

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

MICRC

09/01/21 10:00 am Meeting

Captioned by Q&A Reporting, Inc., www.qacaptions.com

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We will bring the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 10:06 a.m.

This Zoom webinar is being live streamed on YouTube at www.YouTube.com/MICHOS office/videos.

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using, please visit our social media at Redistricting MI to find the link for viewing on YouTube.

Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and Spanish and Bengali and Arabic translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. Please E-mail us at Redistricting@Michigan.Gov for additional viewing options or details on accessing language translation services for this meeting.

People with disabilities or needing other specific accommodations should also contact Redistricting at Michigan.gov.

This meeting is also being recorded and will be available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC for viewing at a later date and this meeting is being transcribed and closed captioned transcriptions will be made available and posted on Michigan.gov/MICRC along with the written public comment submissions.

There is also a public comment portal that may be accessed by visiting Michigan.gov/MICRC, this portal can be utilized to post maps and comments which can be viewed by both the Commission and the public.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, our Communications and Outreach Director for the Commission at WoodsE3@Michigan.gov or 517-331-6309.

For the purposes of the public watching and for the public record I will now turn to the Department of State staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good morning, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name.

If you are attending the meeting remotely, and unless your absence is due to military duty, please disclose your physical location by stating the County, City, Township or Village and the State from which you are attending the meeting remotely.

I will start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

Brittini Kellom?

Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present; attending from Reed

City, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present; attending remotely from

Charlotte, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 12 Commissioners are present.

And there is a quorum.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Thank you, Ms. Reinhardt. As a reminder to the public watching, you can view the agenda at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

I will now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Witjes and seconded by Commissioner Rothhorn.

Is there any debate or discussion on the motion? Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I had a question about information we got that I did not see in our process things. So I just wanted to know if it was already in our process or if it had to be added to the agenda to discuss for the community of interest process.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Executive Director?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: We will do that under item 6A the community of interest considerations.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Does that answer the question, Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes, it does. Thank you.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Any additional discussions or debate on the motion? Hearing none, we have a motion to adopt the meeting agenda before us. All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay. The ayes prevail and motion carries. The meeting agenda is adopted.

Without objection we will now begin public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of our meeting.

Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with the public comment pertaining to agenda topics.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide in person public

commentary to the Commission

will now be allowed to do so. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line to provide public comment is number one. You are now invited to approach the podium and address the Commission.

>> Good morning, everyone. Carlo Casleoni, business manager Plumbers Local 98, Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Brighton, Sadilic, Port Huron. Long story short, we represent democrats, republicans, everybody. And this is probably one of the worst Commissions anybody can sit on. My hats off to you.

If you can keep inclusion in mind, if you could not break up the counties.

I mean, it's really brutal when we go out for one of our people we are trying to help and one block away you have the wrong District or this or that.

So good luck to all of you. And that's all we have in mind.

And you're going to need it.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

All right. That is our last live, in-person public comment so we will go to remote commentary. Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide live, remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.

I will call your name and our staff will unmute you.

If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak.

If you are on the phone, a voice will say the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute.

I will call on you by your name. Also please note that if you experience technical or audio issues or if we do not hear from you for 3-5 seconds, we will move on to the next person in line and then return to you when they are done speaking.

If your audio still does not work, you can then e-mail at redistricting@Michigan.gov and we will help you troubleshoot so that you can participate during the next public comment

period at a later hearing or meeting. You will have two minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line to provide remote public commentary is Mr. James Galant. Please allow our staff to unmute you.

>> Can you hear me, Madam Chair?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, sir.

>> Okay. My name is James Galant with the Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition.

These are my opinions.

And I see that there still seems to be a problem with the attendance.

And that there is no rule on that.

And I did go back to the transcripts, which the transcripts are not verbatim and some of the words are not the words that were spoken and some sentences are missing. But Commissioner Eid's statement that his proposal for a rule on the attendance on, you know, that they didn't vote on that, that he said it was voted on because the bridge recorded that he voted on that.

And but they didn't.

So that is what is happening here.

You are taking recommendations and you're saying, oh, well, we kind of voted on this; but it's straw polling because that is what happened.

They discussed it for a while with no motion pending. And all of a sudden, oh, it looks like everybody is voting against him so he withdraws his motion. And the same thing he bullied Commissioner Clark to do a couple times.

And please clarify Commissioner Witjes' statements that the collaborative mapping process are rules.

He said they were rules.

This is how the rhetoric is used to change the perception of the members.

Do you folks really think that this is the rules?

Because this is a policy. The policy does not supersede rules. It's a hierarchy. And Commissioner Lange stated in those transcripts, so if they are not right, please check them, that you folks voted before you even represented your -- got your draft rules of procedure in February.

You voted before that, early on. Commissioner Witjes said that, Commissioner Lange said that you voted that everybody has the same power. There is no -- everybody is the same, the Chair has no more power than anybody else. And Commissioner Witjes said that seems like a unilateral decision because that is what they said. Nobody gets a unilateral decision. But that is what the rules are. That is how the Chair works. And even though Commissioner Lange says she knows there is hierarchy of rules to keep order in the meeting, but the Chair, and he got side lined, side bar rules that have been

voted on. And you believe you have produced. But they are straw polling. And that is against the rules. You have to follow the rules and please get --

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission, Mr. Galant.

Next in line for remote public commentary is Bailey Hamilton. Please wait for the staff to unmute you.

>> Hello, am I audible?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you, yes.

>> I tried calling yesterday but never received an invitation. I would like to say that Anthony Eid is doing an excellent job. And I think the attacks he is receiving on your comment portal are completely unfair. Mr. Eid proposing districts that are actually competitive and creating an electoral maps that both republicans and democrats potentially win. Unlike the current republican gerrymandered map that was approved by Rick Snyder in 2010, that guarantees republicans win every election. Even if they lose the popular vote like they did in 2012, 2014, 2018 and 2020. He also factoring the communities of interest that are being raised by individuals on your comment portal. And is trying to avoid packing all urban voters into the minimum districts, which politics 101 would tell you resulted in democrat vote sync.

