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MICRC

03/24/22 10:00 am Meeting

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>> CHAIR ROTHORN: It's 10:00, good morning.

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 at 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 or details for language translation services for this meeting.

People with disabilities or needing other specific accommodations should also contact Redistricting at Michigan.gov.

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 Michigan.gov/MICRC website along with the written public comment submissions.

There is also a public comment portal that may be accessed by visiting Michigan.gov/MICRC, this portal can be utilized to post maps and comments which can be viewed by both the Commission and the public.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, our Communications and Outreach Director and soon to be executive director for the Commission at WoodsE3@Michigan.gov or 517-331-6309.

For the purposes of the public watching and for the public record I will now turn to the Department of State staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good morning, Commissioners. please say present when I call your name. Because we are all attending the meeting remotely, please disclose you are attending remotely and as well as your physical location you are attending from, City County or Township. I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present; attending the meeting from Huntington Beach, California.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

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>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present; attending remotely from Detroit, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Good morning. Present and remotely attending today.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Can you say that again?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Attending from Oakland County, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Present; attending from Detroit, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present; attending remotely from Reed City.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present; attending Remotely from Battle Creek, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Present, attending remotely from Lansing, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Present; attending remotely from Wayne County, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present, attending remotely from Highland, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present; attending remotely from East Lansing, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present, attending remotely from Saginaw Township, Saginaw Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I'm Present; attending remotely from Howell, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: All Commissioners are present.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Wonderful. My Internet is unstable so I will keep my video off for a moment and try to do it just the way we are.

Thank you, Ms. Reinhardt.

As a reminder to the public watching, You can view the agenda at Michigan.gov/MICRC.

I would now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

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>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I would like to add a part to the agenda I would like to add a reconsideration of the 7% raise which we voted on a couple of times in the past.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay I hear that and also see a hand from Commissioner Clark.

Excuse me, we should have a second first because that was an amendment, there was a second from Commissioner Weiss for this amendment, is it okay if we add this to the agenda? I believe we are also adopting our budget today.

Or there is a recommendation for the budget.

This would affect the budget so maybe we should add to this maybe unfinished business perhaps and amend the budget to 5C and add it to 5B are you okay with that Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay, there is a motion to amend the agenda to 5B and add a reconsideration of the 7% raise.

All in favor of this amendment raise your hand and say aye.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Mr. Chair.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, I'm sorry.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Who was the second?

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: That was Commissioner Weiss.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you. All in favor please say aye.

Aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Nay.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Kellom, the motion is adopted. Is there another amendment to the agenda, Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes. Our last meeting we created a position of our legal liaison and Steve took that position.

I'd like to add that as a report from Steve, maybe after item number 8 and before the MDOS report on every agenda item from here forward.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: So have it as a standing agenda item with the staff reports that's what I'm hearing; is that correct Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Right after the staff report yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well I have a comment on that.

A lot of times that's not going to be a very detailed report for the reason that typically we are going to discuss litigation strategies and we don't do that in open meeting.

We do that in a closed meeting.

I certainly can report we had a meeting and a general topic, but if you're expecting a detailed report from me, we would do that in a closed meeting.

So I don't know exactly what you're wanting me to do, Doug.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would not expect that sort of thing to be reported but if there is something other than that, it's general knowledge for all of us that took place, I think that would be appropriate.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I don't have any problem with that.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: So is that a second Commissioner Lett for Commissioner Clark's proposal?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I don't know that you need a motion for it just stick it on the agenda and we will talk about it.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Amend the agenda. Are you okay with that, Commissioner Clark, rather than formally amending the agenda add it? We need to formally amend it. So I believe we have to vote on that amendment, so I believe we do need a second. Second by, okay, I see from Commissioner Szetela.

Okay, so in favor, all in favor of adding after staff reports I guess that would be nine, this will be item nine and move MDOS updates to 10 and so forth.

So on our agenda for today.

This would be a report or a legal counsel, will legal liaison report all in favor of adding that for the agenda today and in the future, please raise your hand and say aye. Aye.

All opposed say nay same sign.

All right we have our amended agenda.

So the agenda now as amended we are ready to approve that.

Do I have a motion to approve, excuse me Executive Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: We have another amendment that needs to be approved before we approve the agenda.

So that would be the amendment by Commissioner Lett supported by Commissioner Weiss to add reconsideration of the 7% raise.

I don't believe that was voted on yet.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Did I neglect.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: We voted on it.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Confirmed it was voted on 12-1.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you I'm sorry.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: No that is okay thank you.

Excuse me do I have a motion to approve the agenda as amended?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So moved.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: First from Commissioner Lett and second from Commissioner Orton is there any discussion or debate? Hearing none it is moved and seconded that the agenda be adopted as amended.

All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

And I'll just ask, yeah, all opposed raise your hand and say nay.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Nay.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay, the ayes prevail, the motion is adopted.

And thank you.

Okay so we are now moving on to, without objection we will begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of our meeting. Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with the public comment.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide live in person public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.

I will call on your name and the staff will unmute you. If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the zoom app to unmute your mic and speak. If you on the phone, a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute.

I will call on you by your name or the last four digits of the phone number. Also please note I'm reading the script and don't have an e-mail.

Do we have any public comment?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes. we have two public comment participants.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay, great, then I will continue. Also note if you experience technical or audio issues or we do not hear from you for 3-5 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 at redistricting@michigan.gov and we will help you troubleshoot so you can participate during the next public comment period at a later hearing or meeting.

You will have two minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line to provide public comment is Number one.

>> MR. JAMES GALANT: Good morning. This is James Galant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition. These are my opinions and welcome to the new Chair. Congratulations.

