marcus Muldoon?
- >> MARCUS MULDOON: Yes.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Cynthia Orton?
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Rebecca Szetela?
- >> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: No.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Janice Vallette?
- >> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Erin Wagner?
- >> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Richard Weiss?
- >> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: And back to the top. Elaine Andrade?
- >> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Madam Chair with a vote of ten to three ten yes three no, the

motion carries.

- >> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: You're welcome.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Unfinished business 5C privileged discussion recording of December 28th, 2023. Without objection I will ask MICRC local counsel Nate Fink to facilitate this item.
- >> Good morning Commissioners.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Hearing no objection please proceed.
- >> I jumped the gun. Thank you Madam Chair. Good morning Commissioners.

There was a request from three Commissioners to hear the recording from the December 28th privileged discussion that was held between the legal team and certain other Commissioners related to the pending litigation in the Agee case. And for context it was shortly after the Court had ruled on the Hickory map and the Linden map and we were deciding, the Commission was deciding whether or not to pursue an appeal and so there was a privileged discussion that was held. Certain Commissioners were not in attendance. Those Commissioners have requested to hear that recording. I've informed the Commissioners who have made that request that we can make the recording available to them and any other Commissioner who would like to hear the recording and it can be made available today right after the meeting.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.

>> I think it looks like.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Two quick points. I was never informed of that. And my second point is I believe this was Commissioner Szetela's agenda topic so I think she should be the one facilitating because I'm sure she had a specific purpose. So if we could let her that would be great, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I don't see.

>> It looks like her hand is up.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yeah, thank you Commissioner Lange. So Mr. Fink you're saying at this point we are going to be allowed to listen to that tape?

>> Yes, yeah, so assuming that you and anybody else who would like to hear it is available right after the meeting today it can be I think we can I don't know exactly how the logistics can work and Edward can set up another Zoom and we can just play it that way for any Commissioner who wants to hear it

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Then I don't think we need to take action at this point reserving the right to bring this up in the future if for some reason the play back does not happen.

>> Okay, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, so we will move on to agenda item unfinished business 5D fiscal year 24 budget supplemental. Without objection I will ask Executive Director Woods to facilitate this item. Hearing no objection, please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you Chairperson. As you know our fiscal year 24 supplemental budget has been submitted. There has been a reach out to Senator Anthony representative Whitmer and state budget director Jennifer flood 55% of the fiscal year budget was spent through the four months. And we hope to have a resolution sometime in May 2024. So I just want to kind of give you an update of what is going on. We have already gotten the e-mail with regards to the information. But just sharing that we are doing that in terms of the concern, obviously. We have bills for February and occurring bills in March. And so trying to get that resolved as you know they are two representatives short in the Michigan House of Representatives. And that should hopefully be resolved in April. And so hopefully we can have a resolution in May but just kind of wanted you to have an update as to what is going on with regards to our funding request. If there are any questions, I can take them at this time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I don't see any. Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I just have a point of clarification you're saying we went through 55% of the budget in four months? Am I understanding that correctly?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: That is correct.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Okay thank you.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Of known expenditures just so we are clear, Commissioner Szetela. We still have some outstanding invoices.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I don't see any other questions. So next on the agenda unfinished.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Commissioner excuse me Commissioner Wagner had a hand up.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Sorry, it was spur of the moment Cynthia. My question is whether or not, dang it, it seems right to ask for more money when you're asking for more money for salaries and you're not going to drop the Supreme Court issue. It just seems ridiculous to me so...

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Commissioner Wagner your hand went back up. Do you have another question?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No, just trigger finger.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, so then next item is unfinished business 5E redistricting presentations. And without objection I will again ask Director Woods to facilitate this item. Hearing no objection please proceed.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you. As you know we are hired McConnell communication with identifying 70 presentations and we completed five out of the 70. The deadline is April 30th. Once again we are building off the momentum of the House, the House, to share that information. Once again, the House to share information about the redistricting process and educating people about the redistricting process so that we can get even more participation when we have to do the remedial map for the Senate. We've created a PowerPoint presentation for Commissioners to present. We are developing a redistricting 301 document in Arabic, Bengali English and Spanish that talks about the Court case and why we are soliciting public input with regards to the mapping process. We are recruiting statewide organizations to assist in scheduling presentations. I have met with access. I met with Voters Not Politicians. We are meeting with church groups, organizations, anyone that can help us that has statewide organizations particularly that have members in Southeast Michigan. The Metro Detroit, Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties to ensure that we do a great job of educating our citizens with regards to redistricting process with regards to the Court order and how they can show up and speak up and raising their voice as relates to redistricting. So just kind of wanted to give you an update as to where we are and thank the Commissioners who have signed up and are willing to do presentations either in person or virtual. It's been a great help. And we have more schedule on the way and look forward to letting you know how we are getting closer to our goal next month. If there is any questions with regards to that, I can take them at this time.

>> CHAIR ORTON:

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: All right thank you very much.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thanks. Okay so next on the agenda is new business 6A, proposed schedule for State Senate remedial plan. So without objection I will ask Director Woods to facilitate this item. Hearing no objection, please proceed.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: All right, thank you. The Court has required us to, through our local counsel and litigation counsel, to submit a proposed timeline for preparing a Senate remedial redistricting plan. I reached out to you individually with regards and trying to identify potential areas of conflict. The feedback that was received I should say the feedback that was received is trying to not have a compressed schedule like we did for the Michigan House of Representatives. Because of the primary in August. And so what you're seeing here is basically a schedule that is utilizing Thursdays, Thursdays to draw maps and to do our virtual town halls, even our public hearings on Thursday with regard to dedicating that until the process is done. So April 12 is the deadline to submit the plan to the Court. April 18th, draw Senate maps and Commission meetings so we would have our regularly scheduled Commission meeting and we would also use some of that time to draw maps. There will be a lunch break from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. so we will have that schedule. Hold on, let me advice my slide.

All right on May 2 draw Senate maps 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m., lunch 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. May 9 and 10 we would have a hybrid meeting, but it will be in person and hybrid. That is on a Thursday and a Friday. Thursday May 9 going from 10-3, lunch 12:30 to 1:30 and 4-7. Then on Friday meeting at a location at 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. and identify locations and bring those to you the plan is at the next Commission meeting on April 18th in terms of proposed locations. May 16th draw Senate maps and Commission meeting. May 23rd is Memorial Day weekend holiday so we would skip that particular Thursday.

And then on May 30th we would draw maps. Senate maps from 4-7:00 p.m. Once again 4-7:00 p.m. So just mixing it up so we can respect people's schedules and provide opportunity for input. Looking at June 6 and 7. Draw Senate maps in person once again this will be a hybrid meeting in person. So those Commissioners who are unable to come in person obviously would be able to participate virtually. 10-3 p.m. then lunch from 12:30 to 1 p.m. and 4-7:00 p.m. on June 6 which is a Thursday. Then on that Friday we would meet from 10-2. 10-2. June 11 draw draft proposed maps are due to the U.S. District Court then on June 20th we would hold a virtual public hearing and Commission meeting. From 10-1. And 5-7:30 p.m. So we are taking advantage of the lessons learned from the House remedial phrase and trying to utilize that for the Senate remedial phase. So just trying to share that with you as well.