I'm going to argue that it's a bit worrying that Mr. Eid is the only individual on this Commission so far who came to realize that without those adjustments this map would create yet another redistricting republican gerrymander, worse than what Rick Snyder approved ten years ago.

It's not partisan to insist that a fair map be redrawn, which Commissioner Eid is absolutely doing. If he was actually drawing a democratic gerrymander as someone in your comment portal accused him of, I and many others would speak out immediately, but he is not.

Mr. Eid is doing an exemplary job. And the reason his draft proposal seem out of the blue is because he is following public comments on your portal on how to draw fair map using communities of interest instead of just drawing urban and rural squares.

I think both this Commission and the public should give credence to the proposals he is making instead of dismissing them or branding him as a partisan hack, which is completely unjustified.

We should not be attacking somebody that is partisan for simply insisting on a map that is actually fair.

I implore everyone on this Commission to recognize that making the currently gerrymander map more fair is not gerrymandering. It's restoring competition and democracy that should have been. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much for addressing the Commission. All right, that concludes our first opportunity for remote, in-person commentary today. So we will now move on to second remote commentary.

Individuals who signed up and indicated that they would like to provide live remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. We will use the same process as the first round.

First in line to provide second remote public commentary is Mr. James Galant. Please wait for our staff to unmute you.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, sir.

>> Okay. This is James Galant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition, and these are my opinions.

And, yeah, the past speaker kind of speaks volumes and volumes on a hundred thousand volumes because this community of interest thing is anybody can come up. This is what the Voters Not Politicians and the League of Women Voters say they are going to do.

They are just going to crowd people in and say stuff. And then people like Commissioner Eid will go oh, look, somebody said something. I'm just going to do that. Look. Because that is fair. No, that is a democratic democracy and that is what you are trying to change this into.

This is a constitutional democracy. And Commissioner Eid is not following the rules of procedure as provided by the Secretary of State, Robert's Rules of Order.

And he is claiming he was the past president of the school body at Wayne State University. I think they were using Robert's Rules, too.

And this is just, you know, you can't have fair maps if you do not follow the rules. So this is just wrong.

Because you need to have a motion for every map.

Motion to consider it, and then you are going to call the question at the end.

And what you're doing now, Commissioner Lett suggested you not use committee as a whole structure at the beginning, but this is committee of the whole structure.

Everybody is only supposed to get two statements, ten minutes each, at a board meeting like this.

And go into committee of the whole, you can go on and on. You can add more than one and work it out and bring a recommendation to the full commission. But you have people dominating it. And it is Commissioner Eid and it is Commissioner Rothhorn and it's Commissioner Witjes. And they -- I believe they said that in the transcript. I've been listening to the meetings. They said they have been working together. Let's get together and we are going slip it right in there. And this rhetoric that is being done when there is no motion pending, there is no immediately pending question, That is the fundamental tenant of the way we do it in the United States of America.

And I believe that Commissioner Witjes may have a higher loyalty to the parliamentary monarchy over there as his other loyalty, is he, you know, he is a democrat now. He probably represents the democratic party. But is he in another political party in the

Netherlands? They got 30, 40 of them over there. And they have to work like this to get along and to make it happen. And we don't have because we don't this. And this is bullying. It's institutionalized bullying. I think the Clerks of this state should get up.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission, Mr. Galant.

This concludes our public comment for this morning. However, I would like to mention that all e-mails and public comment is provided to the Commission before each meeting. And Commissioners also review the public comment portal on our www.Michigan.gov/MICRC website on a regular basis.

So we appreciate everyone who provides public comment in whatever way they choose to do so. And we invite people to continue sharing their thoughts, communities of interest and maps.

At this time I would like to note for the public record that our -- I am the Vice Chair, and our Chair is unable to attend this morning. So in the event I need to leave the room, I would like to designate Commissioner MC Rothhorn to act as acting Chair in the event I have to step away for a moment.

All right. Moving on with our agenda, without objection, I'd like to move to unfinished business. I believe we completed all of our business yesterday. So we can move past Agenda Item 5A and go to Item 5B, which is a review of the maps drafted at the previous meeting and any, sorry, alternative proposed maps. So does anyone have any thoughts or comment? Commissioner Lange, I see your hand.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: The west region wasn't completed yesterday I don't believe or did we decide just not to complete it? I thought it was going to be completed today, the House Districts were not all completed.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I mean, I watched the entire meeting. I didn't think you guys were done.

So are you -- did you complete the house maps or we have not completed anything technically but did we manage to work through that region?

>> We left it open.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Because does anyone disagree that we completed that region? Does anyone think we are done and want to move on? All right, so why don't we pull up that map from yesterday and take a look at it and see what we have left and we will work on unfinished business 5A which is completing the House Districts for the western region.

Kent, would you mind bringing up that map for us? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm going to need a moment to bring it up and it was on John's machine and sent to me.

Now I need to import it in.

>> Rebecca?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I just wanted to offer it because we will have more information about COIs, and I don't think it's a waste of time to do this, but knowing that there is going to be extra, that we need extra time to bring it up, and we will, looks like in order, so we won't actually finish this region.

We have draft maps that also are not finished.

I guess I'm okay with sort of moving on, recognizing it's unfinished and we will be coming back to it later because of the COI, we will come back to it with more information right the COI information.

Tomorrow we will have more racial and demographic information and analysis.

So I guess I'm just offering if we want to continue mapping this with more information, we don't have to, yeah, don't have to use it as old business.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Well, I would suggest a motion then because we have it on our agenda and it is unfinished business so if we want to move on with it and you know because it seems like there might be a difference of opinion, I suggest we put it as a motion, Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would rather stay consistent with what we have been doing.

And not deviate from it and we got just a small piece left any way unless it looks completed as we have done all the others.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thanks for that input that is what I was kind of looking for, discussion.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right any other thoughts on this topic? All right so we will just look at this map, see where we are at and I believe you left off with Commissioner Eid.