This is a whole new era for this Commission and as a Chair you have the right and the responsibility to acknowledge and disavow any past discrepancies in the rules of procedure and how that all works.

And there is a new it's a new opinion now and it's Commissioner Rothorn that is good. So I would like to say that concerning the rules of procedure, well first like I say thank you for the expanded time.

That frees that up a little bit and get a chance to think for a second extra.

About the rules of procedure though and if you don't mind constructive criticism Mr. Chair is that when you just approve the amended agenda you started with the amendment.

That's a secondary motion.

Which is only appropriate to be attached to a main motion to approve.

Approve the agenda with any amendments now you vote on amendments.

But the main motion is still pending that is the immediately pending question.

I would ask you Mr. Chair to request that the staff would make a training Roberts rules of order and what they actually are and not everybody has a different opinion and everybody is not clear on that on the same Page especially since at the last meeting when Commissioner Lett thought that he would be appropriate for him to give his opinion about the rules of procedure and the future Commissions you know they don't have to follow these rules.

But that's just a personal you know, his personal level of commitment to you know the parliamentary you know fundamental principles of parliamentary law in America.

I don't know if he voted for the pledge allegiance but that is wrong.

What he said was in direct contradiction to what your lawyer instructed you which these rules prevail to the next reiteration.

The prior iteration.

That is what I'm saying to you Mr. Chair the former Commission on legislative apportionment was what was created.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Mr. Galant.

And I will do my best to keep our procedure in process to keep us going.

Next in line for public comment is Mr. Anthony Skinnell.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, we can.

Yes, we can, Mr. Skinnell.

>> So can you hear me?

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes.

>> Okay, thank you for the two minutes.

See this is why we needed a little extra time which you know I appreciate that for and you know I saw the I mean I heard arguments being made by certain Commissioner last week or two weeks ago that well they think a one minute was adequate, sufficient time to say what really needs to be said.

And I would just say well how many times have I or Mr. Galant or anyone else been cutoff so many times? We've been cutoff quite a few.

It was water under the bridge to me until a Commissioner said we had adequate time so I had to make that correction, we haven't so I appreciate it.

I can understand when you had 50 hundred people here so you don't know what you haven't heard because the time was so short.

Okay I would like to also congratulate you on the new Chair.

Like Mr. Galant said it's a new day and I look forward to some better adherence to just you know, dequorum I will put it that way.

I think you're the best person for it the new Chair.

Here is a little side note there is a broken agenda link in the e-mail for Secretary of State, the link for the agenda doesn't work.

And then what else do we have? You will consider the raise.

Well, okay, that's good.

You're going to be I don't know asking for a million dollars from the state legislature and the taxpayers of Michigan soon if I recall.

I mean, maybe a million dollars is small in the context of Michigan the whole state.

But a million dollars is not nothing to laugh at.

I mean that is a big amount of money so good luck on that.

Still waiting for your explanatory reports Section 16 of the constitutional amendment.

I don't know when that is going to come up.

I'm eagerly awaiting and the dissenting reports, which I think I will be agreeing with it more.

But, yeah, I also wish that you Commissioners and all the listeners and the public would stop voting for the two parties.

It's not really helping us and the whole structure of this Commission you have too many Dems and GOP advantages.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission, Mr. Skinnell.

That concludes our public comment for this morning. However, I would like to mention that all e-mailed and mailed public comment is provided to the Commission before each meeting. And Commissioners also review the public comment portal on our website, www.Michigan.gov/MICRC on a regular basis. We appreciate everyone who provides public comment in whatever way you choose and invite you to keep sharing your thoughts especially if you would like to share the ways that you think the MICRC processes or procedures could be better or effective.

I would like to turn it over to the Vice Chair to lead us in discussion and facilitate unfinished business, Commissioner Witjes.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Thank you Mr. Chair.

So next on our agenda is unfinished business and looking at 5A third amendment to Edward Woods III contract we discussed that last week.

Without objection, I'll ask Commissioner Clark and Commissioner Curry to report on this agenda item as they were part of the ad hoc committee at this particular point.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Can you all hear me? Doug and I met together and we discussed the pay rate for the positions for our communications director, so I'm going to let Doug take over and tell you all what we discussed if it's okay.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'd be happy to, Juanita.

We had a good meeting. It was Juanita, Edward, and myself. And we negotiated Edward's salary. And he had indicated to us as a group that he was willing to take the Executive Director and the communications director position. So we went on a discussion on the salary that he would receive to perform that job function.

And I will summarize what we came up with. The salary that we agreed to and we indicated to Edward that our job, Juanita's job and my job, was to bring that back to the Commission for a vote and that is what we are going to do today.

The salary was \$152,000 on an annual basis.

In addition to that, there is one week of paid vacation that is to be taken as the last week of Edward's work.

The contract extension will be through the end of September of this year.

And Edward is to receive a 30-day notice before the job is terminated from the Commission.

So these were the items that we agreed to between Juanita, Edward and myself. And those are basically the items that are in the contract extension and what we need to vote on. Are there any questions on what we discussed?

I got one other item. From a budget perspective, this is almost \$126,000 reduction in savings of the staff salaries.

So and that is because we are consolidating two jobs and decided to consolidate the Executive Director job and the communications director job.

Are there any questions?

Cynthia?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I feel like we really can't put a date on it because we don't know when we are going to dissolve can we say the job or the position ends when the Commission shuts down because we just don't have control over that.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: The reason we did the date, and that the contract extension, is we have funding through this fiscal year which ends at the end of September.