Then on July 16, '17 and 18 we would host a public hearing in Metro Detroit from 10-3, lunch 12:30-1:30 then 4-7 and do it on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Because the Senate maps are encompassing more population we would move things

around and so we would not be in the same location. So I just want to share that with you. There has been a request in Warren we would have it out there because of impact different places in Wayne County and as well and working to secure spots for that, for those meetings and that is the 16, 17 and 18. These public hearings are also would be in person. They would be hybrid in nature for Commissioners who are unable to attend. And then on the 18th we would also conduct our regularly scheduled business. Our regularly scheduled business as relates to the Commission meeting. As you already know our Commission agenda is posted on the website and we meet the third Thursday of every month. So that's what we have with regards to that.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: And then July 25th, Senate maps deliberations this will be virtue. The 45-day public comment period ends on the 26th. We would continue with the deliberations on the 29th and the 30th.

If there is any questions, I can take them at this time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Not a question, just pretty much a comment. I still think that doing a public hearing on a Saturday would be more beneficial to the public and make it easier for more people to attend. I brought this up before but that's just my opinion. I really think that one of the public hearing dates should be a Saturday. But that's just an opinion. Thanks.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Anyone else?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Chairperson, let me share one more thing. I forgot. And then Senate maps are due to the U.S. District Court August 2. Plaintiffs file objections to the Senate plan with the Court. Defendants response to objections by the Plaintiffs is on the 16th and reviewing special master is on the 16th. Then we would get a week for the parties to file on that and then the 30th the Court would approve remedial Senate redistricting plan no later than this date. So just kind of sharing that for everyone's review.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So I have a question. This is what you're going to give to our legal team when they discuss with the Plaintiff's counsel because they have to come up with a combined plan, right?

So this would be our suggestion?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Correct.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, any other questions or comments?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Szetela had her hand, and I don't know if she had a question.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I saw that.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I was going to ask what Cynthia just asked this is what we are proposing and not set yet.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Correct.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes. I just thought about Commissioner Lange's comment about a Saturday meeting and might not be a bad idea and would like to know what the rest of the Commissioners think of that. There may be better opportunity for people to participate because most people are off on Saturday I would assume. So I thought maybe I would throw that out there, see what the rest of you thought about doing that.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Think about it. Mr. Fink?

>> I put my hand up then you all had given yourselves accurate legal feedback, which this is a suggestion essentially from the Commission is subject to -- you're talking about the schedule itself. It's still subject to the Court reviewing, well, initially we are going to have a discussion with Plaintiff's counsel and hopefully reach an agreement on the schedule. So maybe this is subject to change, and we may have to come back to you and say actually we may need to go in a different direction, but I very much appreciate proactively proposing the schedule here. Thanks, that's it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay thank you. Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: On the Saturday meetings I don't have a problem with doing that. However, we have a lot of people who work for us, and I guess I would want to hear from, before we decide on a Saturday meeting, hearing at some time in the future, not necessarily today, what that would entail about getting everybody together on a Saturday.

>> CHAIR ORTON: You have a point. I'm sure Director Woods will contact whoever needs to be contacted and find out if that is feasible.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: All right.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, then next on the agenda new business 6B. Commissioner salary review. Without objection I will ask Director Woods to facilitate this item. Hearing no objection please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you Chairperson. There has been talk with regards to the Commissioners' salary when it comes to mapping, when it comes to mapping. And this is another request with regards to while the Commission is mapping and only while they are mapping the pay rate would go to 35% as it was previously while the Commissioner was mapping then when the Commission is not mapping it goes back to the 25%. And so during the House remedial plan the Commission was mapping from Monday January 15th and our payroll starts on Monday, ends on Sunday. And the map was turned into the Court on March 1st. So January 15th to March 3rd they were mapping the State House remedial plan. And so as to pay the Commission at a rate of 35% during that time. And then also to pay each Commissioner at 35% of the Governor's salary while mapping the Senate remedial plan. The start and end date will be determined by the Court order with regards to that in terms of how that would go. We would hopefully better know that at our April 18th meeting. But the recommendation would be to pay the Commission at 35% of the Governor's salary for mapping the State

House and Senate remedial plans. Currently as each Commissioner knows you are only getting paid 25% of the salary at this point right now. If there is any questions, I can take them at this time. But this is what came from Commissioner I believe Kellom was working on this and some other Commissioners as well with regards to appropriate proposal to bring before the Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: So I have a number of concerns with this. I mean first and primary is you know, we just heard that we are at 55% of budget when we are a third of the way through the year. And so rather than kind of checking what we are spending money on, we are proposing raising our costs by raising salaries. That just seems extremely irresponsible from a fiscal perspective. And I think it's going to make going to the legislature and asking for more money again even more challenging. Because you know, the fact that we are asking for more money for ourselves it is not good optics. It's not good public service in my humble opinion.

The other thing is, you know, again this is still a part time job. And so you know, all know I have a master's in business administration in addition to being a lawyer and last time I went through and counted the days for every single hearing, tried to figure out how many hours we worked. And from January 1st to yesterday, so March 20th, I calculated that we worked 126.4 hours. That works out to a little more than 11 hours a week. And if you actually figure out the hourly wage for that it's about \$63 an hour which is I think more than adequate to compensate us for what we are doing. Before people start talking about no benefits and no 401(k)s and all that jazz I don't know of any job you can work 11 hours a week or less than full time, less than 30 hours a week and have entitlement to benefits. It's just not the American structure of our compensation system. And so of course we don't have those benefits because we are not working full time. This is not our dedicated job.

Then the other issue I've heard a lot about is a living wage. A living wage for a single person in Michigan is about \$16 an hour. Even if you assume we are working 40 hours a week, which we were not, we are still earning more than 19 an hour, which is perfectly appropriate as a living wage. So again I just have strong objections to this. I don't think anything has changed in terms of urgency for this. We have considered this multiple times. It's been voted down multiple times. And so I'm really at the point where I don't want to even be talking about this anymore. Rather than make a motion to adopt your proposal Edward I'm actually going to make a motion that we consider the issue of salaries set at this point. And that this particular Commission put in place for the 2020 census does not reconsider the issue of salary again moving forward.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay it's moved and seconded that we -- do you want to restate that Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yeah I'm making a motion that this particular Commission meaning I don't want this to apply to future Commissions, the Commission that was put in place with respect to the 2020 census not be permitted to reevaluate salaries again in the future of the tenure of this Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay is there discussion on that motion?
Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I know I'm going to vote on this motion. I don't know how everybody else is going to vote. But if it's voted down, please be advised that I will be making a motion to adopt the recommendations.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay is there any other discussion on this motion?
Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'll yield.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, any other discussion?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Commissioner Szetela's hand is up Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I think it's still up.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yeah, I'm sorry.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So Department of State, could we please have a roll call vote?

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Absolutely Madam Chair. The motion before you is that this current Commission not be permitted to reevaluate salaries again under this present Commission. Is that right, Commissioner Szetela?

Or is there...

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Okay, thank you a yes vote means you are in favor of this motion as stated. A no vote means you are not in favor of a motion as stated. I will begin with Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Marcus Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Rebecca Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yes.

- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Janice Vallette?
- >> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: No.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Erin Wagner?
- >> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Yes.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Richard Weiss?
- >> COMMISSIONER WEISS: No.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Elaine Andrade?
- >> ELAINE ANDRADE: No.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Donna Callaghan?
- >> DONNA CALLAGHAN: No.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Madam Chair with a vote of three yes to ten no, the motion does not carry.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, thank you.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: You're welcome.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lett?
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well, as I stated I move that we adopt the proposal on the wages as presented by Executive Director Woods.
- >> COMMISSIONER WEISS: And I will second.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so we have a motion by Commissioner Lett, seconded by Commissioner Weiss that the pay for each Commissioner be at 35% of the Governor's salary just during the mapping portion of the House and Senate remedial plans. I think. And then the other times it would go back down to 25%. Assuming that I stated that clearly enough and it's on the screen, is there any discussion on that motion? Seeing no discussion can we have a roll call vote, please?
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Yes, ma'am. The motion before you is that the Commissioner pay be increased to 35% while mapping the State House and Senate remedial plans only. I will begin with Commissioner Eid?
- >> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Kellom?
- >> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lange?
- >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lett?
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Muldoon?
- >> MARCUS MULDOON: Yes.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Orton?
- >> CHAIR ORTON: No.
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Szetela?
- >> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Madam Chair with a vote of nine to four the motion carries.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: You're welcome.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes, to Executive Director Woods, when you approach our payroll processor please tell them to not include me in that 35%. The Constitution states that we will get at least 35 or pardon me 25%. It does not state that the Commission can determine that I'm going to get 35%. So please keep my salary at 25%. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay next on the agenda new business 6C, executive assistant and event coordinator pay rate. Without objection I will ask Executive Director Woods to facilitate this item. Hearing no objection, please proceed.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Sorry about that, jumped the gun. Commissioner Lange, happy to do that. Please provide that in writing and if any other Commissioner wants to do the same if you provide that in writing we will make sure that gets facilitated. Thank you so much.

Moving along. Okay, that's good and I will share my screen. All right the Commissioner hired Kristen Taylor at 35 to assist with the public events in 2021. As we ramped up the processing and events she agreed to a rate of 30. So when we went to ask her to serve part time, she went back and looked, and she realized in 2021 she was getting paid 35 an hour. And so she is asking to be paid back at that same rate now. Retroactive to her hire date as the event coordinator and administrative assistant. I support this recommendation. And ask that the Commission allow her rate to be at 35 per hour retroactive to her hire date as part time, as I should say her hire date as our part time event coordinator and administrative assistant. If there are any questions I can take them at this time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I know Ms. Taylor does a good job for us and has in the past and continues to do so, so I move we raise her rate to \$35 an hour.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: I second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, motioned by Commissioner Lett, seconded by Commissioner Weiss to raise Kristen Taylor's pay rate to \$35 an hour retroactive to when she was hired as part time. So is there any discussion on that motion? Seeing none, can we have a roll call vote for that, please?

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Absolutely, Madam Chair. The motion is before the Commission, a yes vote means you're in favor of the pay increase to 35 for Kristen Taylor a no vote means you are not in favor. I will begin with Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Madam Chair with a vote of ten yes to three no, the motion carries.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: You're welcome.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Is that all for that item, Director Woods?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Yes, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so next on the agenda new business 6D, public relations request for quote. And without objection I will ask Mr. Woods to facilitate. Hearing no objection please proceed.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Yes. We want to go out for bid for public relations. As you know last time we went out for bid for 49,999 and the Commission bifurcated it based upon its needs and awarded and split the money between 984 and McConnell Communications now we need to go out as relates to the State Senate. We have some more time. We provided you with the proposal. So we want to go out and give people an opportunity to bid. We hope to get even more bids since we don't have a compressed timeline. This is a request for proposal. So it's our informal bidding process where we are following our rules of procedure as relates to 49,999.99 with regards to this request for quote.

So want to go out for bid. You have the bid in front of you. It's posted in our meeting materials. And so seeking the Commission to do that. We already budgeted for that when we approved the revised budget as well. And just want to go ahead and move forward with the timelines. If there are any questions with regards to this request for quote I can take them at this time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any questions?

I don't see any.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: All right we just need a vote to move forward.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I move that we move forward with seeking a quote.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, so Commissioner Lett moves that we move forward seeking a public relations request for quote. And seconded by Commissioner Weiss. Is there any further discussion?

Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: My apologies. I was typing up my letter which you should have, Mr. Woods. Could you say that again what the quote is for?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Sure. It's basically Commissioner Lange the same quote we used for the Michigan House of Representatives remedial plan. Where we had seven districts as everyone knows we had to reconfigure. We are doing the same process, but the difference is for the Michigan Senate as relates to the six districts in the Court order that the Commission is required to reconfigure.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No, what is the money for?

What is the quote for?

What service?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Oh, I'm sorry. Community outreach. Social media, nontraditional media. Same services that were provided during the House phase.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay so my question is: Seeing the turn out from the last time, do you think that it's worth it?

What was the outcome, say, of your social media?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I think the outcome was definitely increase of awareness that took place as a result of that opportunity. If you notice we did things on TikTok with regards to that and if you just give me just a second, I can show you. So hold on, please.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I guess what I'm looking for is REI.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: No, I got it. I'm going to show it to you. Just a second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I would just say if anyone has any other ideas of how we can get the word out, I think we know we need to get the word out. We just can't not do anything. So if there are other suggestions I'm sure we could try other things as well.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Okay give me a second and I will have the answer to that question. Here is a list of highly propensity of voters 50,000 Detroit voters, virtual included the logo with regards to promotion of the town hall meeting. We had 50,000 with regards to that. 25,000 on the east side and the west side as relates to text message two. In terms of promoting the public hearings. Which also included the logo. Delivery rate for text message number one and two was over 96%. Delivery rate with over 1200 comments per each message with regards to whether I may try to make the 6-8 p.m. at Second Ebenezer. Will do, is there a link to participate online?

We saw this or viewed this as a positive way to kind of get the word out. Once again in a compressed timeline with regards to the public hearings, lessons learned, open House you don't need to be there the entire time or any amount of time.

Representatives available to explain the maps and answer questions. So this is something that we thought that we could do a better job, you know, within the 660 characters with regards to the lessons learned. And that is something that we kind of want to implement as relates to the Senate. Commercial review. Commercials were written produced forward and paid media and social media. Mirco is actually MICRC and a typo and Andre Ash with commercials in Spanish, Arabic and Bengali and Michigan with Comcast for airing with regards to that. We had digital enhanced e-mail. 125,000 average open rate per message. These are five E place messages that were e-mailed with targeted subject lines on the Redistricting Commission public hearings start tomorrow. Talking about the virtual town hall. That is what they are referring to. Districting public hearing tomorrow at greater grace. Show up speak up. And show up and speak up at Second Ebenezer so 125,000 e-mail blasts average open rate I think is kind of outstanding. So just continuing with that. And with regards to the review these are the different platforms that we were using included in the report as well. Here is the impressions in terms of metrics. 10,634.6% increase in impressions. Engagements went up by 15,100 and post link clicks are more than 4,000% and engagement rate per

session went up nearly by 42%. As a result of social media in terms of like I said nontraditional social media presence.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: My question is more specifically what was the return on the investment?