Is that accurate? Was that I thought Commissioner Eid did the first drawing in Grand Rapids so or did you cycle all the way back around again?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: My notes indicate that Commissioner Curry was the final Commission to participate yesterday.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay thank you so it would go on to Commissioner Eid.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I want to be sure I'm looking at the right shape file. I'm pretty sure -- I know this is what John sent me.

Does that look familiar to everyone?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

If it's not I'm sure it will be brought to my attention shortly.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right Commissioner Eid?

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay so looks like we have two areas left, the area directly north of Grand Rapids of Grand Rapids and all the cities surrounding Grand Rapids. And also this area that's a little bit to the east.

And south.

So I'm going to go north and let's just see how many of those Townships we can fill in to make one District.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This area here?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Commissioner Eid, feel free to mess with the one I drew if you need to go that direction and just have...if you have anything that would go into that really light shaded one that is to the left of where you're at.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yours was number 11.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Correct like pinkish one.

Feel free to go into there if you need to get population.

>> COMMISSIONER EID:

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Make sure to speak directly in the microphone for the benefit of not only the public but the translations and interpreters.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And me.

Where am I starting? Who is speaking first?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I'm sorry? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And what do we have up? This would be District 14?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So let's start with Alpine and the remainder of Plainfield.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Can we make this a different color just so it does not contrast with two? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, looks like we got a little sliver here.

But we will fix that as we get to there.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Go north to take those four Townships above.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Rockford included?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: And cedar springs.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That area?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Uh-huh.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay we need 16,000 more.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay let's take Court land and Nelson.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Cannon, Courtland and Nelson.

You are now 2400 short.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: What do y'all think? Maybe should we nix the top part of those Townships and maybe get Cannon in? Or should we just leave it as it is now? Now you can probably make a District out of what's left without going into District 11.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Trying to figure out how I want to word it but I'm going to say wouldn't the Townships that are closer to Grand Rapids align more with Grand Rapids, so wouldn't those suburbs want to be lumped together as opposed to going with the northern most three? Just a thought.

I'm wondering if it would make much sense to have another District on the right side of the Grand Rapids area that just grabbing that one Township that is at the bottom right corner of what it is that you're drawing now.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, we could try it.

I thought that the suburbs of Grand Rapids were south.

So Byron, Gaines and Caledonia.

I thought north of it was more of the farmland.

>> You are correct.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I might be wrong there.

Actually I was trying to make a more rural District out of these.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Look at the populations in those northern suburbs though.

Cannon, Plainfield, Alpine they are about the same as Gaines, Caledonia so I think these are more suburban because you would not have the population counts if it was rural.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Right, right, okay so let's, hum.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You can slide that closer.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay we are down 2400.

Let's take Spencer then, that will put us up about 2000.

Spencer on the top right.

Okay I'm good with that for now.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: You want to provide your rationale, Anthony?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Department of State do you need more from me or are you good?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, could you provide any additional explanation please.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Trying to make a District out of what is left outside of Grand Rapids.

This creates one that works with population and also works with what is left based on what we have drawn already yesterday.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right if there are no additional comments for Commissioner Eid Commissioner Lange it's back to you for the next District.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I would like a copy made, please.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: She would like a copy made.

Can you create a clone? Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yesterday we took the region lines off.

At this particular point and I'd like to potentially have that done again.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Rhonda you are drawing do you want the region lines on or off it's up to you.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Honestly it does not matter to me at this point.

The things that I want to adjust are within the region.

So they can be removed or put on.

I don't think it's going to affect what I want to do.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: A new plan is being generated it will come empty then we will import the shape file so we will have the second or the version two.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thank you.

And it's that even though it's SSD.

Shall we turn the regions off is that where we are going with this.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: You can leave them on or turn them off I'm kind of impartial like I said.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: They are on if you tell me to turn it off, I will turn them off.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay, I know how to go over those lines. I have done it.

I want to start my new one with the entire County of Montcalm.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This will be 15.

Montcalm.

There is a single County.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay and that has 66, okay, what was the population of the top four in Kent County that were just done? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: These four right here?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes, those four Townships what was the total population for that? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Let me change this real quickly.

And the town that is in the middle of it cedar springs you want to include that?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Excuse me.

That population right there is 24,202.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay, if we took.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That would put you right at the ideal population.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Do that, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So now District 15 is a mirror 796 people below ideal.

14 District 14 is 22000 below and District 11 is 54,000 below.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay can we add for 14 to try and even it out that one empty spot right there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Now 14 is 8.9% low, 8,000 people.

These two Townships together would be approximately 10,000.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Can you make it smaller so I can see? Sorry.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I understand.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Those two together would be approximately how many? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 10,000.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Which would put us in the general area? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Approximately.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Add those two, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: District 14 is 1.94% high.
1781 persons.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: 13 is low, 3,000 so can we add.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 14 is less than 2% high.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay 14 is good.

So then does anybody else want to complete it from there? My rationale is I don't like how 11 honestly was split.

It split up two counties and left a little loop on the bottom.

And I just don't understand why that was done that way.

It didn't look compact as compact as what it could be.

And that suburban looking area in 14 above Grand Rapids it just seemed to make more sense to put that, so that's why I did it.

I don't want to hog this.

If somebody wants to build off from what I'm doing that is fine.

It's up to the Commission like I said.

I don't want to act like I'm hogging a turn but this just seems to make more sense to me.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Witjes I like the way it has been done but again I want to caution everybody compactness needs to be the furthest thing from our mind right now as well as county boundaries, Township boundaries precinct boundaries should not be a concern with what we are doing.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Why shouldn't they be? Since a lot of people that we've heard from said keeping County boundaries Township boundaries and other types of

boundaries were something to consider? It may not be the forefront but it's certainly something we can consider.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: That's true but it's also the lowest level of criteria we are supposed to be considering right now, so I mean, yes, you can look at it, but you should not be afraid or not wanting to split something up because of comments we heard that said keep things whole.

That again should be the last item on our list of things to consider because it is criteria 7 and we are working on 1 and 2 right now potentially 3.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I haven't seen anybody with any fear on this Commission yet.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Wrong choice of word I suppose. But it still shouldn't be something that is considered at a very high level.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton and then Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I see what you're saying Dustin.

