

ICRC

02/04/21 Meeting

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>> Steve: Good morning to all the Commissioners and good morning to anyone out in the Ether who happens to be watching this morning we welcome you to this full Commission meeting on February 4, 2021.

The first thing we will do this morning is call a roll to make sure that we have a quorum present in order to be able to conduct business.

Sally, would you call the roll for us?

>> Sally: Good morning Commissioners.

If you could please unmute yourself and say present and the city or county that you are attending remotely from when I call your name that would be great.

Douglas Clark is not here.

Juanita Curry.

>> Present, I'm remotely from Detroit, Michigan.

>> Sally: Anthony Eid.

>> Anthony: .

>> Sally: Brittini Kellom?

Rhonda Lange.

>> Present, attending remotely from Reed City.

>> Sally: Steve Lett.

>> Present and I'm attending from Lee County, Florida.

>> Sally: Cynthia Orton.

>> Cynthia: Present, attending from Battle Creek, Michigan, remotely.

>> Sally: MC Rothhorn.

>> Present attending from Lansing, Michigan.

>> Sally: Rebecca Szetela.

>> Present, attending remotely from Canton, Michigan.

>> Sally: Janice Vallette.

>> Present, attending from Highland, Michigan.

>> Erin Wagner.

>> Present attending from Charlotte, Michigan.

>> Richard Weiss.

>> Present attending from Saginaw, Michigan.

>> And Dustin Witjes.

>> Present and attending from Ann Arbor, Michigan.

>> Sally: Ten Commissioners are present there is a quorum.

>> Thank you and we are missing Doug and Anthony, correct?

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And Brittini.

>> Sally: Correct and Brittini will be here shortly.

She is running a few minutes late.

>> Steve: All right, next on the agenda is the agenda.

If everybody has had an opportunity to look at that prior to this morning, are there any additions anyone would like to make?

Any corrections or deletions anyone would like to make?

All right, if you would approve the agenda as presented raise your hand.

[Hands raised]

And that passes.

Next is the review and approval of the minutes from January or yes from January 30, '2021.

Are there any corrections, additions or deletions on that?

No?

All right.

I would entertain a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

Erin moved and Juanita seconded.

All in favor raise your hand.

[Hands raised]

The minutes are approved.

Next public comment.

And I do understand that we do have public comment this morning; is that correct, Sally?

>> Sally: Correct.

>> All right.

Okay this Zoom meeting is being live streamed to YouTube for anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are using please visit our social media@redistrictingMI.

To find the link for viewing on other platforms.

Our live stream today includes closed captioning.

We have ASL interpretation available for this meeting.

If you would like easier viewing for ASL interpreter on your screen please e-mail us at redistricting Michigan.gov and we will provide you with additional viewing options.

Similarly if you would like to access translation services during the meeting please e-mail us at redistricting@Michigan.gov for details how to access language translation services available for this meeting.

Translation services are available for both Spanish and Arabic.

Please e-mail us and we will provide you with a unique link and call in information.

This meeting is being recorded and will be available at redistricting Michigan.org for viewing at a later date.

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The meeting is also being transcribed and those transcriptions will be made available and posted on redistricting Michigan.org along with written public comment submissions.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to communications and Outreach Director Edward woods III at woods E as in Edward three at Michigan.gov.

For purposes of the public record and for members of the public watching, we already did that.

Public comment for those of you who have not joined us previously, I have a few comments on how we conduct our public comment portion of these virtual meetings. Because this is a virtual meeting members of the public have to sign up in advance in order to address the Commission.

If you have signed up you will have two minutes to speak to us.

For each member of the public who will be addressing the Commission the Department of State staff will unmute the person who will be speaking for a period not to exceed two minutes.

Members of the public who have signed up to speak will be called on in the order in which they signed up.

Please remember that once you have called on to speak you will have no more than two minutes to complete your remarks.

Public comment sign up links are posted on redistricting Michigan social media pages, on Facebook and Twitter at redistricting MI.

And if you -- and you can e-mail our office at redistricting@Michigan.gov.

If you would like to submit your thoughts or comments to the Commission, you may do that by e-mail to redistricting@Michigan.gov and they will be provided to the Commission and archived.

Sally Marsh director of special projects for the Michigan Department of State will assist us with public comment procedure.

Sally, please.

>> Sally: Good morning everyone.

So individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide live public comment will now be allowed to do so.

For those individuals participating just note that after I call your name, your screen will change and you will rejoin the meeting as a presenter.

Then you will need to make sure your video and your sound are turned on before you make live public comments.

And if you have any technical difficulties we will move on to the next person and then come back to you.

And I will let you know when your time has expired.

If you are not done speaking before that two-minute Mark.

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So first in line to provide public comment is Alexander Dewitt.

Please allow a moment for our staff to unmute you.

Hello everyone.

My name is Alex Dewitt of Bay City and I run the largest nonparty political page in the county for the accountable Bay City. I am happy to have the opportunity to be the speaker in front of this good example of political transparency and accountability for the citizens of Michigan.

As a reminder, proposal two in 2018 was passed with 61.3% of the vote in 2018 and all but 17 counties measured the majority. It is a mighty responsibility for the redistricting results of Michigan. And Presidential Congressional district boundaries which led to places in equalities for every one party representation.

The following is a list of results of statewide Presidential independent elections since 2012 presented to the representative in Lansing and Washington.

2020 statewide lean democratic plus three, 2020 representation in the U.S. house was even.

Michigan house republican plus three.