And if we for some reason extend past that we can also amend this contract and extend the date. That was our reasoning on that.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So, follow-up question, even though there is money we have been allocated a budget through September, do we have the authority to use the budget if we are dissolved?

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Director Hammersmith, would you like to talk about that?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Sure. The contract states until September 30th or until the Commission goes dormant prior to September 30th whichever occurs first. So if the Commission would decide just for example if the Commission would decide to go dormant on say June 30, Edward will have work to do beyond that so you would have to authorize him to finish the work of the Commission.

There will be budgeting, there will be bills to pay, there will be things he will have to do so you have to authorize his extend his term probably the next 30 days for him to wrap up so that is how that would work.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Questions or thoughts from anybody? Okay, so let's move on there.

Let's look at a potential motion to adopt resolution 2022.03.13 which is the new contract for Edward Woods III.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'll put forth that motion.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Motion made by Commissioner Clark is there a second.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Seconded by Commissioner Curry.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Confirming that the resolution is 2022.03.11 I believe you said 13.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Yes 11 I apologize.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Forgive me Commissioner Witjes but to note there is a Scribner's, it should say third amendment and says adopt record retention policy so make sure we change that on the resolution when we.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I'm sorry? 22.03.13 is new business and I just looked at the wrong line.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: MC is just clarifying that the title of the resolution isn't a Scribner's, error so I found that out after I sent things out so that has been corrected.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Motion made and seconded let's vote and all in favor raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

Opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Nay.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Nay.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: All right, motion carries.

Okay now we are going to move on to Section or new unfinished business that was added for the adoption of the agenda.

Move to 5B without objection, which is reconsideration of the 7% raise.

Two Commissioners this was brought by Commissioner Lett so Commissioner Lett if you would like to speak upon it, please go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Certainly.

In considering the action that the Commission has taken and some of the comments and reconsideration I thought it might be good for the Commission to reconsider its vote and therefore I bring that motion for the Commission to reconsider, be clear that this is not a motion to adopt the 7 or rescind it, it's simply a motion to reconsider.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Correct me if I'm wrong you were on the side of that voted in favor of keeping it, correct? So you can make that.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: That's correct.

I voted for the raise.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Is there a second from anybody else who voted for the 7% increase? Well, okay, seconded by Commissioner Vallette.

So we will vote now on the motion to reconsider.

And we are going to do a roll call vote for that, please.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Looks like Commissioner Kellom has a hand.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I have a question and this could be the inappropriate time to ask it is there any sort of rule that talks about how many times we can reconsider a vote?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Indeed I asked this question of Mike Brady, who said, yes, our rules do have a one option for reconsideration.

We can, however, he also said that this Commission could change its salary at every meeting if so desired.

I mean the Commission sets its own rules.

What you might and I might have here is Mike, let him explain it.

He is probably much better at it than I.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Mr. Brady?

>> MIKE BRADY: Good morning through the Chair and yes executive Hammersmith had flagged the question for me.

As I look at it, I'm looking at following along at home Section 9.4 of rules of procedure speaks to results of voting.

The subsection A I'm sorry B, reads I think in pertinent part it says then a couple different aspects to it.

One is you know that any member voting in the majority can move for a reconsideration of the vote at that meeting or the next succeeding meeting of the Commission provided no action has been taken as a result of the previous vote.

A few different things first and for most Vice Chair Witjes you had flagged appropriately asked the question whether the moving party was somebody who voted in favor previously.

I believe check the box on that.

One of the other things that stands out there is provided that no action has been taken as a result of the previous vote I do not know whether or not that 7% has already gone into effect.

If it has or if other, okay, executive Hammersmith I see you shaking your head no.

So that would allow that said.

The next sentence says when a motion to reconsider fails it cannot be renewed.

So as I recall, but I'm hoping that you know I'll just place it out there more of a question than a statement, I recall that at the last meeting if I'm tracking this correctly two meetings ago there was a vote to set it at 7%.

And at the last meeting there was a motion to reconsider and that motion to reconsider failed.

And so along those lines, this last sentence of 9.4B that says when a motion to reconsider fails it cannot be renewed, that would be controlling.

Now, what Executive Director Hammersmith was speaking to beyond that is that forgive me I realize this sounds like a lawyer but I am a lawyer.

And this is my read on it.

So two different pieces.

Along per the Commission's own rules without setting aside without a distinct vote to set aside the rule in 9.4B the Commission can no longer reconsider that 7 percent raise because it is already unsuccessfully reconsidered that 7% raise.

The Commission separately could decide to you know vote today to give itself a 1% decrease or a, you know, I think the Commission was at 35%.

The Commission you know and had a 7% raise.

So the only limitations that I see separate from this is that per 9.4B you consider reconsider the 7% specifically and otherwise you can't go below 25% of the Governor's salary because that is in the Constitution.

So if there was a distinct motion today to say I move that we go to 26 percent of the Governor's salary, I move we go to 42% of the Governor's salary anything along those lines is a new motion and takes it out of the question and confines of 9.4B and which talks about reconsideration.

I hope that is offering clarity on that.

There is the technical aspect of reconsideration then there is the other larger fundamental authority of this Commission to set its own salary.

And that is much broader than reconsideration itself.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Essentially, we would have to change the rule to reconsider or the Commission would be operating in the loophole which is a favorite of this group to kind of take jurisdiction and make that decision.

>> MIKE BRADY: Well, I guess you know just as I understood Commission Lett's request to amend the agenda this morning, what it actually says is to reconsider the vote.

And so the reconsideration takes you to 9.4B and if Commissioner Lett were instead to move to say I move that the Commission set its salary at anything else at 26%, at 25%, at 34%, at 37%, pick a number, that is not a reconsideration.