We know it's number 6 on the list, the County boundaries.

But we did hear I think 7 is compactness.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: 7 is compactness 6 is County boundaries.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: But we did hear a lot of public comment in our public hearings that they consider their County their community of interest.

So we need to take it into consideration for that reason.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm going to second, I was going to say the same exact thing that Commissioner Orton just did about people saying their County, where they live, where they work, is their community of interest.

So and we just had public comment, our first speaker today talked about counties and keeping them together.

So I'm for it.

I think it looks better personally.

And that's the change I want to make.

Like I said, everybody is entitled to do their own.

And if somebody wants to work on what I did that is great.

If you want to go back to the other one that's fine too.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I quite like this change that you made, Rhonda, with 14, 15 and 11.

I think we can probably fill in 11 later with the rest of what's left.

But I think that creates a good District with you know people with values of a similar mind.

So I like it.

I'd be okay with moving forward with this version.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Don't get me wrong I like it a lot too.

And I do think that we should continue with what Commissioner Lange just made. It makes a lot of sense.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I would add that I like what Commissioner Lange did. But I absolutely dislike Grand Rapids right now.

I think it was drawn for a perspective of maintaining partisan balance at the expense of very consistent testimony that we heard about communities of interests of those Metro six communities being kept together as a community.

I think it just divides up the City of Grand Rapids.

And adds in those Metro six communities in a way that is not reflective of the comments.

So I definitely don't like that portion of the map at all.

Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I have similar feelings.

But I'm thinking that we can go back over that when we get our community of interest overlay.

I think maybe that will really help us, yeah, what to do there.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right, so I think you're good.

Commissioner Lange.

So at this point we will move on to Commissioner Lett to draw the next District.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Zoom out for me.

I want to work down in Allegan.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: District 16?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yeah.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The whole County is 120,000.

Puts you 31% over.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I'm not going that way.

I'm not going to go -- I'm going to go down the coast.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, sir, let me back up.

So you are going to do Townships?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Starting at lake town.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Show me what the it would be eight Townships between the, yeah.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And Saugatuck, Douglas.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes, Saugatuck and Douglas.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That area contains 30,000 people so you still have quite a ways to go.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Okay take in South Haven directly to the south.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That put you at 38,000.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Is this the area?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Take in Geneva Township directly to the east.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 49,500 short.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Take in the two Townships directly below.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: With or without Bangor? That is 4500.

Select it.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: With.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Want to include Bangor?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: With Bangor.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is 6400 people.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Where does that put me.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You are roughly 43,000 short.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Not a lot of people over there.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: We may have some comment from

Commissioner Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: We received public comment saying Bangor does not identify with the lakeshore.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: The Township or the town?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I believe they were talking about the town.

But I'd have to go back and look.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I understood it to be the town.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: All right take Bangor out, the town out.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Done, you are 54,000 short.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: How many? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 54,600 I'm looking at the wrong one 45,058.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Zoom out, please.

Back up to the top County line.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Up here?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yeah.

I think that's where you're at.

We will take in Overisel and Salem, Heath and Monterey.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is 14,000.

That's going to put you approximately 31,000 short.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: And valley and Allegan.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And the town?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yeah.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm sorry I'm creating 14.

I need to change these to 16.

It will take one second.

Okay now 16 is at 18,000 under.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Zoom back out.

Between 9 and 10 I think that is Hudsonville.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, sir.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Tell me what the population is up in there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Jamestown, this Township here is 9600, Zeeland is Zeeland and Zeeland is 17,000 plus.

So we got 17,000 plus in here.

9600 here.

7600 there.

54,000 in Georgetown.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I'm going to change directions, clean off all the green.

Starting over.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Starting over.

Okay 16 is at 0.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I'm going to go back up between 9 and 10, add those in.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Kent, did you see that part of 1 disappeared when you unassigned that County? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Holland yes it did.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Holland was with that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Thank you.

Let's get that back in there.

Assign that to one.

There we go.

Thank you.

So we want to go into this area here.

Hudsonville area.

>> Georgetown, Hudsonville.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Mr. Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Put Georgetown in, Hudsonville Zeeland town and Township and Jamestown.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Is that what you.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Right above it Georgetown and Hudsonville and Georgetown.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay, so 16 now is 2.77% low.
2500 people below ideal.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Zoom back out, yeah.
Is we have Byron Center that is a Township or a town? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is a Township.
It's 26,000 people in it.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Put that in.
>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Include that?
>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Include that.

Now you are 24,000 over.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Print is too small I thought it was 2600.
Take it out.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I thought so.
>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I'm going to leave it there.

And the rationale that I'm looking at is to number one, the population.
And, number two, to keep Zeeland Township and town together, Georgetown and Hudsonville together, appears to be to me would be likely communities of interest.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Any feedback for Commissioner Lett? I'm seeing nodding and thumbs up.

Commissioner Orton? Or Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN:
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Mic.
>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I like it.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right in that case let's move on to Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay, Kent, would you Zoom out and show counties please.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Department of State staff did you have a question.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yeah, Commissioner Lett is there any additional explanation you want to provide? Is there any additional explanation about your District you would like to provide? You did, I just didn't know if you had any additional.
Excellent thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: For the record Commissioner Lett said, no, he didn't have his microphone on.

I'm just not sure the ASL interpretation heard that.
Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay I think I will work on District 11.
So select all of Ionia Township, please, yeah.
Can we change the color to a darker color? Yes.
Can it be a little darker? Just more contrast from white.

It's hard to see.

Yes, please.

Okay take where your cursor is, the three down there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm sorry that area is 18,000.

You will still be 6,000 short.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Add that, please.

Can you Zoom out further and show counties again? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You want to see the counties, the county numbers?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Mostly the names but.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You're 6,000 plus people short.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Townships again please and Zoom out just a little.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: What area?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I want to see the south and the east side of that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: South and the east which would be approximately that?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes, thank you.

I want to see south a little bit.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You can take all these, any combinations to get the 6300.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Does anyone know this area.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: To get your 6300.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Does anyone know this area? And think we should go west or south?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think they are both pretty rural either way so it's just whichever you would prefer.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay, I think take the top three to, yeah, right there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Up here?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And that is 5500.

