

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

Friday, April 16, 2021

11:00 AM – 12:14 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark (attending remotely from Rochester Hills, MI)
Juanita Curry (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)
Anthony Eid (attending remotely from Wayne County, MI)
Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)
Steven Terry Lett (attending remotely from Lee County, FL)
MC Rothhorn (attending remotely from Lansing, MI)
Rebecca Szetela (attending remotely from Wayne County, MI)
Janice Vallette (attending remotely from Highland, MI)
Erin Wagner (attending remotely from Charlotte, MI)
Richard Weiss (attending remotely from Saginaw, MI)
Dustin Joseph Witjes (attending remotely from Ann Arbor, MI)

NOT PRESENT: Brittni Kellom
Cynthia Orton

OTHERS PRESENT: Suann Hammersmith, Executive Director
Julianne V. Pastula, General Counsel
Edward Woods III, Communications and Outreach Director
Michigan Department of State (“MDOS”) staff

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to order at 11:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes to approve. Meeting Minutes for the April 15th and 16th meetings will be provided next week.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, opened the floor to public comment. There was no live public comment. A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at RedistrictingMichigan.org.

CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Director Hammersmith reported no specific correspondence to address.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Recommendations for Promotional Consultants. Communications and Outreach Director Woods presented information on public relations consultant bids for Southeast Michigan and outside Southeast Michigan. MICRC staff recommended negotiating with McConnell Communications for the Southeast Michigan media market and Van Dyke Horn Public Relations for the Michigan media market, except Southeast Michigan. Director Woods fielded questions from the Commission regarding the recommendations.

MOTION: Approve negotiating with McConnell Communications for the Southeast Michigan media market. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Szetela, Vice- Chair, held a vote by show of hands.**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Clark, Curry, Eid, Lett, Rothhorn, Szetela, Vallette, Wagner, Weiss, Witjes

Voting No: Commissioner Lange

BY A SHOW OF HANDS VOTE OF 10-1, THE COMMISSION APPROVED ENTERING NEGOTIATIONS WITH MCCONNELL COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN MEDIA MARKET.

MOTION: Approve negotiating with Van Dyke Horn Public Relations for the Michigan media market, except Southeast Michigan. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Curry. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands.**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Curry, Eid, Lett, Rothhorn, Szetela, Vallette, Wagner, Weiss, Witjes

Voting No: Commissioner Lange, Clark

BY A SHOW OF HANDS VOTE OF 9-2, THE COMMISSION APPROVED ENTERING NEGOTIATIONS WITH VAN DYKE HORN PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE MICHIGAN MEDIA MARKET, EXCEPT SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN.

2. Public Hearings and Town Hall Forums. Executive Director Hammersmith illustrated the differences between town hall forums and public hearings. Director Hammersmith and General Counsel Pastula answered questions from the Commission.
3. Draft Meeting Agenda During Public Hearing Weeks. Executive Director Hammersmith discussed the timeframe previously adopted by the Commission for meetings that precede public hearings.
4. Option to Hold September Meetings on College Campuses. Communication and Outreach Director Woods proposed a tentative schedule wherein

September meetings of the Commission would be held at various Michigan universities as follows:

Date	Location
September 2	Ferris State University
September 9	Eastern Michigan University
September 16	Grand Valley State University
September 23	Central Michigan University
September 30	Oakland University

MOTION: Approve Holding September Meetings on College Campuses. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Future Meetings and Agenda Items

Commissioner Clark raised discussing public hearing procedures and communities of interest.

Announcements

General Counsel Pastula noted that the Commission continues to receive public comment regarding the federal We the People Bill and its impact on the MICRC. Under the current Bill H.R. 1, passed by the House of Representatives and currently in the Senate, Section 2401(c) exempts states with existing independent redistricting commissions that meet certain requirements. Based on the current language, the MICRC would meet those requirements and be in compliance with the legislation if it is adopted. General Counsel Pastula also desired clarification on Resolution 2021.04.13 as the language of the verbal motion did not match the language of the resolution. The Commission took another vote to clarify.

MOTION: Adopt the Resolution Presented to the Commission for the Michigan media markets, except Southeast Michigan, for Van Dyke Horn Public Relations. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Adopt the Resolution Presented to the Commission for the Southeast Michigan media market, for McConnell Communications. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Adjourn

There being no further business, Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Adjourn the Meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Wagner. Commissioner Szetela, Vice- Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 PM.