The math may end up getting you to the same place but the place is distinct and different and therefore I'm not sure that that is I would not describe it necessarily as a loophole. I think it speaks to the larger plenary authority of this Independent Commission to set its own salary.

And the Constitution you know, this is a direct constitutional authority of this Independent Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Thanks, Mr. Brady.

That answered that.

I put my hand down.

Okay well then given that piece of information, Commissioner Szetela go ahead

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I would like to move that we set our salaries to 35% of the Governor's salary.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: We have a motion to set our salary at 35% of the Governor's salary and seconded by Commissioner Weiss.

And okay perfect.

Is there any discussion or debate on the motion?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I would just add it sounds like the initial motion that consider Lett to reconsider is something we can't do at this point without an amendment of the rules or a vote on deviating so it's the same intention just a different way of doing it per Mr. Brady's discussion.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Lange? I saw you put your hand down.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes, I would like to amend that motion and amend it to 25% of the Governor's salary.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Seconded.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Seconded by Commissioner Wagner is there any discussion or debate on this motion or the amended motion at this point setting the salary to 25%? Director Hammersmith? Or, yep.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you.

You did have a motion to reconsider the 7% raise.

That should be withdrawn before you start working on the next motion I believe.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: It was not a valid motion so it's technically just removed automatically I would imagine.

Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'm sorry, I was going to do the same amendment that Rhonda did so I will pass.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, I'm just wondering, you know, I mean how many times are we going to discuss this.

Two meetings ago, the last meeting and I watched the meeting and you all discussed it again.

Now we are discussing it a third time.

We can discuss this at every meeting if we want to.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Eid you are breaking up pretty bad.

And he muted himself.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: One moment, I will be back.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: He said he will be back.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, he will be back.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Just give him a second.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Dustin, I heard you say give him a second was that for me?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: No for Commissioner Eid he said he would be right back.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: I cut out for a second too sorry.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: In the meantime Commissioner Curry do you have your hand raised?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I think what I'm not reading minds but I really think that what Anthony was probably going to speak on of all the discussions we keep having and going back and forth concerning the salary and this, that and the other.

And I just think that we need to stick to what we have already did.

And if we redo it, do it halfway.

Instead of 7% do a maybe 4% raise.

So that is how I feel.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I kind of echo Commissioners Eid's sentiment on the reoccurring discussion of this.

I think it's the irony of, you know, the public opinion or whatever folks have to say about it is we are drawing attention to it each time we bring it up.

And we voted a certain way each time.

And it's honestly just a little jarring or confusing that if there is an understanding that Commissioners don't have to agree on every subject and clearly this is the case with this particular topic why we can't move on.

You know, is said what folks could do if we need more money but if you don't want to take it there are still charities and other things you could possibly give your extra funds to, I in this is a very incremental amount of money to be having third and fourth and fifth and tenth discussions on so not to be sarcastic or you know belittle anybody.

But, yeah, I just my vote isn't going to change and I would really, really like to move on from this.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I just want to say that especially in the sense of our salaries since we are funded by taxpayer money, I think it's very important to listen to what the public has to say.

And I'm still going to throw it out there again.

It's been said that most of us have gone back to our regular jobs.

And if anybody can tell me what Commission business they are doing, if you are working 40 hours a week on Commission business, I'm willing to listen.

If somebody is honestly putting in that time, doing something that's reflecting of the maps or any of the work we have done previous I'm willing to listen and change my mind. But if that's not the case I'm not willing to change my mind either and I think we owe it to the public to be as resourceful as we can and to use the funds that are taxpayer funded appropriately.

There is a lot of people out there that are feeling I know the conversation went around inflation.

There is a lot of people out there that are feeling inflation that don't have jobs, that don't get a raise.

And this is taxpayer funded money.

And not to mention we have to go to the legislatures and ask for more money.

How does that look when we are sitting there saying we deserve when we are not doing anything, I'm sorry, I'm not going to say we're not doing anything, when we are not doing as much as what we were doing, how does that look? In all honesty? You don't have to agree, but I guess I'm taking the same stance as Commissioner Kellom my opinion won't change and neither will my vote.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, I guess I will have to take responsibility for bringing this up again and you know my stance. And thank you, Commissioner Lange, for kind of jumping on what I believe.

We are going to probably catch a lot of flak from the public.

We already have.

And the media.

For the 7% raise.

Excuse me? Somebody was talking?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Excuse me, Richard, you can go ahead, that was me.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Okay did you want to say something?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I kind of thought and had an outspoken thought.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Fine as I said I take responsibility because my perception is the public, we did a really, really, really good job when they all said we couldn't do it, we weren't smart enough to do it and we drew some very good maps. And the reason I notice, I listen to Arnold Schwarzenegger, Barack Obama, and Eric Holder all comment on how wonderful our maps were and how much better they were. Now, they are important people.

My belief, if we have to go in front of the legislature like Commissioner Lange just said, they will crucify us on this subject.

So I would just assume if we set our salaries starting, say, June or April, I think, when does that go into effect, Executive Director Hammersmith?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: April 1st.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: April 1st.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Okay, I would like to go back to and set our salary at 35%. Even though I too agree with Rhonda Lange on reducing it but seems to be if we say where we are at, we should be fine.

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The legislature will then have to find somebody else to pick on us about the money we spent. Even though my understanding is we spent which less money than any Redistricting Commission in the country ever has.

And if we get this done with the lawsuits, what happened to be resolved earlier, it will be even less. So that's what I have to say. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: As Commissioner Lange pointed out, this is not our money.

It's taxpayer money.

And I think we owe it to the taxpayers to take the 25% of the Governor's wages, and that is what I wanted to say.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I think we owe, owed the tax prayers a lot with decision making.

