

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, February 11, 2021

1:00 PM – 3:28 PM

MINUTES

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

ABSENT: MC Rothorn

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 Lett, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 1:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

One addition was added to the agenda, if time permits.

MOTION: Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Vice Chair Kellom. Commissioner Lett, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioners discussed the draft minutes and offered edits.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Lett, Chair, opened the floor to public comment. There was no public comment.

A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at RedistrictingMichigan.org.

CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Director Hammersmith reported no correspondence to address.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Hammersmith reported that commissioners will review an updated timeline of key data. Additionally, commissioners will consider a resolution to Discharge Personnel Search Committees, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Guidelines and draft policy, Open Meetings Act (OMA) Guidance, Communications Policy and a Procurement Review Policy, if time permits. The executive director also hosted a brief icebreaker activity.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

General Counsel Pastula reported that RFP work is ongoing and that that today's meeting will include presentations on a Procurement Review Policy (if time permits), FOIA policy, and an OMA guidance memorandum. In the future, commissioners can expect a presentation on criteria in the state's Constitution and past legal challenges on redistricting. Draft policies are also in development for Conflicts of Interest and Disclosure as well as Records Retention, which she will touch on today.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH REPORT

Communications and Outreach Director Woods thanked Tom Ivacko, Executive Director from the University of Michigan Center for Local, State and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) for their work in identifying more than 1,000 communities of interest; commissioners engaged in a brief discussion on the need to develop a definition for what constitutes a community of interest. Director Woods noted he met with representatives from the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) on the work they are doing relevant to redistricting and stated Executive Director Hammersmith will participate in MNA's press conference next week. Communication and Outreach Director Woods reported he met with county, township and municipal government organizations about commissioners participating in their public meetings. He also thanked MDOS and MDOT staff for ongoing assistance.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE (MDOS) UPDATES

MDOS staff provided an update on the Commission's administrative requests.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. 2021 Key Dates – Updated Approximation of Future Timelines. Executive Director Hammersmith reviewed updates to the 2021 timeline.
2. Consultant Selection Processes. Executive Director Hammersmith presented a summary of the formal process for the selection of consultants, including an initial internal staff review and ranking, committee review and full Commission selection of consultants.
 - a. Mapping Consultant – Executive Director Hammersmith reported four proposals were received for mapping consultant. An internal staff review determined three of the four proposals met mandatory minimum requirements of the RFP. Next steps include a formal ranking of qualifying proposals by internal staff and the provision of

ranking and the rationale for rankings to the mapping committee for consideration at its meeting on Feb. 23, 2021 from 1-3 pm.

- b. Voter Rights Act (VRA) Consultant –Executive Director**
Hammersmith reported that proposals for the VRA consultant are due Feb. 17, 2021. The VRA committee will meet on March 2, 2021 from 1-3 pm.
3. Resolution to Discharge Personnel Search Committees. General Counsel Pastula advised the Commission that as a matter of protocol, inactive personnel search committees should be officially discharged of duties.

MOTION: Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a motion to dissolve and discharge the standing personnel search committees for executive director, general counsel and communications and outreach director.
Motion by Commissioner Wagner. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Lett, Chair, held a vote by show of hands.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

BREAK

Commissioner Lett, Chair, called for a brief break from 2:06 PM to 2:18 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

1. FOIA Statute and Draft Policy. General Counsel Pastula reviewed requirements of the FOIA statute and shared a draft MICRC FOIA policy with commissioners. Approval of the policy was tabled to allow commissioners more time to review the policy.

Relevant to FOIA, General Counsel Pastula informed commissioners that a records retention policy will be forthcoming.

2. Open Meetings Act Guidance Memorandum. General Counsel Pastula reviewed with the commission guidance pertinent to OMA and commissioners attending conferences, webinars and other non-MICRC events. The general counsel clarified that an accommodation is made in the OMA that allows commissioners to attend such events, even if a quorum is present, if there is no discussion, deliberations or decisions involving the

business of the Commission between a quorum of the full commission or a quorum of a committee.

3. Communications Policy. Communication and Outreach Director Woods presented the Communications Policy with commissioners and changes were requested. The Commission tabled approval of the policy pending the revisions.
4. Next Meeting Agenda Topics.
Update on mapping consultant
Update on VRA proposals
Revised FOIA Policy
Revised Communications Policy
Procurement Review Policy
Constitutional Criteria and Legal Challenges to Redistricting
Presentation by members from the 2010 California Citizens Redistricting Commission

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Official Commissioner Photos. Communications and Outreach Director Woods reminded commissioners to check email to register for a date and time to have an official portrait taken and video interviews completed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 PM