

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, April 8, 2021

12:31 PM – 3:45 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark (attending remotely from Rochester Hills, MI)

Juanita Curry (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)

Anthony Eid (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)

Brittni Kellom (attending remotely from Detroit, MI)

Rhonda Lange (attending remotely from Reed City, MI)

Steven Terry Lett (attending remotely from Lee County, FL)

Cynthia Orton (*joined meeting at 2:10 PM*) (attending remotely from
Battle Creek, MI)

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 Howell, MI)

ABSENT: None

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 Kellom, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to order at 12:31 PM.

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioner Orton joined the meeting at 2:10 PM.

Commissioner Lange left the meeting at 3:30 PM and returned at 3:40 PM.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion by Commissioner MC Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioners discussed the draft minutes of March 30, 2021 and offered no edits.

MOTION: Commissioner Kellom Chair, called for a motion to approve the minutes. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Kellom, Chair, opened the floor to public comment. There were two individuals who provided live public comment: Chad Bailey and Audrey Anderson. A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at Michigan.gov/MICRC.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Hammersmith updated the Commission on the contract with Election Data Services, which is close to being finalized. Director Hammersmith extended her thanks to Cathleen Simlar from MDOS who has been taking minutes for the last seven months. Mustafa Rasheed will now assume that role. The application deadline for the MICRC Executive Assistant position closed on Monday and candidates will be interviewed the following week. The state of Michigan extended remote working to July 12th for state employees, who can

complete their job duties remotely. The executive director also hosted a brief icebreaker activity.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE (MDOS) UPDATES

MDOS staff reported no new update except that work was being done on the public comment tool from MGGG Redistricting Lab, which will be ready before the public hearings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. VRA Legal Counsel Interview Questions. The Commission reviewed the interview questions for the VRA Legal Counsel, made edits and determined which members would ask specific questions.

BREAK

Commissioner Szetela, Vice-Chair, called for a brief break from 1:10 PM to 1:15 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Federal Compliance Consulting Presentation. Mr. Adelson presented his Voting Rights Act legal counsel proposal to the Commission and responded to Commissioner questions.

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.04.01 to extend the contract for Voting Rights Act (VRA) Legal Counsel to Federal Compliance Consulting, LLC. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.04.01 to extend the contract for Voting Rights Act (VRA) Legal Counsel to Federal Compliance Consulting, LLC. **Commissioner Kellom, Chair, called for a roll call vote. Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Witjes.**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Orton, Curry, Kellom, Rothhorn, Eid, Lett, Szetela, Vallette, Weiss, Clark, Lange, Wagner, Witjes.

Voting No: None.

BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 13-0, THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 2021.04.01 TO HIRE FEDERAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTING, LLC.

3. Communications and Outreach Report. Communications and Outreach Director Woods presented the Proposed Communications and Outreach Plan. Richard Czuba will provide the Market Research Survey results next week. The Commission recommended that one statement in the plan reflect the verbiage in the Constitution. Director Woods also presented the Revised Public Hearing Schedule and Locations, shared bid requests for promotional consultants, and requested authorization for initiating contracts with public hearing venues.

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.04.03 Revised Public Hearing Schedule and Locations. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Curry. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.04.02 Issuance of Bid Requests for Promotional Consultants. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2021.04.04 Authorize Executive Director to Execute Contracts with Public Hearing Venues. **Motion by Commissioner Rothhorn. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

BREAK

Commissioner Kellom, ~~Vice-Chair~~ **Chair¹**, called for a brief break from 2:55 PM to 3:00 PM.

¹ Per the Open Meetings Act [[MCL 15.269\(1\)](#)] any corrections made by a public body to approved Minutes must “show both the original entry and the correction” and therefore all corrections are shown using font strikethrough to denote deletions and red font to denote corrections.

4. Legal Counsel Report. General Counsel Pastula presented the criteria related to remote and in-person meetings. General Counsel Pastula also presented a Lost or Stolen Equipment policy.

MOTION: Adopt Resolution 2021.04.05 Remote and Hybrid Meeting Policies and Procedures. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Lett. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Adopt Resolution 2021.04.06 Policy and Procedure for the Reporting of Damaged, Malfunctioning, Lost or Stolen State Issued Equipment. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Administrative Business. The Commission deliberated reciting the Pledge of Allegiance prior to meetings.

MOTION: Adopt procedure of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance before meetings. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Lange. Chair Kellom called for vote by show of hands.**

Voting Yes: Commissioners Clark, Lange, Weiss, Wagner, and Eid.

Voting No: Commissioners Szetela, Lett, Curry, Kellom, Vallette, Rothhorn, and Witjes.

Absent: Commissioner Orton.

BY A VOTE OF 5-7, THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE PROCEDURE OF RECITING THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BEFORE MEETINGS FAILED.

5. Future Meetings and Agenda Items. Executive Director Hammersmith made recommendations for meeting schedule revisions. Commissioners discussed time commitments and edits to the recommended revisions. Director Hammersmith announced future agenda items, including a contract for a videographer, and General Counsel Pastula will continue to work on policies and procedures. The MICRC staff is working on several other items, including a discussion on communities of interest before the public hearings.

MOTION: Set the April 15th meeting from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, add a meeting on April 16th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and cancel the May 6th meeting if the commission is required to meet in person. **Motion by Commissioner Eid. Supported by Commissioner Szetela. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Kellom, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.