It's interesting and part of my deeper feeling we are so deeply considering this yet we did not consider the public opinion for other things.

So I hear the argument but it works both ways.

Yes, we saved money and that could also work to the favor of the raise as well.

Yes, we've had scrutiny about many other things that were way more serious regarding mapping and a variety of subjects, you pick it.

And the public has had an opinion about it.

So the fact that some Commissioners it's not bullying so don't miss interpret what I'm saying.

But almost like having a push for us to change our vote I think is just inappropriate.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Lange your hand is still raised.

Do you have another comment.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No Dustin sorry did it again.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: You are fine, Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, I guess I'd have to respectfully disagree with Commissioner Kellom.

For myself I paid a lot of attention to all the e-mails that I would read.

All the comments at our meetings.

And that's why some of the stuff I believe when I voted I voted taking that into consideration.

Because it's important.

We represent the people.

I'm a taxpayer too.

I don't want to spend any more of my money, all right? That is why I like to see us stay where we are at, at the 35% and that's it.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I call the question.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Thank you.

Okay so the first thing we are going to be voting on is the amended motion to go down to the 25% of the Governor's salary.

We have a roll call vote on that please Ms. Reinhardt?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely.

Hi Commissioners please indicate your support of the motion with a yes or a no or the amendment to the motion.

Once more the amendment is to set Commissioner salary at 25% of the Governor's salary.

This is a motion to amend the motion so we are not actually voting on setting the salary at that rate but rather to amend the main motion to set the rate at 25%.

Does that make sense? Okay.

Commissioners please indicate your support of the amendment with a yes or a no.

I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Absolutely yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: By a vote of five yes to eight no the amendment does not carry.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Now we will move on to the original amendment which is setting our salary back to 35% of the Governor's salary of 35% of the Governor's salary. Before we vote I do want to say you know, I'm also kind of tired of having this being brought up every single time.

It's kind of I don't know why we are doing that.

However, I don't want to see it come -- be brought back up really because it's going to be pointless and we are just going to have a long conversation we don't have to have every meeting at this particular point.

So with that being said I'm willing to change my vote here because I just don't want to see it come back up again.

Because the fact that we talked about this every single time to me is quite frankly a waste of time.

So with that being said on the original motion to set our salaries at 35% of the Governor's salary it's been seconded and we are going to have a roll call vote on this too.

Ms. Reinhardt please go ahead.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioners please indicate your support of the motion with a yes or a no.

Once more the main motion is to set Commissioner salary to 35% of the Governor's salary.

I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I'm sorry, can you restate what this vote is?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sure, the motion on the table is to set Commissioners salary to 35% of the Governor's salary.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I'm laughing here, yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: By a vote of 12 yes to 1 no, the motion carries.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Alrighty, without objection we will move on to unfinished business 5C, sorry, unfinished business 5C, proposed amendments to the budget. And I will ask Director Hammersmith to proceed on this.

Hearing no objection please proceed Ms. Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Good morning again and you can see on the budget that the change in Commissioner pay equals \$39,631.22 if paid through September 30th.

That budget can now be reduced by that amount.

The change in staff salaries is \$66,650, which would be a reduction in this budget. So what I would ask for you to approve is this budget with the shortfall adjusted by this \$39,631.

So, again, that will take another that will take the shortfall down to \$1.15 million approximately.

I need this adjusted so we can send this to the appropriations committee.

So that is the legislative appropriation chairs.

We have an ode to them on the last fiscal year.

It's due within six months so that report is owed.

And I'd been holding it to include with the entire package where we would make a request for the budget shortfall.

On this budget I do want to point out that most of our consultants have only been paid through January.

So we have February and March invoices which due to the litigation will be fairly high. I've also approved a \$370,000 payment to Election Data Services this week.

That -- they had not billed us for October 1st going forward.

So we would be caught up then with Election Data Services.

So it will impact the budget.

And we -- I appreciate your willingness to make this budget the best it can be and still understanding that we are going to have a shortfall but if we can clearly document that that shortfall is due to the litigation expense.

So all other expenses would be in line.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Mr. Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I move the adoption of the budget as set forth by Director Hammersmith with the corrections made today.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Seconded by Commissioner Clark initial motion by Commissioner Lett.

All in favor please raise -- sorry is there any discussion or debate on the motion?

Seeing none all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

All opposed same sign.

Nay by Commissioner Kellom.

All right, motion carries.

Moving on to new business, looking at item 6A document and record or document and record retention policies without objection I will ask executive Hammersmith to present on this item.

Hearing no objection please proceed Director Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thanks Vice Chair Witjes.

Before you is a document and record retention policy that has been drafted.

Basically the records of the Commission will be maintained until the next Commission has been seated.

Plus about six months.

We think this is important so at least they know the work that was done by this Commission and can choose whether they wish to use any of the policies and procedures that this Commission has developed.

Some of the records will be permanent.

So MDOS will hold all of records according to this policy until the ten year, six month timeframe is up.

Or until six months after the next Commission is seated.

And then there are permanent records that will go into the archives of Michigan.

And those are detailed for you in Section 2.

I will let you know also that both Mike Brady and the firm of Fink Bressack did review the policy.

And they have basically signed off that this is a good policy to present to this Commission for maintaining the record of the work that you've done.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I move the adoption of the policy.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Seconded by Commissioner Rothhorn.

Great, could we let's see so now we will take a vote on our record retention policy, which is Resolution 2022.03.13. All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.
Aye.

All opposed same sign.

Motion carries unanimously.