Because when we are looking at the people that actually came to the town halls and who submitted their comments, it seemed like the numbers were not that great. So there is my concern that maybe a different approach needs to be taken in order to actually get the people there. I mean, "Like"s and impressions mean nothing to me if there is not actions.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Well, I think now Commissioner Lange with the increase in time, you know, we can make sure that we get the plan submitted that will directly increase as relates to attendance and make that a metric with regards to that. But unfortunately with the social media nontraditional media metrics, it's kind of hard how to measure that with regards to attendance. So we will try to set some increasing goals as relates to that. Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: So are we given any thought to sort of changing our messaging from the simple show up speak up?

Because one of the comments I heard repeatedly during the last round of hearings was there is a lack of trust. People got up and said I came and spoke to you before. You didn't listen. The one guy very specifically said you didn't listen to me before so why should I believe you are going to listen to me now. That is the 800-pound elephant in the room we are not addressing. We had extensive outreach before and great response to that outreach, but the perception is we didn't listen. How are we trying to get over that hump in advertising again?

Because I think that frankly is a big part of the problem. Is why would people trust us to listen to them now when we didn't listen to them before?

And what are we doing to combat that impression among the public?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I think you bring up a good point Commissioner Szetela. Actually I think the people actually did, the Commission actually did listen. If you look at the overwhelming comments for the Motown Sound FCE1 in terms of analysis and the feedback the Commission received, if you look at the report from the report specific master in terms of Grofman, I do believe there is also a segment of the population that does believe. But like you said earlier, you know, there are some that have some trust. And obviously we would like to see more people. So we will work on that front because there is always room for improvement. But there is also I want to be very clear another side where people actually felt we listened in terms of the feedback, the comments, you know, we got the public comments from VNP with regards to their analysis. That they submitted to the public. So I get it that people may have different feelings. And we need to be balanced and open and receptive to being inclusive of everyone's different perspective and feelings to do that as well as trying to find more ways to increase

attendance at our public meetings. And we can make sure as a result of this proposal that is going out that whoever successful in getting that bid meets those needs that were raised today by each individual Commissioner so thank you for that.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Hi everybody. I was just thinking so I think we keep our efforts regarding social media but in terms of trust that is more internalized communities, not so much messaging. It has everything to do like a mixture of things. Our behavior as a Commission first of all, how we relate to each other and think about basic tenants of trust, a lot of people watch how we listen to each other and how we conduct business. So I think that is one aspect. On top of I think what was successful with our last public hearing tour, whatever we want to call it, was we had an increased engagement with the public. Commissioners that have not previously been as vocal were sitting with Detroit citizens. We were mingling with Detroit citizens, so I think if we can do that as much as possible on top of have culturally or community relevant approaches for communication going to schools, going to gymnasiums and going to rec centers to compensate for digital divides, schedules, all of those things. As much as we -- if we increase our level of engagement as Commissioners and the marketing approach to actually be in communities, then that's how people will trust us. More than that, that's how we will have more opportunities to educate them on the process. The more we do that, the better the turnout will be.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, I just want to echo what Commissioner Kellom just said. I think it makes a lot of sense. In addition to the social media which I do think is pretty valuable, I think I'm the only Commissioner here that uses social media to any extent, and it was pretty noticeable to me, when I saw the accounts start posting stuff. And there were, you know, people out there in the world that told me, hey, you know I saw you guys on Instagram or on Facebook or whatever. And those people hopefully they come out. We need to figure out a way to increase the efforts. Whatever way that may be and social media is one aspect of it, but another aspect is all the things Commissioner Kellom just said. Going to these outreach events, you know, building that trust in the community and maybe we can use the Motown Sound map as kind of a proof of concept for that. Maybe we can show, hey, you know this many people wanted this map, and this is what the Commission adopted. And go from there.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yeah, I just would disagree with the assertion that anything about what happened the last two months was successful in terms of public outreach. I think we had very, very few people commenting specifically about Detroit. We had a lot of people commenting about Grosse Pointe and St. Clair Shores, we had a lot of people continuing about Dearborn, Dearborn Heights and Melvindale and made up the bulk of the discussion were those people commenting about areas surrounding

Detroit. But we heard very little from people who were actually in Detroit and had comments and concerns about Detroit specifically. So I don't think in my opinion we can characterize it as a success at all. I think it was deficient. I understand certainly Edward you are under enormous pressure given the time to generate that flow of commentary. But I just think that flow of commentary wasn't there. And, yeah, I'm just not into the rah, rah, everything we did was great because I did not hear much from people from Detroit who I constantly wanted to hear from and was not hearing from so just my opinions and hopefully we can do it better for the Senate map so we get that engagement about people who are actually talking about Detroit versus people who are talking about the suburbs ringing in Detroit. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes. Usually the people in Detroit, if they are pleased, are not going to complain or say that much. They usually speak out when they are not pleased with what things are or how things are going. So I don't think that to make an assumption that because we didn't hear from Detroit that they were not pleased, or they did not like what was going on or they didn't feel like enough was done or whatever. Usually when they don't speak out and as a person that have lived in Detroit for 60 years I've talked to a lot of people, talked to my family and other folks. And usually when they are pleased with things, they don't speak out. My comment.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: You know I just want to take a moment to thank Edward and thank the people who are actually doing the outreach and trying to the best we with and while it's not perfect hopefully we can take the lessons we have learned and do better. I do think we are trying. And I think we are trying hard. So I'd like to take a moment to thank the people doing that.

>> CHAIR ORTON:

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: And one last thing before you guys look there is always room for improvement, open for ideas as you already know. We have McConnell Communications working right now to schedule presentations because of some of the concerns raised by Commissioner Szetela about the education process. So this is just an ongoing effort. We are -- there is always room for improvement. We have more time. We want to take advantage of that time. And we can make sure the concerns that were addressed today are definitely a part of that contracted process for whoever is awarded this particular contract. I thank you for the discussion and input because iron sharpens iron and want to make sure we hear from all voices to have the best product possible in our marketing communications to Metro Detroit residents but especially the City of Detroit residents as relates to the redistricting process so thank you again for the discussion and I hope you will move forward with approving and getting this out for bid, for the request for quote I should say, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'll move to adopt the request to quote.

>> Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, maybe I'm remembering wrong. I thought we already had a motion and a second and this was our discussion. Motioned by Commissioner Lett, seconded by Commissioner Weiss. Am I wrong?

Okay, I have some agreement on that. Okay, is there any other discussion?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Let's make sure we are on the record with MDOS is that what you all have?

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Madam Chair, that is correct. Commissioner Lett put forth the motion and Commissioner Weiss seconded.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, and I don't see any other discussion, so can we have a roll call vote, please?

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Absolutely. Commissioners the motion before you is for director to give permission to director -- Executive Director to be able to move forward with seeking quotes for public relations firms during the Senate remedial plan phase. A yes vote means you're in favor of that motion and a no vote means you are not in favor of that motion. I will begin with Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: This is just for a quote, correct?