2018 statewide lean democrat plus 7 and 2018 representation U.S. house even. And Michigan House republican plus 7. And Michigan Senate republican plus 21.

2016 statewide republican plus 22. 2016 verification U.S. House republican plus 14.

Michigan house republican plus 7.

2014 statewide lean democratic 13. 2014 representations and U.S. House Republican plus 14. Michigan house R plus 7. And Michigan Senate republican plus 8. And 2012 state with democratic plus 9. And representation U.S. House republican plus 14. And Michigan House republican plus 4.

This clearly shows why the Commission is necessary and why your job is important to rid our party or our state of the party gerrymanders that led to this inequity. It will be difficult and almost impossible to solve every issue. But with positive influences to improve democracy for all residents especially from Monroe to Ontonagon and points of Detroit.

Thank you for your time.

>> Steve: Thank you, Mr. Dewitt.

Sally, next person, please.

>> Sally: Next in line is Susan Smith.

Please provide a moment for our staff to unmute you, promote you.

Welcome.

You have two minutes.

>> Thank you.

And good morning Commissioners.

I'm Susan Smith vice president for advocacy for the league of women voters of Michigan.

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When I spoke to you last December, I mentioned the league support for redistricting reform in Michigan and especially proposal two which created the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

From watching your meetings I know that the Commission has a keen interest in communities of interest and how to encourage them to speak at the public hearings you will be conducting in May and June.

As you know, respecting communities of interest is third in the prioritized list of criteria. Pardon me.

The Commission is required to follow when drawing the maps.

Given that the league of women voters is working with its 27 local leagues to identify and support communities of interest.

To date we have recruited over 75 league members whom we will be training this month.

They will identify and educate communities of interest in over 40 counties across the state.

They will help people to draw maps of their communities using a mapping software tool called representable and compatible with mapping.

And we met with your executive director Sue Hamm and communications and outreach director Edward woods.

We look forward to working with Mr. Woods as he develops plans for the Commission's outreach and public hearings in the coming months.

Thank you for this opportunity to address you.

I would be happy to try to answer any questions you might have.

>> Steve: Thank you, Ms. Smith for your comments.

Glad to have you present again and we won't have any questions at this time.

Thank you.

Okay.

>> Sally: That concludes public comment.

Sorry Mr. Chair.

>> Steve: That is okay.

MC I was not ignoring you.

I'm assuming you had some type of question, but I don't see this as a question answer period in two minutes.

So we will have ample opportunity in the next ten meetings that are out in the public at least for all of that.

Correspondence, Sue do we have any correspondence to deal with today?

>> Sue: We do not have any correspondence at this time.

>> Steve: I would note that there were three e-mails sent to the Commission that were provided to us at the commissioner's review and thank you to whoever sent those in.

For those and rest assured to the people out in the public we do review and look at those public comments that are submitted.

Executive director report.

Sue.

>> Sue: Good morning, everybody.

It's great to see everyone here today.

I want to thank the Commissioners for their continuing work and their commitment to creating fair and nonpartisan redistricting.

Provided for your discussion today are tentative timelines for the selections, process for consultants as well as draft resolution 20210201 to provide a framework for approving the rules of procedure if you confirm that General Counsel Pastula is ready for approval after continued review today.

You also received for your review a draft, no you have not received a draft of vendor questions because we did not receive any for the voting rights legal act counsel RFP under the mandated timelines for submitting those questions.

Also today as secretary to the Commission and in their role to keep the public record and furnish technical services, Michigan Department of State has provided a memo describing a solution for facilitating public comment and map submissions from the public for which they will cover the cost.

I'm excited about this very generous proposition and look forward to your feedback.

And that's really my official report for this morning.

As our ice breaker, I would like to ask what has been your most interesting aspect of working with the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission?

And do I have a volunteer to start?

Or should I just call on people?

>> Steve: Call away.

>> Sue: MC I saw your hand.

>> MC: I saw Erin's hand too.

>> Getting her next.

>> MC: I think the most interesting has been the response that I think we have had with the number of people who have said I've watched all your meetings.

That, yeah, has been super interesting but it also, yeah, I did get a big response from people actually heard my name and said oh, my gosh you are going to be on the Commission so I'm not surprised and pleased but it's very interesting to me.

>> Sue: Wonderful Erin you can be next.

>> Erin: I was just going to say I found the entire thing interesting so far.

And I have to agree with MC I think it's fascinating to see the amount of public support we have for this.

Thank you.

>> Sue: Thank you, Cynthia.

>> Cynthia: Well, I think just watching the process of 13 random individuals coming together and I think we work really well together and we've made a lot of progress I think towards our goal.

That's just been pleasantly surprising to me.

>> Sue: Thank you.

Juanita, what do you have to offer here?

What is your most interesting part?

>> Juanita: Well my most interesting part is getting to know each and every one of the Commissioners.

They are also gracious and so kind.

Everybody as Cynthia just said everybody seems to work together so well.

And it's like we were put together and we are made up of all those different whatever we have in us and we are coming together really well and I'm enjoying knowing and getting to know the whole conquest of the redistricting idea and getting to know everybody else and so it's been a pleasure.

>> Sue: Thank you, Juanita.

How about you Janice?

>> Janice: Well, I too have found it very interesting to meet all the diverse people. I actually was surprised that a random drawing could get people so diverse.

So it's been really interesting meeting everyone.

>> Sue: Thank you Janice.

Steve.

>> Steve: Well likewise, it's been interesting watching the group I'll say coalesce and grow together and also interesting to me because of my attorney background working with Julianne as she expands a simple project into a 50-page document so no offense, no offense Julianne.

