

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Webinar due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic,
pursuant to 2020 PA 254 (MCL 15.263)

Full agenda, presentations, transcripts, and video recordings are available at
RedistrictingMichigan.org

Thursday, January 14, 2021

8:57 AM – 11:08 AM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark
Juanita Curry
Anthony Eid
Brittni Kellom
Rhonda Lange
Steven Terry Lett
Cynthia Orton
MC Rothhorn
Rebecca Szetela
Janice Vallette
Erin Wagner
Richard Weiss
Dustin Joseph Witjes

ABSENT: N/A

OTHERS PRESENT: Michigan Department of State (“MDOS”) staff
Suann Hammersmith, Executive Director
Julianne V. Pastula, General Legal Counsel

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chair Lett called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 8:57 AM.

ROLL CALL

MDOS staff called roll. All commissioners were present and a quorum was met.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chair Lett called for a show of hands to approve the agenda. **MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Lett called for a show of hands to approve the minutes. **MINUTES UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Lett opened the floor to public comment. There was one request for public comment: Antony Hsu. A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at RedistrictingMichigan.org.

CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Director Hammersmith reported no correspondence and requested the Commission keep this as a standing item on the agenda and use this time to address frequently asked questions received by the Commission.

Chair Lett made a motion to add Correspondence as a standing agenda item. **MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

Executive Director Hammersmith confirmed emails were sent to candidates not chosen for the General Legal Counsel position. The executive director also hosted a brief ice-breaker activity.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

General Legal Counsel Pastula reported that she is drafting guidance on the Commission's constitutionally required interaction with the public along with proposed policies and procedures for the Commission's consideration. She is also analyzing whether the Commission needs bylaws and rules of procedure and is working with MDOS on the RFP for mapping services.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Administrative Items. MDOS staff provided an update on the Commission's administrative requests.
2. Communication and Outreach Director Hire – Next Steps. Vice Chair Kellom led the discussion.

MOTION: Chair Lett called for a motion for a roll call vote for the hiring of a Communications and Outreach Director. **Motion by Commissioner Lange. Supported by Commissioner Wagner.**

MOTION TO AMEND: Amend the motion for a roll call vote to include consideration of two candidates: Edward Woods III and Walter Sorg. **Motion by Commissioner Lange. Supported by Commissioner Kellom. AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Commissioner Clark:	Woods
Commissioner Curry:	Woods
Commissioner Eid:	Woods
Vice Chair Kellom:	Woods
Commissioner Lange:	Woods
Chair Lett:	Woods
Commissioner Orton:	Woods
Commissioner Rothhorn:	Woods
Commissioner Szetela:	Woods
Commissioner Vallette:	Woods
Commissioner Wagner:	Sorg
Commissioner Weiss:	Woods
Commissioner Witjes:	Sorg

A roll call vote resulted in one candidate receiving a majority of votes consisting of at least one vote from a Commissioner of each party affiliation, both of which are constitutional requirements for the Commission to retain paid staff. MI Const. Art. IV, § 6(12).

BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 11-2, THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE HIRING OF EDWARD WOODS III AS COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR.

MOTION: Authorize negotiation of a salary and contract with Mr. Woods subject to final approval of the full Commission. **Motion by Chair Lett. Supported by Commissioner Curry. Chair Lett held a voice vote. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Authorize Executive Director Hammersmith, Commissioner Clark and Commissioner Curry to negotiate a salary and contract with Mr. Woods subject to final approval of the full Commission. **Motion by Commissioner Eid. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Chair Lett held a voice vote. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Big Picture Timeline. Commissioners discussed long-term planning and immediate needs, including prioritization of the issuance of an RFP for mapping services and the planning of public meetings, as required by the state Constitution.
2. Upcoming Meeting Agenda Items. Executive Director Hammersmith shared suggested agenda items.

Jan. 21:

Communications and Outreach Director salary/contract approval
Review of a draft RFP for mapping services
Presentation on mapping

Jan. 28:

Budget structure and needs

3. February and March Calendar for Meetings. Executive Director Hammersmith requested the assistance of MDOS staff with the coordination and scheduling of meetings in February and March.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner.**
Supported by Commissioner Curry. Chair Lett held a voice vote.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 AM.