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Yes, ma'am.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Thank you. Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Madam Chair with a vote of 12 yes to one no, the motion does carry.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you very much.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: You're welcome.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so next on the agenda new business 6E. State requests for third-party review of Commission expenses. Without objection I will ask Executive Director Woods to facilitate this item. Hearing no objection please proceed.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Yes. Sigma which is the software that is used to pay our vendors and the office of financial management are reviewing software that may improve the efficiency of the state's financial reporting to determine the software whether the software will work for what the state's needs.

We would like the software vendor to provide a proof of concept that would replicate prior reporting. To do in the state needs to share certain data regarding the accounting transactions that have posted at Sigma in fiscal year 2022. With the software vendor. And so no vendor names, vendor numbers, appropriation names or fun names will be shared. Just the appropriation number and fun numbers would be included but not the names. And so what has happened in the past with regards to Sigma data, when I have to get released from the Commission in order to do that because we are an independent body. And which we have granted me to do is do it for the executive Branch. And then you also gave me authority to give it to the office of auditor general which is a part of the legislative Branch. But you have not given me authority to share as relates to third-party vendors. And so this request is coming from the state. Once again it's dealing with fiscal year 22, 2022. It will not share anyone's name but just the account numbers for proof-of-concept public information, you know, with regards to our funds. I don't see it as a big deal. Or any threat to the Commission. And would recommend approval, but that's why I'm bringing it before you today because it does require a release of our data. And I did not have authorization as I shared earlier to do that as related to our Sigma information. So if there is any questions I can take them at this time.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I move we authorize the Director Woods to release the data as stated.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Seconded.

>> CHAIR ORTON: We have a motion by Commissioner Lett, seconded by.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Commissioner Wagner.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Wagner to authorize Director Woods to release this data as stated. Any further discussion on that?

Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm just wondering do they have a copy of the auditor general's report that we did last year?

This might be a totally separate thing, but that data might also help in their endeavor. We did.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Remember Commissioner Eid we only did half of fiscal year 2022 and stopped at March 31 but I'm sure they have a copy. If not I will obviously provide them with a copy. This is more or less for the third-party to show what they can do with the data as proof of concept to see if they want to go with the vendor.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I assume the third-party has been verified.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: By the state.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: To check the data.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Oh, yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Cool.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any other questions?

Or discussion?

Seeing none, could we have a roll call vote?

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Absolutely, Madam Chair. The motion is before you. A yes vote means you are in favor of the release of the information and a no vote means you are not in favor. And Executive Director Woods I would want to make sure the motion is correct it's for fiscal year 2022.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: That was the request, correct.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Okay, thank you. A yes vote means you are in favor. A no vote means you are not in favor. I will begin with Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Yeah.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Unanimously passed.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: You're welcome.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So next is new business 6F, January financial report. And I will again ask Executive Director Woods to facilitate this item. Hearing no objections please proceed.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Are you able to see that?

I want to make sure I enlarge it as much as I could.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yeah, looks good.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Great. Our appropriation is 3.3 million exactly. 3,331,200. As you can see our travel costs have obviously gone up because we've had in person meetings, and we've had Court hearings. So therefore our travel costs have gone up. Our facilities costs have gone up because as you already know we were planning to meet virtually once a month, but we've had to do mapping and rent equipment such as our AV and our streaming, our facilities that has gone up as well. Telecommunications is higher than normal because we bought four new phones. Three phones for Commissioners and one for our new part-time person, Kristen Taylor. And so you see those costs. Technology purchases, obviously computers. In the process of getting one for Ms. Taylor as well. So you see the normal monthly costs that we would do for computers has increased because of the purchase of computers.

Litigation counsel is there. Right there in terms of our costs there. No surprise that we were going up because we are in active litigation, so we expected that. Same thing with regards to local counsel. Our legal counsel as you know we have switched from Federal Compliance Consulting and now we are using Mr. Braden with regards to that and his legal fees are higher than what we were paying before. Professional services is standard and dealing with our financial as relates to insight three. And office supplies is there. So if you look at how much money in terms of our total expenses we have spent so far and once again I repeat this is as of January 31st, January 31st, so it's the four months is the money we have spent is 1.8 million. 1.8 million, this represents 55%. I do need to be clear as I shared earlier when Commissioner Szetela asked a question that we do have outstanding invoices from Election Data Services, and we also have some

as it relates to our sign interpretation that will be coming in. So I just want you to know what is not included for openness and transparency. But we are right now at 55%. I repeat 55% as of January 31st, January 31st as relates to the budget. If there is any questions I can take them at this time. Hearing none thank you very much, I appreciate it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. Okay, so moving on to new business agenda items 6G and H, the election of new Chair and Chairperson. So without objection we will proceed with the election process. May I have nominations for Chairperson?
Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes I would like to nominate Anthony Eid for Chairperson, please.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.
And Commissioner Eid, do you accept that nomination?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Sure, I'll accept.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I have a question. Do we need seconds for a nomination?
I have not done this before.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Let me double check that but I don't think so. I mean really you could consider the acceptance of the nomination as a second. So I think we are okay to proceed as long as the person accepts it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, thank you. Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm nominating Commissioner Szetela.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Szetela, do you accept that nomination?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Honestly I would rather have someone else do it.
So I'm going to say no. But I would like to nominate Donna Callaghan.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Callaghan, do you accept that nomination?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: No.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, and you had your hand up?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: I'd like to nominate Commissioner Muldoon.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Muldoon, do you accept that nomination?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: No thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I was also going to nominate Ms. Callaghan. I will nominate Brittini Kellom.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Kellom, do you accept that nomination?

We are going around the whole room here.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I would like to humbly decline but I appreciate it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: There's Commissioner Callaghan your hand is still up. Okay, Commissioner Eid your hand is still up, do you mean to have it up?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes I have another nomination.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'd like to nominate Commissioner Lett.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lett, do you accept that nomination?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I told you, Commissioner Orton, I had to step away who has been nominated thus far?

>> CHAIR ORTON: I'm sorry, many people have been nominated. And many people have declined. But Commissioner Eid has accepted a nomination.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well, I would have to say, no. I've done it before. And Commissioner Eid has not. I think that he would do a good job. So I will respectfully decline.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yep I'm going to nominate myself.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.

And I assume that you accept your nomination.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes, ma'am.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Commissioner Vallette, are you not interested in being Chair?

Because you are currently Vice Chair and normally you would be the next person to be Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR VALLETTE: No, I'm not interested. I would decline.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Okay.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Eid?

Is your hand up again?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: It is. Bear with me. I was also going to nominate Commissioner Vallette. I'll nominate Commissioner Weiss.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Weiss, do you accept that nomination?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: At this point in time, I will decline. But I may consider it later. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay any other nominations so far we have Commissioner Eid and Commissioner Lange. Seeing none, normally we give each nominee a moment to give a speech. Would you like to say anything Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Well, I'll just say, you know, this isn't a position I really want that much. But if the Commission calls on me to lead, I will do it the best I can. I'll just try to keep things orderly. And move the work forward. I'll try to from Roberts rules as best I can. And, you know, make sure that we speak in one voice.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, Commissioner Lange, do you want to say a few words?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I really don't think there is any words to say. This is the only reason I put myself on there was for an integrity aspect of it. A personal decision that I felt I had to do. So that's it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, so could we have a roll call vote?

Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA:

>> Hello

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Was someone else talking?