>> Sue: She is taking care of us, Steve, right?

>> Steve: She is taking care of us and doing a very good job too.

>> Sue: She is yes, I concur with that whole hardly.

Richard.

>> Richard: What I thought was interesting I thought it would be fairly simple to draw the lines but after reading all the rules and Court opinions it's not going to be that easy. So I think that is the most interesting to me.

>> Sue: How about you, Rhonda?

>> Rhonda: I think my most interesting has been doing research as far as people who have heard about the Commission and people who haven't, communities of interest and just looking at as a whole not only in the state but in the rural area for me it has been really interesting.

>> Sue: Okay thank you for adding that.

Rebecca, how about you?

>> Rebecca: Sorry I'm unmuting here.

I would echo what everybody else said one I'm surprised with what a diverse group we have with so many interesting backgrounds and that has been really delightful to see and then also just how complex and complicated our task is.

It sounds simple on paper but once you start looking at all the requirements it's going to be quite a challenge.

>> Sue: Dustin what has been your most interesting aspect?

>> Dustin: Seeing how everyone is working together with us.

And just the interest of how many people wanted to be a part of this and all the people that submitted resumes for all the positions that we hired for and it's just mind boggling to me but it's actually really cool to see that everyone has an interest.

>> Sue: Thanks, Dustin, how about you Anthony.

>> Anthony: To me I think the most interesting thing is the amount of positivity that we've generated so far.

Coming into this, I thought that we a lot of negative backlash but so far, the vast majority of comments I received from the community have been comments of hope and of kindness and hoping we can keep that up.

>> Sue: I hope so, too.

I think I've gotten all the Commissioners.

Did I miss anybody?

Then I will go to Julianne.

>> Julianne: Good morning to everyone my most interesting is watching the process unfold even before I was hired and tracking it and seeing how the group is coming together and collaborating as a team.

Thankful to be a part of it and I'm very excited for the next period of time.

And just know if I give you a 50-page document it was 100 pages in my mind so I have actually cut it down for you.

>> Sue: Okay thank you.

Edward here you go on the spot.

Your very first meeting, fourth day on the job.

What has been your most interesting aspect even though I know you have been watching for a long time and thinking and working for this day.

>> Edward: The camaraderie.

And the professionalism, the interaction, the desire to do good work.

I mean who could not be excited to do redistricting.

It's open, it's transparent.

It's what civics are supposed to be.

And that is what we are charged to do so this is just a wonderful opportunity to actually do the right thing.

>> Sue: Thank you, Edward.

And I have to follow the communications person.

Who has the speech all prepared, right?

What I enjoy is meeting the people involved in the process.

And I am so impressed with the way people are respectful in our meetings and the camaraderie that is developing and the commitment especially toward the end product.

So I thank you and I'm so impressed that 13 random people could come as far as you've come.

And I know that you are working very hard to do the right thing and all committed to fair redistricting.

So it's just heart-warming and I too am very excited to be a part of this as a staff member so thank you.

Back to you, Steve.

>> Steve: Thank you, Sue.

Richard, drawing the lines will be easy, getting them to be acceptable is going to be hard.

Okay, legal counsel report.

And I'll take your comment that you started out at 100 pages and went to 50.

>> Julianne: The good news is I'm not billing you by the hour.

>> Steve: Or the page.

>> Julianne: For my general counsel report today I would like to share that you will notice the equipment policy.

I did not draft.

There was a miscommunication and it is not necessary, so that will not be moving forward at this point.

If it's something in the future that Commission decides as a body is important to you then I would be more than happy to respond to that need.

What I am excited to move forward with today is the discussion of draft three of the rules of procedure.

For next week please expect a memo on the Open Meetings Act relative to conferences and seminars that was a request that the Commission made.

I also anticipate having your FOIA policy before you next week and on the horizon, I've identified the conflicts of interest policy.

As well as procurement evaluation proposal and working with Edwards on the communications plan which policy for your review and approval which is also critical.

Thank you.

>> Steve: All right, thank you Julianne.

All right, Edward, welcome.

Glad to have you on board.

Your smiling face in front of I don't know what Pacific, Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico.

>> Edward: How is lake Michigan.

>> Steve: Lake Michigan and taken out in front of your cottage, right.

>> Edward: There you go.

>> Steve: We are glad to have you here and your turn.

Go right ahead.

>> Edward: Thank you Mr. Chair I want to thank the entire Commission for the selection and the opportunity to be your communications and outreach director for this very important work.

This is just a great opportunity that you afforded me.

I really want to thank my teammates Sue Hamm she can throw down the hammer at any time so I know we are going to be great in terms of getting things accomplished and decency in order and enjoy working with Sue a delightful person and I love Julianne whether it's 100 or 50 or one page Julianne is my girl and we are going to be doing great work together to make sure we stay compliant with the Constitution.

And with your code of conduct.

Really want to thank the Michigan Department of State staff during the transition and working before.

They have been fantastic.

Led by Sally Marsh just a wonderful team.

And their desire to see us succeed and every function to succeed and be a part of the process is just phenomenal.

I don't know if we know all the work that goes in behind the scenes but just even putting this meeting together and the coordination so it runs so flawlessly, they ought to be commended.

Every single time because this is work and when it does not go right everyone knows and when it does go right it's expected so I just want to say thanks to each and every one of them who are on the line.

Those who have met and those who have I have not met to ensure inclusion as relates to this meeting so everyone knows that they can offer input, be participating in the process, there is no language barrier, there is no physical barrier in terms of disability. Everyone can participate and I really want to thank Sally as well as her colleague Sara for just a tremendous job at how everything has worked.