That is going to put you close.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON:

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Cynthia I remember I just want to commend you. I think I do think Westphalia and Portland do associate and I do think that is a good choice that we made. I am almost sure there is a school District, Pewamo, Westphalia, which is sort of Lansing area but I think they associate with the Portland City, so I think it's a good choice.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: We will hear about it.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 908 people short. District 11 is or less than 1% under ideal.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I'm going to leave it there for now and I'm sure we can fix that when we tweak things up.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I really like the symmetry of it too.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Nice drawn District.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Hopefully the citizens like that we will see.

So my rationale is this is the area that we need to move, one of the areas we need to fill in.

And I felt like these Townships or this area was all similar, hopefully.

And population.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right we are on to Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I think I'm going to build on.

So we would be at number 17, District number 17 and I'm looking at what Commissioner, I want to work on what Commissioner Lett sort of helped us illustrate earlier.

So all of Allegan or, yeah, Allegan County please if you select that Kent all of Allegan and we will just take off the western edge so that we can leave that.

But I want to try to we are pretty close to population count with that County so we will just sort of, yeah, yes, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You want to unassign.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Take out about 21,160 please from the western edge. No, no, you are on the eastern edge. So unselect from the western edge, please, thank you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I was doing it the other way so.

District 17 is 4.5% high.

4100 people high.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: We have other ones that are really low so and that might be about the right depth for lakeshore so why don't we leave it right there. And my rationale really is to try to keep Allegan County as intact as possible while preserving a little bit of lakeshore.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Any questions or comments? All right well we will move on to me to do the next District.

So can you back out a little bit? And then I want you to go in below Grand Rapids. Sorry Byron, Gaines and Caledonia and also Thornapple.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That's 80,000.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Can you scroll down a little bit to see what is around there? Did we just assign that to the same District above? Or.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: They are the same color.

I can fix that.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That is like really close.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, we will change.

Not that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: If it makes sense to take those northern districts that I just did right because they are more suburban to build yours, please do that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 13 and 18 are now somewhere.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So we are at.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Let me get these set.

11 is, well, you're not doing it, 18 is 10,000 people low.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Okay, so I want to bop into MC's District a little bit and take Leighton and the City of Wayland.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is 11,000.

You will be right at it.

So 18 is now .77% high.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We will go good there and bop down to MC's District and add a little to balance it back up and want T to go on the eastern edge of his District and how is he? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Low 7,200.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So Yankee springs, yeah, what is that Orangeville and Prairieville?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Those two together 6700.

That will put you 500 people under.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Let's go ahead and assign those.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Let's get the right District.

So 17 is now 528 under or less than .6%.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right I'm happy with those.

I do want to comment that, again, I'm not happy with Grand Rapids.

And I think that needs to be withdrawn but I'm not going to do that right now because that is going to require changing four districts.

So I do want to go on the record just saying I would like to see some changes along there.

And then excuse me the reason why I picked these counties is I was trying to pick the more populated suburban counties to group them together that are south of Grand Rapids because they are more closely affiliated with each other and I was also trying to hit the population counts.

All right next person in line is Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay, I want to start below 11 and take what is left of Barry.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is 46,000 people.

You will need approximately 45,000 more.

So let's take sun field.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This area here?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is 9,000.

You are still going to need 35,000 more.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: And then Roxand and Chester, all the way down to Walton.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is 10,000 more.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: .

You still need 26,000.

I know that is not Charlotte where I come from but y'all pronounce that.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: How do we say it, Erin?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: It's Charlotte.

>> What did you say? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Charlotte.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I'm thinking this is Commissioner Wagner's area and she may be able to help you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Wagner I see her did you have any comments or suggestions with Commissioner Vallette about the Charlotte area?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: We already did Charlotte area two days ago and practically what we have done with the last couple Commissioners has already been done.

However we did miss some western counties or Townships that are under Holland that were not included on the map two days ago so you are in an area we have already done.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That is okay because we will overlap the maps so, no, you are correct Commissioner Wagner so we are overlapping, go ahead Commissioner Wagner I'm not trying to interrupt you.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I was just going to say we missed those two Townships in the far east or west side right underneath Holland we missed those. Those are not in any map.

I think it's Saugatuck and at the lake town and lake town and Saugatuck I don't think we included in any map.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I'm confused.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Basically what Commissioner Wagner is saying is that when we did the map for the Lansing areas, we included Charlotte and the surrounding Townships. So you're sort of bleeding into that, which is fine. You can do it on the map too and it's not a big deal. But she is suggesting maybe you should look at the

lakeshore instead because the lakeshore Townships lining the lake have been left open. But those are actually, Saugatuck I'm familiar with that area, pretty small population. So even if you bop over there you will not have enough population to create a District. So that might be an area we decide to leave open now with the thought process that when we create a lakeshore district coming up, we are going to grab from lower. So just offering suggestions.

Feel free to take and choose what you want to do.

It's your District. And was that an accurate summation, Commissioner Wagner? I just want to make sure I'm summarizing what you are trying to say.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: It was.

Thank you, Commissioner Szetela.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: So can you back out so I can see population? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Zoom out? What more.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I want to see population.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Zoom in.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Pardon, oh, sorry.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is all right.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I said it backwards.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: What do you want to look at this area?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes, and I need 26,000.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Correct Charlotte is 9300.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: So are we saying that Charlotte and Carmel would be better together than -- I guess I don't understand what Commissioner was saying. She said that we already mapped these in another map?

>> Uh-huh.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: So she is suggesting that I don't map there?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Wagner did you want to clarify?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Charlotte is basically almost a rural suburb of Lansing.

We are only 17 miles from Lansing.

Charlotte associates with Eaton Rapids, Potterville, the area to the east more so than the area to the west.

I doubt anyone in Charlotte goes to Hastings all that much.

They tend to go to Lansing instead to work.

So I think anything you include from Charlotte over isn't going to mesh well with the public.

But then you know who knows.

I could be wrong.

But I think I would go south.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I was just going to suggest that.