>> CHAIR ORTON: I don't know.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yeah I just have serious concerns about Commissioner Eid possibly being having any leadership role in this Commission. As we all know he was expelled from medical school for lack of professionalism and dishonesty. The Court in the Agee matter said he was invasive and not credible and.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Point of order. I don't think we need to have a list of what you find wrong with any nominee. I think.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I just would like to express my concerns before the vote as a member of this Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Sarah Reinhardt?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sorry, never mind.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I'm going to call for a roll call vote.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: You're taking the position I do not have the right to discuss a motion currently before the Commission just to clarify for the record?

>> CHAIR ORTON: You can discuss but we don't need a list of your grievances against another Commission se Szetela these are not my grievances, this is his history, not my grievances it's facts, it's not my opinion, it's what the Court did and what Michigan State did I mean Wayne state did, it's his history.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Vallette you have your hand up.

>> VICE CHAIR VALLETTE: Commissioner Szetela, I think we all know your concerns. I mean you have made it quite clear. So I really don't think you need to continue on.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Okay I understand. Again I want to make it clear for the record the body.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: I'm sorry Commissioners we did not catch that because there was double talking. We have to make sure that we are speaking one at a time so that the interpreters can interpret correctly. Thank you so much.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Ms. Young and point of clarification for that and with a point of order the discussion would cease. As a reminder not taking sides here with any point of the argument. Just pointing out clarification with how discussion continues when a point of order or something is declared out of order occurs. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON:

>> YVONNE YOUNG: You are on mute Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I'm sorry I was on mute. Commissioner Kellom, your hand is up.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I don't know if this is the right place to mention this, so if it's not, Chair/Sarah you can definitely interrupt me. My concern from what just happened is if Anthony is voted as Chair, right, and the vote still has to take place. Let's say even if he doesn't, and this is a public meeting, how are we going to, as Commissioners, protect because all of us have histories so, you know, playing devil's advocate what if individual Commissioners started looking into background of all the Commissioners and started for the sake of a public meeting and being on record airing people's business? I think what is happening, and I'm not showing favoritism, Commissioner Szetela I would be saying the same thing, you have a career. You have a mother. Other people are parents here and there is a level of integrity and morality that keeps coming up, with this Commissioner Eid issue. So it's personally it's frightening to me that this keeps happening. Whether he is Chair, Vice Chair, he is still a member of the Commission. He wasn't voted off. And I would not want as people to have to walk out into the world and as fragile as some people's mental health, et cetera is, I would not want anyone to be bullied. I would not want someone to bring up your personal history as a history or Elaine's personal history or Rhonda's personal history as a Realtor or my personal business as a mental health professional. This is really got to stop because it's dangerous and it's teetering on something else. I don't know that there is anything else to say. When I'm personally doing right now is standing in the gap for any Commissioner that your personal life is not being brought up. If you don't want someone as we have done anything else, you vote against it. But you don't use this opportunity to create an inappropriate platform after we just talked about communities' trust. This is where it starts. Look at how we treat each other. So I don't have any other comment. I see Commissioner Lange and Commissioner Szetela hands. I'm not speaking against the two of you. What I'm saying is be wise as two women of integrity what you are saying about another human being.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, so I see two more hands. I just ask that we like Commissioner Kellom said, no personal attacks on anyone else. If you have something to say about the election, fine. As long as it's not a personal attack on somebody else. And.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I'm sorry, if I may Madam Chair just to respond to Commissioner Kellom's sort of question about how things like this are addressed. Your rules of procedure and your code of conduct in conjunction with Robert's order does provide some sort of instruction for how to deal with when comments are made, that a Commissioner perceives as out of order or lacking de quorum. Your rules of procedure talk about how de quorum is supposed to take place during public meetings. So if that were to occur as we have seen in the past, other Commissioners may call a point of order or ask the Chair to review something as being out of order. And the decision rests with the Chair as to whether or not that comment, or line of discussion was out of order. I want to also note that as I think this has occurred a time or two in the past as well

where while the Chair has ultimate decision over whether or not something is out of order, the Commission itself also has the ability to appeal the rules of the Chair. So it's a very democratic process where everyone has input on rulings that are made. So I just wanted to, you know, note that out there. There are a lot of checks and balances for de quorum and civility and rulings of things as being out of order. So I hope that is helpful, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: It is helpful, but this has come up more than once. And including with myself. If a person is continuously out of order, if a person continuously badgers a point, if a person is continuously bringing up what I don't care if it's in the media or not but bringing that into our meeting, then it's more than a point of order. So and I just think it needs to be a standard across the board. Because all of us could stand to be a little bit more structured with our behavior and our words at times. Again, including myself.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: So I want to point out that what I brought up about the Court opinion has to do with Commissioner Eid's conduct as a Commissioner in a courtroom, in a case involving the Commissioner. That's not personally attacking him. It's stating a fact. Now you may find that uncomfortable, Commissioner Kellum. You may have difficulty reconciling that with your personal opinions about Commissioner Eid and his integrity but that is, in fact, what a panel of three Federal judges found, he was not credible and found he was evasive, and they specifically mentioned the Wayne state situation as further evidence of his past history of dishonesty. I think all of these come to bear on the fact that he is putting himself out there, asking to be the Chair. He put himself out there to be the primary witness in the Agee case. These are all choices that he made to draw attention and limelight to himself, and it is fair game to raise concerns about his behavior when he is asking to be placed in that position of power. And with respect to anybody else, you know, you make these references frequently about wanting to bring in stuff about other people, this is not relevant to this discussion because none of those other people are running for Chair. Commissioner Eid is running for Chair. So let's not get distracted and try to create red herrings about discussion points. I mean his past behavior is an air of concern for the Commission. You can choose to ignore that all you want. You can have cognitive dissonance and in your brain but it's not inappropriate for me to raise it as a concern.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'll just say two things. One, I did not ask to be Chair. Someone nominated me. As I said I don't really want to be Chair but if the Commissioner calls on me to lead then that is what I will do. Likewise I did not ask to be the witness in the Agee case. The lawyers asked me to do that. And I'll always defend the work of the Commission even when I disagree with it. Because we are one

Commission, we are supposed to be acting in one voice for the betterment of the Commission. Not for ourselves. Now, yeah, I'll certainly trust what the 13 of you think. We have worked together quite a while. If you want to vote for me vote for me or don't or Ms. Lange and Commissioner Szetela I will nominate you if you think people will vote you over me. Let's just take the vote and see.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I'll take you up on that Commissioner Eid.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: It should be closed, and we take a vote.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay I'm a little confused about what happened. Commissioner Eid, were you seriously nominating Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, I nominate Commissioner Szetela. She was already nominated so I don't know if you want to go back to that.

>> CHAIR ORTON: She did not accept but do you accept Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yeah, I just said I would.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Do you want to say a few words?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Steve has called for a vote, so I say we go ahead and vote.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm sorry before we vote if Commissioner Szetela is accepting the nomination then I will withdraw mine only if she is accepting.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, so the nominees are Commissioner Eid and Commissioner Szetela. But before we vote I'm going to let Commissioner Kellom speak because her hand was up for a while.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: It's okay I will just handle it in my vote.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay roll call vote, please.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Yes, ma'am. Commissioner, this vote is for the election of Chairperson. The two candidates before you are Commissioner Eid and Commissioner Szetela. Please share by stating the name of the Commissioner either Commissioner Eid or Commissioner Szetela that you would wish to vote for. I will begin with Commissioner Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: I vote for Commissioner Eid.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Commissioner Eid.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Commissioner Eid.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'll vote for myself.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Kellom?