I also had the privilege of working with Jake who is a communications person for the Department of State.

And just delightful.

And the resources that we will be able to use.

And understand how things work behind the scenes which would be very invaluable to our work.

I want to thank Jenibe with public engagement the two principles that will be helping with communications and outreach with regards to the resources and they have opened things up quite well.

Also like to thank Kim and Chad for procurement as relates to many hi phone -- my phone and computer that is forthcoming and necessary to do the job and they have been moving very rapidly to ensuring we are following the appropriate protocols and the security so that we can have things running smoothly in order.

As many of you know I met individually with each of you just to kind of understand what you're looking for as a foundation for the communications and outreach.

The reason behind that was I want the Commission to own this communication outreach plan.

This is not Edwards plan or Sues plan or Julianne's plan this is your plan and I want to make sure that the things we are doing is representative of the Commission.

And I want to know I heard you very clearly about the public hearings and getting out there.

And we have a process that we are working on to do that.

I'll share more about that next week but we have a process that we will build up -- that will build up to the public hearings that will take place in June in terms of what we will do in March and what we will be doing in April are and how we will function in regards to the public hearings in May and June.

We will have a backup plan whether we do things in person or we do things virtually.

We will have a plan in place.

And the thing I really want to stress and as we talked in our meetings the importance of human connection.

The importance of human connection and people being able to connect with you as an individual whose passionate about the work and making sure that we have fair lines here in Michigan.

So I want to thank you for carving time out of your schedule to share your input, to provide me with the foundation not just for our communication policy but our plan and what needs to take place in the few months and the times ahead, short term and long-term as relates to communications and outreach.

Very happy to report that in March we are going to be working with the Michigan association of counties, the Michigan township association and the Michigan municipal league by I'm getting each and every one of you who are willing to provide comments remotely, virtually during their public hearings to get the word out to the public about our work.

So it's just happy to get that lined up and get the things in place and I'll be sharing more information as we go along.

But this will be our first opportunity to go out, show our faces.

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Do a two to three minute spiel and build some confidence and let people know that the Michigan, the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is alive and well.

And wants to hear from each and every one.

If not all ten million people as many that want to participate as possible.

Because you have a right to participate in this process because this is what the state voted for.

So grateful for those opportunities and want to thank those in California, Colorado and Arizona we are trying to form relationships with them.

And glean from best practices as well as Tom Evako as well as reaching out to voters and not politicians and others to ensure we have a robust and best practices plan that will be not only the envy of the nation but the envy of the world under your leadership as a Commission.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to present and if there is any questions, I can take them at this time.

>> Steve: Okay, anybody have any questions for Edward?

Juanita.

>> Juanita: I think one of my questions would be to Mr. Edward woods know exactly or not exactly but around what time we will probably be hitting the town halls, what month?

>> Edwards: Looking at mid-May and finishing off in June is the tentative timeline right now.

Once again that will also deal with the pandemic whether we are in person or virtual but we will have a plan for both ways.

But that is the timeline that we are trying to meet right now.

>> Juanita: Okay thank you.

>> Edward: Thank you.

>> Steve: Others?

Any other questions?

Dustin.

>> Dustin: Welcome to the team and I look forward to working with you.

And it was nice talking to you yesterday and what you had to say this morning so thank you very much.

>> Edward: Thank you.

>> Steve: That's it?

Okay, thank you, Edward.

I appreciate your update and look forward to working with you and for your future updates.

Glad to see we are looking at getting out to these other governmental units.

There is a lot of them out there.

And they are all meeting virtually for all intents and purposes.

So Michigan Department of State Sally, do you have an update for us?

>> Sally: .

>> Steve: We will talk a little bit about computers, right?

>> Sally: Well, as always if you have any issues with your computer or getting your computer, if you get an e-mail that doesn't make sense to you or a phone call that doesn't make sense to you, you know, don't hesitate to reach out to me or of course to Sue.

We will help trouble shoot behind the scenes.

They should be kind of on their way and getting delivered to all of you in phases at this point.

Based on Sue's direction and the direction that you all provided to her.

So if there are any issues don't hesitate to let us know.

I wanted to provide a bit of an update today and circulate a memo to this on this topic as well to all of you about public comment and collecting public comment and really what that is going to look like once you really start, you know, encouraging the public to submit their feedback to you even more than you already are today.

We've listened to your questions and concerns about how that is going to work.

How it's going to work with map submissions, with written comment and how you're going to catalog it, how you are going to organize it and Doug has raised great points about this and many of you have raised great concerns along the lines learning from the best practices or sort of the areas of improvement of California and other Commissions in the past.

So we have been thinking about solutions.

Both this response to your questions and concerns and also just anticipating how the current e-mail system will become difficult to manage.

Once you really start receiving what I hope and what I know all of you hope is just a real incredible volume of input from the public.

And so as secretary without a vote of the Commission, which as Sue mentioned earlier is responsible for keeping the public record in the Constitution, we, you know, are seeking to procure a tool that would allow for this to happen and would really facilitate transparency.

And so you know transparency and organization both for all of you and for the public.

So I wanted to highlight a couple of points then I really welcome your feedback, your questions, wanted to make sure we really spent time talking about this.

So in terms of facilitation, just a couple of key points.

One is that this is all about facilitating the public comment between the public and all of you, right?

And facilitating that in a transparent and organized way.

And it's about meeting your needs.