Go south to like Pennfield and Bedford, you can pick up some population there. Go ahead, Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: So take out those four by Charlotte and we will go, I'll go south.

The rock land Chester Carmel, Walton.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Not to complicate things but Bedford and Pennfield and are very closely related to Battle Creek.

So.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I mean you can always just stop too Commissioner Vallette.

We know we carried over this line the other day and you know some of these counties are going to bleed into the other map and be absorbed then we can adjust it so you can always just stop.

You don't have to you know you can just do what you are intending.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Then I will take your suggestion and stop.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right, you want to provide your rationale?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Well, I was just trying to do the population. And then I was...my Commissioners told me that Charlotte should not belong with the group that I was doing, so I took them out.

And, frankly, I don't know where to go from here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right, thank you.

So at this point we are moving on to Erin Wagner. But we only have that little slip left of the lakeshore. So do you want to do a District or do you want to save it for later? You can do either.

It's your provocative.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I was going to suggest when we wait and marry the maps together and see where we are and correct the pause at that point.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think that is perfectly reasonable.

Any comments or discussion on that? All right I'm seeing thumbs up around the room. All right now we have concluded that portion of our new business or I'm sorry our unfinished business item 5A we can move on to review of 5B of the maps drafted at the previous meeting and any alternative proposed maps.

So is there any comment or discussion around what we have done so far, any thoughts? Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm going to we don't hear this very often I'm going to kind of agree with what Commissioner Szetela said earlier.

I'm looking at the Grand Rapids ones and some of the public comment which I mentioned yesterday I've seen multiple that talked about Hudsonville, Jenison and areas like that being a community of interest.

So I would probably want to go back and look at those specific areas again too for the Grand Rapids map.

So I just want my voice to be known on that also.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: See we are not as different as you think we are, Rhonda. All right, any other comments or concerns? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We need to deal with a few dis-continuities.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead and check that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That little nugget in there and appears to be there too, yep. So, oh, they are left over so we will just unassign those.

Where they are at is that lakeshore that we were not full with so let's just unassign these.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right so Mr. Kent is working on just checking our plan for any errors so that we can correct any areas that we inadvertently failed to assign or that we you know have dis-contiguities where we have separates that are separated from Directors we have drawn and we know the shoreline is open because we deliberately left that open but we are just fixing those little plan errors to correct them.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Executive Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I have a question.

I'm wondering if the Commissioners want to see an overlay of the maps that have been drawn to date just to kind of have that picture of where we are?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think that would be helpful.

Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes, I would really like to see that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Do we want to do that right now or do we want to do that at a different time? I'm not sure how involved that is to ask that of you right now.

Okay, your microphone is not on.

So I believe you said that that was going to be tough.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Well I just need to go get them all those shape files and set them all up is my point.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So maybe not do that today.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We can look at it like there is H House Districts south central.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Maybe if we have time after the lunch break or tomorrow.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think that makes sense.

We don't need to do it right now if it's going to be involved.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: But you can see now that I've loaded the south central right here.

Which was done August 24th.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So those are the red lines.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Those are the red lines you have a little bit right there and we could load in the southwest.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: And Kent it would be useful to maybe I don't know if we need to see them but if we have alternates from the 24th that would also be useful for me to sort of figure out how many versions of each day are we tracking or do I need to remember a track on that would be useful as well.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Here is what version HD.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 30th which is the southwest, that is more red, comes up into here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Kent would it be possible when you're showing us all the plans together, to have them.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Each different color.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I was just going to say the same thing.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: One thing at a time.

All we can do, okay so here is the south central from August 24th.

And some of stuff we are going to have to turn off so we can keep up with it all.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, that is helpful, thank you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We just have to kind of pick through them one at a time.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: And what is the green? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Let me get them all, so we are going to have, yeah, we will have.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton did you have another comment?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Maybe we can work on getting them all for us.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think we are going to move on while you work on this.

So if you want to.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We have them.

Now I can bring up the northwest too but I think we are going to do that today any way.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So the red is the southwest.

It stays, let's see how we can better view these.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I'm guessing green is maybe Lansing area.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay this is the HD.

So we will start on one at a time.

This was done yesterday.

And it's where y'all started, I pretty much started today, I think.

See the red lines in there.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So and then we came up with a version two today.

You wanted to finish.

This is south central, which was done August 24th.

There is the blue.

You can see that the overlay areas is right across in here.

And all of this.

That was south central, August 24th.

Return on August 30th, the first version.

That's the bright green, less noticeable, but we see overlap in the bottom of 19, along 17, but at the same time you all left this area unassigned.

So this has been done.

This is not assigned in any map so far.

Then we have version two.

I will just turn that off.

So it looks like version two done August 30th was just didn't do the whole area so much as it did -- this was Commissioner Eid's went up the shoreline started doing the shoreline.

Yeah.

So probably the best thing to do is whomever has an area they want to look at we Zoom to that area and then bring up the layers.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right any comments or questions about what we are looking at right now? Okay, if not, then we will move on to the next item in our agenda which is our new business.

6A communities of interest and regions where maps have been drafted.

Without objection I will ask our Executive Director Hammersmith to provide information about the draft documents COI and public comment considerations version 8.31.

Hearing none please proceed Executive Director Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Good morning again everyone.

There were several staff yesterday working diligently to try to make sure that we could look at communities of interest especially those clusters that is been identified where there are many comments in the same region, similar comments in the same region.

As you know, the initial process didn't seem to be working very well.

So a new process was drafted for your consideration.

And sent to you last evening.

I want to go through that process very briefly.

It's not a long process.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

But as you are aware, there are public comments from many sources to take into consideration.

So those are those comments on the public comment portal.

And I think this work to accumulate the clusters will help streamline the work of the Commission.

So you can look at other areas where there are public comments and make sure that we are taking into account what has been heard from people no matter how they comment, whether written or e-mailed or verbal comment in a meeting or the remote public comment or through the public comment portal.

Again, the communities of interest definition more for the public I think you probably know it by heart by now, however, communities of interest may include but shall not be limited to populations that share cultural or historical characteristics or economic interests, communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties incumbents or political candidates.