- >> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Commissioner Eid.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lange?
 - >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Szetela.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lett?
 - >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Commissioner Eid.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Muldoon?
 - >> MARCUS MULDOON: Commissioner Eid.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Orton?
 - >> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Eid.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Szetela?
 - >> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Myself.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Vallette?
 - >> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Eid.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Wagner?
 - >> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: If I can't vote for Mickey Mouse I will go with Commissioner Szetela.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Weiss?
 - >> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Commissioner Eid.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: With a vote of ten for Commissioner Eid and three for Commissioner Keller I'm sorry Commissioner Szetela, Commissioner Eid reigns as your new Chairperson.
 - >> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.
- Congratulations, Commissioner Eid. Since that was so fun let's do it again and I will take nominations for Vice Chair. Commissioner Weiss?
- >> COMMISSIONER WEISS: I would like to nominate Brittini Kellom, please.
 - >> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Kellom, do you accept the nomination for Vice Chair?
 - >> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I don't know. It's just because of my schedule honestly. So I don't know. Come, let me think. Let me think.
 - >> CHAIR ORTON: We are letting her think. Commissioner Lange?
 - >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Szetela.
 - >> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Szetela, do you accept the nomination?
 - >> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I need to think about it.
 - >> CHAIR ORTON: We have two people thinking about it. Are there any other nominations?
Commissioner Eid?
 - >> COMMISSIONER EID: I'll nominate Commissioner Curry.
 - >> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Curry, you say no?
 - >> COMMISSIONER CURRY: No.
 - >> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Callaghan?

- >> DONNA CALLAGHAN: I nominate Commissioner Muldoon.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Muldoon, will you accept nomination for Vice Chair?
- >> MARCUS MULDOON: No, thank you.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lange, is your hand up again?
- >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yeah, it is. While we are sitting here waiting and people are thinking, I would like to make a plea to Commissioner Szetela. Commissioner Szetela, you have had the same we will call it kind of point of view on things as I've had and with the Chair and Vice Chair I think it would be nice to have somebody who can understand your point of view without calling names at you for having that point of view or what have you. So I hope you would consider taking the nomination. That's it.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Weiss?
- >> COMMISSIONER WEISS: I would like to nominate Commissioner Lett, please, if he will accept.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lett, will you accept the nomination for Vice Chair?
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, so far we have one accepted nomination of Commissioner Lett. Is anyone else ready to give their answer, Commissioner Kellom or Commissioner Szetela?
- >> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I'll accept simply so we have choices.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.
- >> CHAIR KELLOM: Reluctantly I'm accepting.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, and so we have nominees of Commissioner Lett, Commissioner Szetela and Commissioner Kellom. Are there any other nominees? Seeing none, do any of the three of you wish to make or say a few words?
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: I do not.
- >> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I do not.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Kellom, I can see the wheels turning.
- >> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I will say I'm committed to the community and the process of us getting these next maps right. And doing so in a way that does not have people feeling ostracized and continues to build teamwork and as much trust within the Commission as possible.
- >> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. Okay could we have a roll call vote, please?
- >> YVONNE YOUNG: Absolutely. The vote is for the election of your upcoming Chairperson. Your three Commissioners are Commissioner Lett, Commissioner Szetela, and Commissioner Kellom. Please say which candidate you would like to vote for by name either Commissioner Lett, Commissioner Szetela or Commissioner Kellom as I call your name. I'll begin with Donna Callaghan?

- >> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Commissioner Kellom.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Curry?
 - >> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Commissioner Lett.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Eid?
 - >> COMMISSIONER EID: Commissioner Kellom.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Kellom?
 - >> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Commissioner Lett.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lange?
 - >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Szetela.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lett?
 - >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Commissioner Kellom.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Muldoon?
 - >> MARCUS MULDOON: Commissioner Kellom.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Orton?
 - >> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Kellom.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Szetela?
 - >> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Can you skip me and come back to me?
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: I can skip you?
 - >> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Thank you.
 - >> VICE CHAIR VALLETTE: Lett.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Wagner?
 - >> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Szetela.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Weiss?
 - >> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Commissioner Kellom.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Andrade?
 - >> ELAINE ANDRADE: I vote for Commissioner Kellom.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: And back to Commissioner Szetela?
 - >> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I will vote Szetela, thanks.
 - >> YVONNE YOUNG: Madam Chair with a vote of eight for Commissioner Kellom, three for Commissioner Szetela and two for Commissioner Lett, Commissioner Kellom will reign as your next Vice Chair.
 - >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm sorry doesn't it go to a runoff?
- Don't we do it ranked like the least amount of votes gets dropped off and it goes into another vote?
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Let me double check your rules of procedure really quick on that.
 - >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay, thank you.
 - >> CHAIR ORTON: Mr. Fink?
 - >> Thank you Madam Chair. I was looking at the rules of procedure and hoping to flag this for Ms. Reinhardt looks like Section 7.2 says that the Commission shall

nominate and elect from within its membership a Chairperson and a Chairperson. I don't see anything in the rules, at least in this Section that would require a runoff. I frankly don't know how you have handled situations where you've had more than two candidates running in the past. But I don't see anything in the rules here. I could be incorrect.

>> CHAIR ORTON: My understanding is we did the runoff if no one got the majority, at least 7 votes but for sure. Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm pretty sure we always did a round Robin where it dropped off until it got to, and the lowest vote is the one that would be dropped off if there were two tying lower votes both of those would drop off. That is how it has been done in the past.

>> Again, in this circumstance where one Commissioner did receive a majority, again, I don't know how historically you had done it in the circumstance where you had someone with majority and a couple other candidates who maybe got a few votes. I could understand if you had no candidate with a majority then perhaps you go to a runoff. But again I don't see anything in the rules that would indicate either way.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: My understanding, I think we have only had this issue once when former Commissioner Witjes became Chair was it went to round Robin if nobody got majority. But did somebody get majority in this vote?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes Commissioner Kellom had eight.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Gotcha.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So was that our clarification?

Or is there further clarification coming?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Mr. Fink is correct and that it doesn't state explicitly if there should be a runoff vote. In the rules of procedure. I would agree with what he was saying in terms of because there was a clear majority achieved for the vote of Vice Chair with eight total votes for Commissioner Kellom and the remaining five votes for the other two candidates, it means there was an outright majority and that a runoff is not necessarily needed. However, if you all -- if there was Commission consensus that you would like to go to a runoff for excuse me the final two candidates receiving the most votes that is certainly something that we can do in an attempt to be consistent with what we have done in the past. And I believe Anthony is what you were speaking, Commissioner Lange, to what you were speaking we have done runoffs before in the event where an outright majority was not achieved.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so I will ask Commissioner Kellom and Commissioner Szetela, the top two vote gets do either of you wish to have a second round?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I don't think we do.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Would you like to Chair the rest of the meeting?