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And making sure that the public can either in written or in map form provide their feedback to all of you.

It envisions I think the vision of a tool like this would really be focused on transparency, right?

It would facilitate the public submitting a partial or complete map to you and allow the public to see that in concert with all of the other public submissions.

And I think it's important to just underscore that that can boost the confidence in the process over all for the public instead of sending an e-mail and unsure how you will see the data file or unsure what you will do with the map drawing they can see that translated this tool envisions it would kind of be immediately.

And then you know an added benefit of that of course is accessibility right, making this real and accessible to the public which I know many of you have talked about before.

And I think it also can assure all of you that the Department of State is playing that facilitator role, right, that you are seeing all of the public comment and that you are able to really have confidence that the secretary of the Commission is playing that very secretarial, very sort of facilitating role.

And not, you know, providing comment in a way that is difficult for you to look at or to kind of manage.

And organization, I think is the other kind of really key point to highlight here. This sort of vision that envisions you be able to catalog and we be able to catalog comment for you so you can search.

So you can look at things geographically or semantically and can interact with the data and with the submissions without hours and hours of staff time doing that cataloging work, right?

It would allow that on the front end so that you don't have a volume trying to sort through.

And then of course the data piece.

I think this is really essential and I think it's something that all of you really talked about when you talked about the map line drawing RFP that you're all putting out is right, like how can this person, how can this vendor take input and put it in to our maps at our direction?

And so by facilitating this sort of public comment tool it would allow for that, that really easy transfer of data and export of data.

So those are some of the key points I wanted to mention.

Like I said I really welcome your feedback and any questions you might have.

And want to make sure that the functionality that I just talked about or any that you come up with down the line can be you know added to or integrated in to as much as possible you know a tool like this.

So with that I'm opening it up to questions.

But really excited about the prospect of this.

>> Steve: This was a subject of the memorandum we received?

>> Sally: Yes.

>> Steve: Okay, setting forth -- now I assume that whoever we eventually hire for the map drawing is going to want a little input on this.

>> Sally: Yes.

Well and I would add that the RFP that you all put out for map drawing explicitly requires that the expert who you hire is able to integrate different data files into the maps that you all are drawing.

So I think of course they would be able to have input but I would not envision that being an issue based on the RFP that you all put out.

>> Steve: Assuming that the various programs can talk to each other, that would be true.

>> Sally: Yes.

And my technical expertise is limited, but my understanding is that for geographical type files we were talking about a couple weeks ago I think GIS files there are some standard formats that are able to be integrated across forums.

>> That's correct.

>> Steve: Thank you, Mike.

Anthony.

>> Anthony: So I think you know everything you just said is exactly what we need.

My question is: Do we know if any tools like that currently exist?

>> Sally: Yes, I believe that the functionality that I just described it does exist and that you know the Department of State has the funding you know not just the ability as secretary to the Commission to procure this tool.

But also that we have the funding to be able to support that.

So that your budget you can focus on those, the things that you really already have outlined that you really need to spend your funding on.

>> Steve: Anybody?

Any other questions on this?

This certainly will be interesting.

It gets up and running and we start seeing people sending us maps.

I can imagine we are going to have some interesting maps that we get.

>> Sally: And one thing to add, you know, Anthony just thinking a little bit more about your question as well is that there are you know as you all know because they were Linked-In your introductory materials, there are already in existence, right, publicly facing map tools, right.

You can go on right now a member of the public could go right now and go to a tool like representable that Sue Smith mentioned in her public comment and director is one of them that is publicly available.

So part of what this tool envisions as well is it will be able to catalog and take any map that someone drew on any of those different platforms and be able to be provided to all of you in a way that is integrated or sort of in concert with one another.

So you're not receiving a bunch of different file types or a bunch of different links if that is helpful Anthony, I just wanted to add that.

>> Steve: I think what I was seeing is we would be able to if it works right, we would be able to overlay a map if we have a map, they are looking at they can overlay that on our map or their map on our map.

As long as we don't have ten overlays that you can't make any sense out of, we probably would be okay.

Erin.

>> Erin: Sally, I may have missed it, was there a timeline when MDOS would be implementing this?

>> Sally: As soon as possible.

I think as you all now are well aware within state Government it takes a long time sometimes to get from point A to point B in the sort of appropriate manner following the proper protocols.

So we will be really focused on getting this up and running in time for you all to be doing public hearings and doing kind of the really robust outreach that Edward was talking about.

So I'd say more to come on the timeline.

But time is of the essence as all of you know.

>> Steve: Okay.

>> Sally: MC.

>> MC: I just wanted to acknowledge I feel very heard and feel like the three patients of the memorandum just reflects a lot of our discussion and feels comprehensive and thorough and appropriate it and Erin asked the question and if this is the right time to talk about and approve it officially if it's the right time and also want to move to that -- in that direction if it's appropriate for the Chair or if it's appropriate now but I just, yeah, timing feels important.

>> Steve: We can do that but the secretary of state this is their program and their money.

So I guess they are going to do it regardless of what we say.

>> MC: Okay.

>> Steve: I'd be happy to make a motion that that's the way we want to go.

>> Julianne: Mr. Chair.

>> Steve: Yes.

>> Julianne: I apologize.

If the Commission is going to make a motion but again just to highlight that this would be all facilitated through MDOS.

Not through the Commission.

>> Steve: I understand that and this is kind of approval of their proposal that we are on board with their proposal.

>> Julianne: Excellent.

>> Steve: All right.

>> Resolution of support.

>> Yeah.

>> Steve: Okay who supported?