And I would also mention that in that same paragraph we are asked to take into account the diversity of the State of Michigan.

The final COIs are ones that will be incorporated into maps.

And there are lots of proposed COIs which basically are any submission you have received.

So what is being proposed in step one we would look at the COI report.

That cluster of comments will be displayed over the selected region.

As well as individual COIs can be brought up.

Or will be brought up within that region.

So you can ask them Kent who is mapping with us today to see plan ID, whatever, that you want to see to look at that.

Also, the full report has been e-mailed to you.

I believe when I sent it last night it was probably the third time it had been sent out but I wanted to with your meeting information.

And in that report, you will find a description of each cluster, that is at the beginning.

Next there are heat maps in that report.

And lastly, all of the individual COIs that makeup that cluster has a description in that report.

Thus the length of the report.

We are going to look at the clusters sequentially in numerical order by the regions then.

So in order to facilitate the process in a more timely manner we felt let's start with the Upper Peninsula, northeast and northwest.

There are only four clusters to review.

So we thought that might be a little easier lift to get started and to utilize this practice to see how well it will work.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

Step two would be adding the draft lines then for that region for the districts. So we would overlay the House Districts, overlay the Senate districts in separate steps. So you could then see if there are communities of interest that overlap districts and possibly you would want to keep together. And take, have those considerations for any that you wish to consider individually.

We are suggesting the same discussion process. So again the rotating sequence of Commissioners through the alphabetical order as we go.

With a Commissioner starting off the discussion saying I notice, you know, in this in this map that I think we should address.

And that Commissioner would...we would keep a log of all the suggestions that will be made.

Again, we will make sure that we have the any proposed changes that a Commissioner would suggest and the rationale, the District number, the what its cluster that is being considered for the change and the impact on diverse communities.

So again taking that diverse communities into consideration.

And then we would go through each District in the region, just looking at them to make sure that those communities of interests are included as you wish to have them included.

There may be overlapping communities of interest.

There may be competing communities of interest.

There will have to be some discussion to decide what may be more important than another to take into consideration.

Depending on the comments you've heard, so lastly then once these logs are created, it doesn't make sense to start moving lines with every District you're looking at because you're going to have a lot of movement and everything will change quickly and at every you know that every change you make impacts another area.

So our thought is to keep this log and then when we are through a region or possibly through the state, we will have to see how it works, then decide in that log which of those proposed changes you feel need to be made.

And then there will be some line adjustments.

So again I heard Grand Rapids talked about a couple times this morning.

This will be a process that will help inform you on those lines you drew yesterday.

And any other lines that you have drawn throughout the process.

So our hope is to go back and collect all these communities of interest first and the regions you have drawn.

Then we will move on to the newer regions and incorporate the communities of interest as we go.

But again this information just became available now.

It's looking like in real time.

Honestly.

So Kent has been working very hard and we certainly appreciate all the efforts of Kent from the EDS team to make sure that these regions were available to you, to work with today.

So that's basically the process.

For consideration, you know I think we should try it out and not necessarily like let's adopt the process right away.

I think we should try it out, see how it works.

If we need adjustments, we will make adjustments.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So just to clarify this process is looking at clusters of comments, not we are not going to be going through individual comments, it's sort of just assemblage of common themes I work characterize is that accurate?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I heard about the public comment so you already have done some of this work as you've mapped.

You've watched and looked at your notes and rewatched meetings, whatever you have done, taken your public comment, looked at the public comment tool, you've already incorporated a lot of this.

So this is another area that I think will be very helpful as you do look at the common themes that are being brought forward.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Clark I agree we should give it a try and take a look at it.

While we do this since we are adjusting lines, I personally would like to see the racial data and the political data displayed on the screen.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: And we can do that because you can set the population you know how we see the population numbers you can actually specify like African/American population, Hispanic population Asian population native, we can have I think up to three displayed at a time so we can see it that way.

It's just turning the labeling on.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Is that something EDS would have to do for us.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think that would be relevant as we go through this because I wouldn't want to have to go through this and have to go back through looking at that data too.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, I agree.

General Counsel?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much Madam Chair.

So to build on what Executive Director Hammersmith was stating, for the Commission's consideration overlaying the draft District lines that have already been drawn, that Mr. Stigall was beginning to show you, those will be overlaid with the COIs.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

So as the Commission moves through what is cluster number one today, you'll be able to visually see which COIs are crossed by those districts, those proposed District lines. The draft lines.

Again we are in draft status here.

And that the Commission will be able to focus in on those ones that are impacted by the proposed lines.

And again if needed log proposed adjustments to be captured and considered further later.

Because any changes that you make in one area will have the domino effect throughout the state.

So really capturing those suggested changes so that the Commission has the ability to consider and deliberate on a fuller set.

So the way I see it is what today represents and will be built upon even more tomorrow with Dr. Handley and excuse me Mr. Adelson's input is really elevating the conversation of what the Commission is doing.

Focus solely on equal protection.

And drawing the District maps to date.

Now we are going to be folding in criterias two and three with the addition of the racial data as well as the communities of interest.

These legal requirements that will impact potentially the District lines that are already drawn and one caution too is the maintaining any artificial boundaries whether it be the draft lines you have already drawn or political boundaries, may impact protected classes down the road.

So that is another reason that this layering we are elevating the conversation so while you're looking at COIs you will be looking at the racial data.

And having those considerations because the third criteria speaks of communities of interest.

But prior to that language, it clearly Constitution clearly states reflect the state's diverse population.

So while you may not have an area where Dr. Handley's presentation or analysis is found there to be racially polarized voting you may have a significant diverse population in that area and need to consider that in your mapping going forward.

So it's just a very exciting time.

Again, with all the hard work the Commission has been doing.

But I really, really see this next phase as elevating, as elevating not only the data that you're looking at but the consideration of it.

And the tension between the criteria is likely to arise as well.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: You guys are going to have to forgive me but I'm always the one pushing for 24 hours so I have ample time to review stuff.

And I'm trying to review it at 3:00 in the morning.