Without objection we will move on to our new business 6B future.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Mr. Vice Chair, I apologize, I was froze up a little bit. My vote was no on that.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Sorry, did you get that, Ms. Reinhardt?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, I did, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: All right.

Okay, so 6B future meetings without objection I will ask I believe this is for Director Woods, yeah Director Woods.

Without objection Director Woods please present on the future meetings.

Hearing none please proceed.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you, Vice Chair Commissioner Witjes.

We talked about having a meeting in April.

We wanted to thank people and just trying to identify the date.

There was also a concern about cutting our costs for meetings in terms of in person.

So maybe instead of doing two we would just need to do one and so just trying to identify which date works best for the Commission.

As you know, thanks to Yvonne Young we have meeting locations through the end of the year.

But I did hear from a few Commissioners with regards to just meeting once in person and then the rest virtually.

So I just need to identify a date from the Commission of what would work better.

In April or early May.

Depending on schedules.

And just trying to identify.

If you notice right now April 14th, we have a location in Detroit.

April 28th, we have a location in Lansing.

And then if we were to go out to May we have a location on the second Thursday in Detroit and the fourth Thursday in Lansing.

So my preference would be sometime in April so if we need to change the meeting date that would be better.

But if we could just identify a date sometime in April that would work best for the Commission for in-person meeting.

And then the other meeting would be virtual.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Questions, comments? Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Do we have enough business for two meetings a month still?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Yes, we do at this point Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: What business.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: We have the Commissioner report on the 14th that needs to be debated and discussed and approved on the 14th that we have. We still have the lessons learned that will also come before the Commission. And then I would like for the Commission to talk about requesting the office of auditor general to do an audit of our finances, you know, depending on what happens. And then we also have a couple legal opinions dealing with how does the Commission go dormant and how does that relate to the Constitution.

And so I know our lawyers are working on that.

Our Executive Director, Sue Hammersmith, has already reached out to them and they are supposed to get back to us by April 8.

So those are the things I know of right now that needs to come before the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Can't those be done in one meeting is what I'm saying? Why are we spending extra money? Why couldn't we have a four-hour meeting rather than to, two hour meetings twice a month, have one four-hour meeting once a month and get the work done in one day?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: That's a possibility.

It's just that not knowing what we have to come up, we can always cancel the meeting if we don't need it.

But just having it on the agenda and on people's schedules makes ate little bit easier to do business than waiting for 30 days and then trying to call an emergency meeting. It's always easier in my experience to cancel than to try to scramble and have a meeting.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay and when is the report coming out? Because wasn't that supposed to be out this meeting?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: The report, the draft report should hopefully be done by the 14th.

I'm looking for one more dissenting report that has not been turned back in.

And then there is also a legal review.

Not of the dissenting reports but of the actual report that was done to make sure that we didn't miss anything with regards to the process.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: That's all I got.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I did see you raise your hand earlier, anything to add.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: I just wanted to say I would rather do it in April. I'm okay with two meetings and then cancelling as you know Director Woods suggested so that makes a lot of sense to me.

I don't have a strong preference.

My calendar I have reserved the meeting dates so I'm okay with whatever dates.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I'll add if we have to have an in person meeting, I would kindly request the 14th.

So I think we are going to need a motion to do anything at this particular point.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: And one last thing Vice Chair Commissioner Witjes if we do that it probably be better if we have it in Lansing just for logistical purposes and things along those lines.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Okay, well I'll go ahead and make a motion to make April 14th an in-person meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Rothhorn and Szetela and Weiss all at the same time

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Don't we already have the didn't we already approve every other Thursday on the agenda to begin with? I'm just not sure we need a motion is my only point.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: One in person though? I guess it really doesn't matter

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Our original schedule was every other Thursday and we did a motion to make them virtual through March. And so I don't think we need a motion but Sue if you want to chime if I'm correct about that but I don't think we do. But we do currently have on our schedule as April 14th meeting in Detroit, not Lansing so I don't know if we need to vote on that change or if that is even necessary.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Okay well I will withdraw my motion because that is correct, we did say meetings were going to be virtual until set date.

Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I think that's correct.

My recollection.

However, we did go from virtual meetings to in-person beginning April 1st.

So if we are going to go back to just one or two, which Director Woods is suggesting then we would need a motion to go back to virtual and the dates that we are going to do those.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: If we just want to keep it in Detroit as posted, that's fine if that works just better for everyone.

I just got a note from our partners at Secretary of State that that would be better.

So if we could just do that on the 14th if that works, that would be great.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Would we just take up the rest of the meetings schedule at that particular point in time? How we will handle virtual or once a month and so on and so forth.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I would recommend the Commission determine prior to then specifically for the next meeting in April just to make sure that we are able to reserve space if the Commission would like to meet in person.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Lett?

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>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Director Woods, my understanding is you want two in person meetings in April one on the 14th and one on the what 28th?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I just need one.

I think there was some concern amongst the Commission and that is why it's on the agenda with regards to that.

So I can work with one.

One meeting.

And then we would drive everybody to that one meeting and then the rest could be virtual.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: What is, well, let me ask this are we doing any videotapes, pictures? You want people there to have their smiling faces for some reason?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I'm working on certificates of appreciation to those that have helped us.

We are trying to arrange for the Secretary of State to be with us as an appreciation.

So we have some things that we want to present to our partners formally at one meeting.

And so just needing to identify that place and location for that, for that meeting.

And so the 14th we already have it in Detroit.

You know that works.

We would just invite them there all at one time.

Instead of just doing two meetings, we just limit ourselves to one meeting, in person and then the meeting on the 28th could go virtual.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well okay so the meeting on the 14th is already set in person and my motion would be that after that meeting on the 28th and there after meetings would be virtual as established by our current schedule subject to cancellation if not required.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Seconded by Commissioner Szetela.