>> Erin, all right, all in favor of supporting secretary of state in this effort raise your hand.

[Hands raised]

Any opposed same sign.

Okay unanimous support for the secretary of state.

>> Sally: Thank you Commissioners, that's all I've got.

>> Steve: Thank you, Sally, we all appreciate you enlightening us on the various technicalities and of the State of Michigan Government.

Unfinished business rules of procedure.

33rd draft excuse me that is a typo third draft.

>> Julianne: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Let me share my screen here.

>> Steve: You may say this but before you get started the red lines that we are seeing are the new changes and the other changes that we have talked and approved previously are not highlighted.

>> Julianne: That's correct, Mr. Chair.

They have already been incorporated per our last discussion.

So these.

>> Steve: Thank you.

>> Julianne: These would be the new changes.

So before us today we have draft three of the rules.

The goals remain the same.

We will have a facilitated discussion of the updated draft to make sure that the changes reflect the body's previous discussions and we will continue this cycle until the rules are finalized.

This -- there are five amendments in draft three.

That will be working through.

So again a much shorter slide deck than our initial slide deck we covered in draft one.

The first modification is the addition of the definition for redistricting matter which is found on page one.

Now, while redistricting matter is only used once in the rules, I thought the best placement of it was to in the definition section.

So this is the proposed language before you.

Any matter on the subject of determining or revising state legislative and U.S. Congressional district boundaries in redistricting related activities of the Commission and then also it touches on what that excludes.

Which would be organizational administrative or operational work of the Commission that is not directly associated to the core activity of redistricting.

Were there any comments on this language?

>> Steve: Any questions on the language?

>> Julianne: Okay.

>> Steve: Okay.

>> Julianne: The first internal cross reference on page three directs and it references in section 2.4 adoption of the rules and how they can be amended in the future.

So the cross reference to section 14.0 is, in fact, the process by which the rules would be amended.

Then that is again found on page three.

Are there any comments or questions on this language?

Or proposed change?

>> Steve: You're referring to section 14 of the amendment, correct.

>> Julianne: That is correct of the Bylaws excuse me of the rules excuse me.

>> Steve: Just so I'm clear when you say rules, you're referring to the amendment?

The constitutional amendment.

>> Julianne: No the rules the Commission's rules of procedure section 14.0 of these rules.

>> Steve: Okay thank you.

>> Julianne: Uh-huh.

Our second internal cross reference is also found on page three.

It's found in the eligibility criteria section.

And it adds subpart E to reflect disqualifications as set forth in section 3.4 of these rules.

And I would note that as set forth as duplicated in the text of the document the slide is correct so I will be making that.

I just wanted to note that that correction will be made if the revision is acceptable to the body.

But what this does is it distinguishes between disqualified for appointment or elected office by the Michigan Constitution which would include article 4 section 3 in the eligibility criteria's fourth in the Constitution.

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And it would also acknowledge in subpart E that the Commission has taken the vacancy portion of that language and inserted it in section 3.4 of the rules of procedure of the Commission.

So again it's just that internal cross reference to take the reader to the appropriate section internal to the document as well as referencing and highlighting the foundational authority of the Constitution.

Are there any comments or questions on this proposed language?

I will move forward.

On page 7 there is an addition.

A clarification of the types of districts.

It is a definition in the beginning but I heard the concern that it was six pages removed from those definitions, so the for ease of reference and convenience of the reader, the language was replicated here.

In manner of voting on page 12, the addition of unanimous consent which captures current practice of the Commission, that's used particularly for approving the agenda and those types of business so I wanted to make sure that the rules reflected that as far as the permissible manner of voting.

And the final change is found on page 15, and this captures the ability of any member of the Commission to raise an objection in that the chairperson independently or at the request of the member may take action to address such remarks.

And this is getting towards the we had a robust discussion last meeting on this topic.

And this is the language that is presented for your consideration.

>> Steve: Any questions on that?

A lot of comments the last time and Julianne and I had an opportunity to speak with this week.

And you can rest assured that if someone breaks one of the Commissioners, one of you raise an objection or a point of order or whatever regarding any type of activity at a public meeting, that I will do something.

I don't know exactly what that may be.

And sometimes doing nothing is doing something, but I will do something.

I will not ignore you.

And if you feel I am, then raise an objection and I'm not doing anything.

And we will go from there.

But I want to let you guys to know that I'm going to try to keep things moving along in a civil manner when we get to public meetings.

>> Julianne: Steve, thank you.

I also wanted to highlight for this language in particular so the open meeting act grants the public the ability to participate.

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To view and to participate in such meetings subject to reasonable restrictions by the public body.

So the first amendment then we overlay the first amendment on to it with free speech and being able to see things so I really wanted to highlight for the Commission that the rules on the time limit, the rules on adhering to a topic germane to the discussion again if a speaker is discussing water rates in their community, that is not something that would be germane to the Commission's business of redistricting the lines.

So those types of issues.

But I did want to highlight that the level of objectionable behavior and where it rises to intervention is the bar is extremely high.

Because of the constitutional protections on free speech.

And in the context of a limited public forum.

So I just wanted to highlight that for the Commission.

That often times certain members of the public may not be pleased and we will let you know that.

And their comments may not be something that is appreciated, but in most cases, they do have the right to make that.

But we will walk through that together as it arises in the future.

I just wanted to highlight that as we talk about this language that that's a concern that we will all have in our minds as it occurs.

Thank you.

>> Steve: Okay, any questions, comments?

Not seeing any then I would entertain a motion to adopt these rules.