>> CHAIR EID: I would like to. Thank you Commissioner Orton and Vallette under tumultuous circumstances and it was not easy given the things we have done in the past six months, and you have done a bang-up job. So a round of applause for our Chair and Vice Chair.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Thank you for your support.

>> CHAIR EID: Agenda approval of the minutes. We have approval of the minutes for December 14th and December 28th. We will start with December 14th. These draft minutes have been provided to the Commission before this meeting and are posted on our website. I will now entertain a motion to first approve the December 14th meeting minutes.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Second.

>> CHAIR EID: There needs to be a motion first. Moved by Commissioner Orton and Commissioner Vallette you are seconding that?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> CHAIR EID: Wonderful there is a motion and a second is there any discussion on the December 14th meeting minutes?

Seeing no discussion we will move on to vote.

All those in favor of adapting the minutes for December 14th raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR EID: Are there any opposed to the motion?

Wonderful, the motion passes.

Next up is the approval of the minutes for December 28th. Likewise these draft minutes have been provided to the Commission before this meeting and are posted on the website. I will now entertain a motion for approval of the December 28th minutes.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So moved.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Second.

>> CHAIR EID: Wonderful. The motion is made by Commissioner Orton and seconded by Commissioner Weiss. We will now move on to discussion. And I see Commissioner Wagner's hand raised, the floor is yours.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Yes it is and I had a quick question. I know Edward had sent us the revised minutes for December 28th. I did not catch whether you caught on Page three under A, moved by Commission Lett. So I didn't know if you caught that in the revised, or not. Thank you.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: We can make that adjustment, thank you Commissioner Wagner.

>> CHAIR EID: Is there any other discussion on the motion?

I'm not seeing any. All those in favor to approve the motion, please raise your hand and say aye.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Please note with the correction.

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>> CHAIR EID: Yes, with the -- all those in favor to approve the motion with the correction that Commissioner Wagner just stated, please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR EID: Is there any opposed?

The motion passes.

Next up on the agenda is the Executive Director's report. I will now ask the Executive Director Edward Woods III to provide his report. Without objection, I do not see any objection. Please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: All right we are going to go very quickly because it's 11:56 a.m. and want you to know a couple projects I am working on Kristen, and I will be working with the website address. There is 1200 website addresses that need to be updated by July in order for the public to access the materials. This could be meeting agendas, attachments for the meeting materials, so we want to make sure they are updated. So that will be a project that we will be working on once again 1200 I repeat at least 1200 website addresses will need to be updated. Preparing for possible litigation. As you know in the past we did the catalog of meetings in preparation for the Agee case. We are trying to take the lessons learned from there to make sure we are ready for possible litigation. And information is available on the website as relates to whoever the Plaintiff's counsel may be.

Last but not least I'm wearing pink today, a pink tie. 2024 is women's history month theme for March, is women who advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion. And I just want to thank the women of this historic Commission for what you have done to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion in the redistricting process to ensure voices are heard so I want to recognize our very own Cynthia Orton, Janice Vallette, Elaine Andrade, Donna Callaghan, Brittini Kellom, Juanita Curry, Rebecca Szetela, Erin Wagner and Rhonda Lange and Sarah Reinhardt Annette Blough, Lily and Bethany James, Julie, Toi and other women who have helped us to ensure that we have diversity equity and inclusion in this historic process. So hats off to the women who continue to serve or support the Commission including our own Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and happy women's month and thank you for your service and thank you for all the women who have participated in this historic process because you continue to make a difference when democracy takes place, inclusion is a part of the process. So thank you for that. And that's it for my report so we can get out by Noon. Mr. Chairperson, can't say Madam anymore.

>> CHAIR EID: Thank you, Mr. Woods. Next on the agenda is the legal liaison report. Without objection I ask that our MICRC legal liaison Commissioner Lett provide his report, without objection.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have a lot of report. The recommendation from the special master has been provided. If you have not read it you should. It's not that long. And it certainly recommends that our efforts be approved by

the Court. Obviously it will ultimately be up to the Court, but if you haven't read it, read it because it's quite favorable to what we did. That's it.

>> CHAIR EID: Commissioner Lett, when is the next hearing scheduled?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Edward, when is the next hearing scheduled?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I'm on mute. We don't have a hearing scheduled Commissioner Eid. We do have a report due as that is regarding April 12th with regards to our proposed as can we reviewed earlier our proposed timeline but there has not been a date for the schedule. Mr. Fink is here, and he can speak better to that than I do but I'm not aware of it.

>> That is correct. The Court at this point has not scheduled any additional in-person hearings or remote hearings at all. The Court has said that it will approve a remedial House Districting redistricting plan no later than March 29th. So a week from tomorrow. The parties can respond to the reviewing master, Dr. Grofman's special master report. The parties can respond to that by this Monday. And the Court will take those filings into consideration and then decide which map will be adopted by next Friday. And that's on the House side and then as Director Woods said, we will be conferring with the Plaintiff's counsel about establishing a schedule for the Senate mapping. And if the Court does schedule a hearing, we will of course let you know right away.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Just so everybody is aware, the Court does not have to have another hearing. They could issue an opinion based upon the briefs that have been submitted.

>> Correct.

>> CHAIR EID: Okay, thank you, Commissioner Lett, Executive Director Woods and Mr. Fink. Next on the agenda are MDOS updates. I will ask MDOS if they have an update. Hearing no objection, please proceed.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hi, everyone. This is Sarah Reinhardt, Michigan Department of State. I just wanted to let you all know that with it being a Presidential election year, a lot of the work that I will be doing for the Department of State will be primarily focused on that. And as such I will be taking a half step back from support of the Commission. Luckily I leave you all in excellent hands with Yvonne Young and Meghan Scharr, the Associate Legal Director, Department of State and, sitting on all of your meetings for the past year or so as well. So they will be stepping up to take over duties for the secretary of the Commission. I will pop in as I'm able as does Mike Brady every now and then. But for the duration of your redrawing of remedial Senate maps, they will be taking point on secretary duties for the Commission during meetings and outside of meetings. So if you need anything that you would normally contact me or Mike about please feel free to reach out to them and I of course am always available to assist as well. And that's all I have. Thanks.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you Sarah for your service and congratulations on your promotion.

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>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> CHAIR EID: Yes, thank you, Sarah, you have been a wonderful person to work with over this time. And I'm sure we will be seeing you again.

Next on the agenda is future agenda items. Does anybody have a future agenda item they would like to see on the next agenda?

I do not see any hands. Next up on the agenda are announcements, are there any announcements?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Just want to remind those who do plan to attend that the Memorial service for Commissioner Doug Clark who served this Commissioner well as chase and Vice Chair will take place this Saturday as a friendly reminder for those who choose to attend, thank you.

>> CHAIR EID: Are there any other announcements?

I will just say for fun you know it's March madness time, the first games are today. We have two universities that are in the tournament, MSU and Oakland University. If you want to have fun and make a bracket with me let me know.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Go green.

>> CHAIR EID: All right, it is time to adjourn, I will now entertain a motion to adjourn.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So moved, go green.

>> CHAIR EID: We have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion on the motion?

Not seeing any discussion. All those in favor to adjourn please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR EID: Are there any opposed?

This meeting is adjourned at 12:04 p.m. See everybody next time.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Bye thanks.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thanks, everyone.