Any discussion or debate on the motion to meet in person on the 14th and make everything after that virtual? Seeing none all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

All opposed same sign.

Motion carries.

Are we going to discuss going down to once a month right now? Or do you want to do that at the next meeting? This is just an open question to anybody.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: I think the discussion was forgive me Steve had his hand up so.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I don't want to step on your toes, MC, go right ahead.

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>> CHAIR ROTHORN: I think that the rationale was it's easier to have or counsel a planned meeting.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Okay.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: So I think we are going to keep it the way it is.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Sounds good and that concludes my lovely portion of the meeting today so I will hand it back to Chair Rothorn to finish up

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Great job Dustin.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: All right so we are on to the approval of minutes.

From February 24th and March 10th.

These were held via Zoom the draft minutes have been provided to the Commission prior to this meeting and are posted on the website.

Are there any edits to these minutes? Seeing none, may I have a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 24, 2022?

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: So moved.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: I have a motion by Commissioner Witjes and a second by Commissioner Curry.

All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the minutes are approved.

May I have a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 10, 2022.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: So moved and I have to step aside for a moment because someone is at the door.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Motion by Commissioner Witjes and seconded by Commissioner Weiss.

All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the minutes are approved.

There are two staff reports today.

And yeah, then we will get to the liaison report after this.

Without objection I will ask Executive Director Hammersmith to provide her report.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Before we do that, my vote is yes on the adoption of the minutes as well. I don't know if that was recorded.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Commissioner Witjes.

Commissioner excuse me Director Hammersmith, please proceed.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you again question there are two staff and two staff reports and soon to be one.

I'm a little sad this is my last meeting today.

I will miss being a part of this, the MICRC.

But thank you for the experience that I've had for the opportunity to serve the State of Michigan and this Commission in your work.

Richard once described my job as mom to 13 so as a mom I'm very proud of you.

You've accomplished incredible work in unprecedented times under arduous circumstances so thank you, thank you, thank you.

As your Executive Director and a citizen of Michigan I'm grateful for your service to our great state and I celebrate you today.

And lastly your maps become law on Sunday.

So that's when the 60 days are up from the publication of the final maps.

So congratulations.

I will be celebrating with you on Sunday.

And again I just thank you for this opportunity to serve and to be part of this inaugural Commission's work.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Director Hammersmith.

I see some clapping.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

You have guided us through this and, yeah, it's been like you said arduous.

Well said.

And I believe we are going to have some formal recognition at the next meeting we have together.

So just a lot of gratitude in the meantime and, yeah, appreciation.

So we will get you there in person and we will do a little not a little we will do a big thank you.

And just really appreciate your patience and helping us get things together.

Any other part of your report or is that it?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Short and sweet thank you.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.

All right without objection I will ask Mr. Woods to proceed with the report.

Please proceed Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you.

Can you see my screen Commissioners?

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, we can.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Commissioners this is a communication and outreach presentation for today.

And I just want to thank you so much for your vote and support of me.

Look forward to working with the Commission knowing that it speaks in one voice and look forward to serving all 13 of you in this capacity.

So thanks again.

And also thanks to Sue and Julianne as well as Sarah Martinez for the outstanding partnership and collaboration thus far.

I do have a short video presentation for Sue.

At the end of this for everyone to see.

Just to commemorate the work that she has done on behalf of this Commission.

And this inaugural effort which is historic and has been well documented and received across the nation as we have heard earlier from Commissioner Weiss.

Our Commission report I talked about that a little bit earlier.

We have dissenting reports.

There is one that we are still waiting for to come back.

And then have those edits approved.

As you know the dissenting reports are not approved by the Commission at all.

But they were checked for edits.

I'm just waiting for one to come back.

After that we will have a draft, the draft will then go to the legal team for review and then provided to the Commission for action and that will take place at our meeting on the 14th.

Lessons learned outline.

I received this yesterday from Good Marketing.

And the lessons learned outline will look like this.

This is the actual report.

I have an introduction executive summary and report contributors, lessons learned and recommendations, results and outcomes and appendix.

And now I want to break down what that means in each Section just so everyone has clarity.

For the report contributors that will be Commissioners, they reached out to all 13 Commissioners to see whether or not they wanted to be interviewed for the process.

Those that were willing to be interviewed were interviewed as relates to the whole process of the MICRC.

They also reached out to staff and they reached out to third-party organizations.

The third-party organizations that have are confirmed and have already been reported is the Asian Pacific islander American API vote Michigan.

The Michigan League of Women Voters.

The Michigan Nonprofit Association.

And the University of Michigan Gerald R Ford school of public policy as well as the Princeton gerrymander project and are confirmed.

We have a few others that are pending but I wanted to share those with you that were confirmed.

As far as the lessons and recommendations they are going to talk about the selection of the Commission.

They are going to talk about the relationships.

They are going to talk about the leadership structure.

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They will talk about the training that has come from the Commission.

They will talk about transparency.

They will talk about technology.

There will be a Section with regards to the website.

There will be timing considerations in terms of timing, in terms of the time as of the pandemic, you know, things could have been moved or things could have been done earlier.

How could the Commission have adjusted some of the things that it did from a timing perspective.

Hiring personnel.

Communities of interest.

Outreach and engagement strategies.

The public engagement process.

And then budget and finances.

So that is the sections that will be talked about in the report.

Results and outcome we will have the 2001, 22 pre and post MICRC public opinion poll results.

These are the key findings from the Glengariff Group you know we did the presurvey in March of last year and we did the post survey in February.