Erin you are making that motion.

Second, MC has seconded.

All in favor of the adoption of the rules presently before us as have been amended raise your hand.

[Hands raised]

Thank you.

Opposed the same sign.

They are adopted unanimously.

Julianne thank you for all of your work on this and for my teasing you on the length of the document Julianne: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> Steve: As I guess a question, this is a draft, but are there going to be any editorial changes that you might be making?

>> Julianne: The only change that I would be doing is removing draft three, moving today's date February 4, to adopt it effective and then removing the watermark.

Those would be the changes that I would be making.

And as I indicated there is a duplicate.

The only scrivener error I'm aware of and I will read through the whole document completely would be that repetitive clause as set forth.

>> Steve: So we can expect a clean copy at some point in the future.

>> Julianne: I will get this, the document reread and cleaned up today and forwarded to MDOS for posting on your website as soon as possible.

But the end you know I should have it to the appropriate people by the end of today.

>> Steve: In the meantime Commissioners, if you have any questions about the rules you got a copy now that for all intents and purposes is the final draft.

Okay, timelines for consultant selection process.

Who is doing that?

Sue.

>> Sue: Good morning again.

We started talking about this last time and I said let me just bring the calendar so I did provide for you a calendar as you can see there is many, many moving parts to this process.

But upcoming next the mapping proposals are due by February 10th.

So it will take about a week for the internal review that the Michigan Department of State and your ICRC staff will work on.

And then we will get these proposals to the subcommittee to review on their own time.

And we will have a meeting scheduled.

My plan would be to reach out to these subcommittees within the next day and find your time availability for your subcommittee.

So those of you who are on subcommittees I will be reaching out to you to find out your specific time of availability on those two days that are selected there to make the process move forward as quickly as possible.

This is a draft schedule subject to change.

I mean if we get 20 mapping proposals it's going to take longer possibly for internal review.

So we are going to target for these dates.

Try to get those subcommittee meetings set within the next couple business days here and then we will move forward accordingly.

Questions?

>> Steve: Okay, this timeline that you're referencing you published that?

>> Sue: I believe that MDOS staff would put that on the website because it's one of our meeting materials.

I have not looked on the website this morning to see that it's there.

Maybe Sara or Sally could confirm.

>> Steve: I guess my question is was it in this packet for this meeting today?

>> Sue: Yes, as an attachment that I sent out.

>> Steve: Okay then I missed it.

So if you could send that to me.

>> Sue: Happy to.

>> Steve: I was having some technical difficulties getting things to print yesterday. I thought I had everything.

Okay.

>> MC: It's in the chat, Steve if that helps.

Sara just mentioned that and hi Brittini.

>> Steve: Brittini is here.

Hi, Brittini.

>> Brittini: Good morning, everyone.

>> Steve: Okay, anything else on that, Sue?

>> Sue: Yes, I do have one other thing that Michigan Department of State has a specific code of conduct for the reviewing process in regards to confidentiality and those kinds of issues.

And I think we will be bringing a policy back next week probably a very brief policy. But Julianne will work on this to make sure that everything that we do for the generous offer of the Michigan Department of State for example to post this and reach out to vendors that we agree to follow their general guidelines and the review process.

>> Steve: Okay, thank you for that.

What is everybody feeling?

We have a break scheduled here and we are going into a long session.

Let's take ten minutes.

Be back at 10:10.

[Recess]

Looks like we are waiting on Dustin unless he has got his video turned off.

And Sara sent the document on proposed timelines.

Thank you, Sara.

Appreciate it.

Dustin is back, so we are up to answer to bidder questions for the voting rights act legal counsel RFP.

Sue are you going to help us with that.

>> Sue: I would be very happy to help you if we received questions by the deadline and yesterday at 3:00 was the deadline for proposal questions we had not received any. I was surprised.

Chad reached out to me and he said generally this points to a clear, well written RFP if they don't have questions.

And he also said sometimes bidders don't want to tip their hands so they won't ask something they want another bidder to know.

So this is where we are at this point.

So we do not have to do that process and I'm sure Chad will either not -- I don't know their process whether he simply doesn't post anything because there are no answers or he does post something that states there were though questions and thus there were no -- there are no answers to report.

Julianne will be our primary staff on the VRA proposal review and I will take the mapping.

And of course we always work together but we are going to try to divide and conquer a little bit on this and keep each other informed so we can move on with other important work of the Commission.

>> Steve: All right and the RFP redistricting committee is myself and who else? Erin and Dustin.

And the other committee voting rights act is Doug, Anthony, Brittini, and Rebecca. So we have 45 minutes set aside with nothing to do.

>> Sue: That's you may gain a little bit of time today and maybe people would appreciate the gift of 45 minutes today.

>> Steve: Okay.

>> Anthony has a question.

>> Steve: I will get to you in a second Anthony.

Do we know how many submissions, how many applications there were?

>> Sue: Application deadline we have not reached the deadline yet so we have got another week before we get in the mapping and a week after that for the VRA legal counsel.

>> Steve: Okay Anthony.

>> Anthony: You just asked the question I was going to ask so I yield.

>> Steve: Sorry.

Okay, any other questions?

We have 45 minutes, what do you want to do, folks?

All right, upcoming media agenda topics.

I think those were on the back of our calendar submitted previously.

>> Sue: There are some general ones we have listed general topics kind of by month and meeting, but as we move along, we certainly have additions, so I don't believe we have any unfinished business from this meeting to work on next time. But we will have a communications policy that Edward and Julianne are working on to present to the Commission.