So they will talk about that.

They will talk about the findings from the Princeton gerrymandering project as well and the appendix they will include the entire report of the presurvey, the entire report of the post survey, that Glengariff did and the entire report including all the states for the Princeton gerrymandering project as the appendix for the lessons learned report.

Lessons learned California.

Last week we had an outstanding presentation that was done by Commissioners Cynthia Orton, Commissioner Rebecca Szetela and Commissioner Dustin Witjes and Executive Director sue Hammersmith.

Colorado shared that they adopted our rules of procedure as a best practice instead of doing their own they adopted Michigan.

They were quite impressed with what Michigan was able to accomplish.

As many of you know this was our first time at it.

And we did very well.

But also at the same time we were able to glean and learn from other Redistricting Commissions.

We were at the California citizens Redistricting Commission meeting.

They had representatives from Arizona, representatives from Colorado, they had a report from the 2010 Commission and then in California local cities also do the redistricting process as relates to the local cities and they had a representative from there as well.

So I just want to commend and reach out and thank our Commissioners that participated as well as our Executive Director where we could share but also glean some best practices for others, from others that are doing the redistricting process.

At this time if there is any questions, I can take the questions at this time.

Before I start the video for Sue.

So if there is any questions, Commissioner Rothhorn more than happy to take them at this time.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: I don't see any questions and I just got a lot of love for you Edward.

That was great.

I appreciate it and I just love we got to participate in such a thing so thanks for facilitating that.

Keep on trucking.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I have a slight problem with, there we go, now let me share my screen.

We will do this.

Share sound, optimize video clip.

Can you see it? All right, say something if you can see it so I can hear you

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: We can see it.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Perfect I will start it now.

[Jazz music playing]

[Applause]

Jazzy!

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Is that you playing the saxophone.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: No I played the trombone and you surely don't want me to play it now.

Thank you Sue for that and all your efforts and contributions known and unknown, the things you have done behind the scenes just to make sure comfort was there.

You know, you said that you referenced a mom so mom always has snacks.

Every time you were there, there were snacks but that's just you know pales in comparison to the other contributions that you made as Executive Director in terms of your calming presence.

Your non-retaliative nature in the face of controversy and tension.

You have kept a cool head and did not snap and go off and those are things that I believe serve this Commission well.

Serve the team well.

And as we move forward so once again thank you again for your efforts known and unknown, the countless hours you spent juggling schedules, skipping medical appointments just to make sure that this Commission was -- had everything at its need to do its work.

And you know, kind of juggling balls you know with regards to family and other considerations.

So just to get the work done.

So just want to make sure that you hear that directly from me.

And I know the Commission has already said some things, but just a yeoman's effort for what you have done, you know, known and unknown behind the scenes to get us where we are today.

Much blessings and much respect to you thank you.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Director Hammersmith I see your hand and also see Commissioner Kellom so why don't you go ahead, Commissioner Kellom.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: MC better let me speak before she says thank you. I would like to publicly thank you for the care that you have taken to make sure that we were okay as peel particularly myself.

I can vouch for that it's not a group of citizens who did not know what we were getting ourselves into and you were intentionally checking on it. And I want you to know you have no idea how much that meant to me.

So I deeply pray that you have folks that are advocating for you and honoring your cup the way you have done for me and the good vibes you echo on this Commission continue to be of your experience as you grow.

And go on past this group.

So thank you, thank you, thank you.

And I truly do love you.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I just want to say thanks.

That was a wonderful tribute from both Edward and thank you for your kind words, Brittini.

And for everybody on this Commission who has become friends and supporters and people who truly work together.

So thank you for that.

I know you're in great hands with Edward as I move on.

So again Edward will be a fine Executive Director after my departure.

And I wish him many successes as he works with this Commission.

And the great experience like I had.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Director Hammersmith and thank you Director Woods.

All right Commissioners, we are now on to I believe we adjusted our agenda, we amended or agenda so I believe we are at number nine which is now the liaison is there any report Steve? Or should we, yeah, you have the floor.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I did have a meeting with the, quote, legal team.

And basically, we discussed the oral argument and the case in front of the Federal Court.

I'm assuming everybody is up to speed on that.

The Court was not overly kind to the Plaintiffs.

If you were an attorney and probably if you weren't an attorney, you could figure that one out.

And they asked for additional briefs, which were filed on Tuesday.

And there was an order that just came out that everybody should have gotten that said they are going to have a response briefs due to the length and issues stated by the Plaintiffs.

So that's where the legal situation sits right now.

We are not anticipating any further necessity for strategy, et cetera.

We are responding as appropriate.

If there is a necessity for that then we will deal with it at that time.

If there are any questions, I would be happy to attempt to answer them.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Doesn't look like there is any questions unless, no, and I'm not seeing any hands from those joining us by phone.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Actually never mind dumb question.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Never mind no question, right? Okay very good thank you Commissioner Lett.

And we are on to the MDOS report without objection I will ask Sarah Reinhardt from the Michigan Department of State if she has a report.

Hearing no objection, please proceed, Ms. Reinhardt.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: No report today.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: All right and thank you for your work behind the scenes too.

Correspondence received in advance of our meeting today was provided along with written public comments to the Commissioners in our meeting materials.

Are there any agenda items that Commissioners would like to have added to future agendas? Seeing none, are there any announcements? Excellent without objection excuse me as the items on the agenda are completed and the Commission has no further business a motion to adjourn is in order may I have a motion to adjourn.

First by Commissioner Witjes and second by Commissioner Orton.

All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail the meeting is adjourned at 11:21 p.m., thank you very much, everyone.

Have a lovely rest of your day.