We will have some kind of a policy for the RFP reviewers to look at.

Julianne mentioned she is going to provide Open Meetings Acts guidance for when we participate in webinars and other types of public meetings.

And Edward is moving right along.

I know he is only four days in, but I'm sure he will have some strategies and information to present to you and we can continue on with some strategic conversations about how we move forward.

So I think we've got enough to keep us busy for a while.

>> Steve: So Edward, you got four days under your belt and you are already behind.

>> Edward: It beats the alternative.

>> Steve: That is what I always said when I was in practice, it's always better to have too much work than not enough.

Okay, we have announcements and we have listed a webinar on the next big thing. Since I didn't put that on, Sue, I assume you put that on.

>> Sue: I think MC had asked for this to be added to the agenda and there is the link there.

It's kind of hard to find on the website so this is the link to find it.

So if you would like to register to be a participant, then I will send you the information so you can listen in on this webinar.

But this is Tom Evako who is presented to the Commission in the past.

And he will be presenting with his group on communities of interest and I know MC thought it would be very interesting for the Commission.

And probably another opportunity for some learning in this area.

>> Steve: And Julianne.

>> Julianne: Thank you.

Yes, and the link I did click it, it does take you with directly to the informational page.

And I wanted to assure the Commissioners that the form for this event is not an interactive event, it's a webinar, a stream.

So and you will also have the ability to attend live conferences if they are available in the future and all of that as a body too.

And the memo will outline that but I wanted to reassure the Commission particularly for this event when you register, they just sent you a link to watch so there are no issues with that and the topic is directly on point to the work of the Commission.

So you should not feel that you are in any way prohibited or restricted from attending or participating.

Again, the discussions between the group, the Commissioners whether electronic or verbal is what would control the open meeting act violation so just merely attending something to gather information would not be prohibitive and I will lay it out and it's agenda item and we gained so much time in the addendum I thought I would make brief comments for you thank you.

>> Steve: Is this registration open now?

>> Julianne: Yes, it is.

And if you are -- the instructions that I received when I forwarded my information the instructions on the website also indicated that they would post the link to watch on their

website that day so you -- there is not even a need to preregister although that may be helpful because it might put you on an informational list that you might receive other information in the future that you would find useful but you certainly don't for this type of event it says very clearly on the website you don't have to preregister.

That it will be available that day regardless.

>> Steve: Very good.

MC.

>> MC: I was just going to acknowledge if Susan Smith is still watching that this was going to be my question whether she was going to attend this because she had with league of women voters they talked about educating their members and asking for volunteers around communities of interest and because it's such a high priority for us in terms of the you know the constitutional priorities and because it seems so I mean I think it's defined but I don't think it's set like the definition of what a community of interest is not set.

It feels like it's important because we are the first Commission to sort of residential with and try to understand it people who are wrestling and the more, we can listen in on the conversation and try to develop our own understanding it feels like that is where I was going to ask the league of women voters Susan Smith whether she was attending this and if you are listening Susan that is it, check.

>> Steve: Juanita.

>> Juanita: I just want to say that in about ten minutes.

>> Steve: You flipped yourself off Juanita.

Turn yourself back on there you go.

>> Juanita: In about ten minutes or less my computer is going to cutoff and restart so if you don't see me that is what is what is happening.

>> Steve: Okay.

>> Juanita: To let you know.

>> Edward: We will be reaching out to you with regards to professional pictures so just look out for e-mail from me with regards to that so we can get that scheduled.

>> Steve: They don't have to be current, do they?

>> Edward: It would be helpful.

>> Steve: Oh, no, I'm going with a younger one.

Thank you.

Sue.

>> Sue: When Julianne suggested adding this section to our agendas, she suggested also letting the other Commissioners know when we were going to be engaging in outreach.

So I just wanted to confirm with and let this Commission know that MC and I were invited to attend a blue brigade meeting on March 31st and we will be attending that meeting to provide the information.

We are allowed to provide to that body.

And also.

>> Steve: The meeting to who.

>> Sue: Called the blue brigade.

>> Steve: Okay.

>> Sue: This will be a Zoom meeting.

So and then also on February 17th, Michigan nonprofit association, which is engaging communities of color in two major cities and communities of interest conversations.

And they are holding a press conference that day.

And they will announce their grant recipients, local non-profits.

And they have asked me to provide three to five minutes of information on the Commission.

I'm assuming around how people can engage in providing public comment to us.

So I will get further information on that next week.

>> Steve: And that was who again?

>> Sue: That is the Michigan nonprofit association.

>> Steve: Thank you.

>> Sue: They did a lot of work with the census and are now taking the alliances that they have created and the processes and moving that in to how can they further the work of redistricting and engaging communities of interest and so we appreciate them walking alongside us in this.

>> Steve: Good.

Others?

We have nothing further.

We are at the end of our agenda.

>> MC: May I make a motion that we adjourn early?

Now.

>> Steve: Motion made to adjourn.

Seconded by Rebecca.

And I've been told I have to be more formal on all my motions, so I'll do that.

They don't like my smile.

So in favor of adjourning raise your hand.

[Hands raised]

All opposed stay here.

See everybody on February the 11th at 1:00 p.m., afternoon meeting.

Thank you, everybody, and Edward welcome again.

>> Have a great weekend everyone and a great rest of your day.

>> Thank you Brittini take care everyone and good luck with your Internet, Steve.

>> See you everyone.

Nice to see everybody.

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>> Same here, goodbye and good luck and have a great day.
[Meeting concludes at 10:24 a.m.]