And I'm sorry some of the stuff is not sticking with me.

So I guess I do have a couple questions.

When you say we are going to put an overlay of the heat maps, does the heat map include, say, if there was one comment in one particular area compared to 30 comments in the other areas is that one comment going to be included would be my first question? In the heat map that we're going to use as an overlay to take into consideration these communities of interest.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Executive Director do you know?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: So the heat maps contain all the individual COI submissions in that cluster.

So if you look at A1 for example, you can look at the heat map and show where the highest number of comments is by the heat map.

And then you can go to the back of that document and find every individual COI submission that's included in that heat map.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: You're talking about the heat map and going back to a document.

I'm saying the overlay on the lines, the maps that we're doing, is it going to represent all of the input that we've received?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: It will include everything in that region, in that cluster.

So you will see the cluster shape and then within that you will see all the individual plans or plan numbers that are included in that.

I don't think it includes every single comment that's been made.

Because, again, you have written comment, you have e-mailed comment.

And I don't believe it includes every comment on the public comment tool.

These are the ones that rose to the top as being common themes and having significant numbers of comments in this area.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay well with that said I'm going to stop my other questions because I have a problem with that.

I've always said I don't think huge groups that one person's voice should mean any less than a huge group.

I'm having a hard time, I'm fine with the communities of interest.

But I'm having a hard time separating it if they are not all put together.

We are getting communities of interest, people talking about communities of interest that don't even live in the communities they are talking about.

And I think we as a Commission with due diligence need to separate that and I don't understand if everybody's comments are going to be included in these heat maps then how are we doing a good job as Commissioners taking into consideration all comment? So these are the questions I have.

And these are why I like the information in advance.

So I have time to think on this.

And get answers that you may not have right now.

And that's all I've got.

I'm not trying to be difficult.

I'm just trying to work this out in my own mind.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Lange.

Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I feel pretty much the same when I heard that these heat maps had what people more or less sent in.

And I was wondering what about the comments that we took in the meetings? Are they included also? I don't know if I'm overlapping Commissioner, Rhonda's question or answer or comment.

But I'm trying to find out are we -- have we combined them all with the ones that the ones that we wrote when we went to the meetings?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Executive director.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Communities of interest.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: These are the comments that came through the public comment portal.

This is the MGGG report.

This is the cluster of common themes.

But as you recall in every public hearing many, many, many times we asked people to go to that public comment portal and put in their comments.

So you can see that a lot of -- I know that MDOS staff told us you could see a lot of the names of people that came into the public comment portal or people who gave public comment in those meetings.

So I think this is the most efficient way we can assess the comments and we can find the common themes and consider groups of people who have given comments to us. If you want to go through every single comment, one by one, in a public meeting, it's probably going to take a couple of weeks.

And I don't know that we have the luxury of that time to do that.

I think we have to find the most expedient manner that we can to get the job done.

In the meantime, you know your homework is to read the written and the e-mailed comments, which have been cataloged.

They have been indexed and provided to you.

We also have the in-person comments at our regular meetings and at our public hearings and those have all been indexed and provided to you in spreadsheets so you can sort those by the regions we are talking about.

So always we encourage you to look at all forms of public comment, every comment is important.

We recognize that.

I don't think that we have time in a public meeting to go through, you know, a couple thousand public comments one by one.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Executive Director.

Go ahead Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I just feel that for one I don't have every public comment.

I didn't get those public comments every time they came.

And, secondly, I was kind of going with a lot of what we took in at the actual meetings because you're going by what one or two people are saying or maybe perhaps a group of people are saying.

I don't know.

But I know that I depend more so on my comments that I took at the meetings in person.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I do have concerns that with the report that we are receiving from MGGG am I saying that right? That we could be inadvertently excluding in particular rural communities where there is a digital divide, who even if those people came to a public hearing, they might not have the luxury of going home and putting their comments into the public comment portal because either they don't have Internet or maybe they have satellite Internet.

I can tell you having satellite Internet for years it's dodging at best so that does concern me a bit we are potentially excluding a population of commenters who we know we had problems reaching in the first place and we know may not have access to technology. That being said, I think this is just merely one tool in our arsenal of information that we have.

And you know we all attended public hearings and all listened to the comments even if they were not translated into the portal and we all should be ideally reading the public comments that we are receiving as well.

Whether by e-mail or otherwise.

So I appreciate the concern.

I think it's a valid concern.

I'm concerned about it as well but I also think like I said it's just one tool in the toolbox that we have to look at.

And at this point I think all of us are very familiar with the concerns throughout the state that we've been hearing.

Even if it might not be completely reflected in a cluster.

Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Thank you.

I am going to be a contrarian here and disagree with what I said.

We have a product here that was put together by very qualified data scientists to go over our public comment and put them in to maps of communities of interest that were submitted to take a look at.

This is an excellent tool to be used or to utilize and to help draw our districts.

And that's all I really have to say.

This is an incredible document that has not only images of the communities of interest that have been submitted.

It also has descriptions.

So this was painstakingly put together and it's going to give us quite a bit of information.

And we can use the public comment that we wrote down personally to augment this.

So this I think is fantastic.

And I give major, major, major props at MGGG and our staff for putting this process together and I think we need to use it.

So with that being said, let's move to let's make a motion that this is what we're going to use for now and get started with the communities of interest that we need to take a look at.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I need clarification on that motion.

What are you talking about adopting the COI public comment process? Because that is what is currently before us, are you talking about adopting the MGGG report? Would you clarify?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I would say we should move to adopt the process and then after we vote on that we move to adopt this report knowing that we are going to keep getting revisions any way.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Let's stick with one motion Dustin stick with one motion please.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: There may be some benefit to postponing the vote on that.

Give the Commission a chance to read through and I know particularly for step four it indicates in fairly concrete terms that after the clusters in a region have been considered, the Commission would loop back to the log and deliberate further.

But, again, due to the level of data that the Commission will be looking at at this point from this point forward, the Commission I would recommend the Commission have more flexibility in step four.

And that it be done periodically or even after the state is complete.

When you really start to see the trends and how the moving of certain lines are going to impact the rest of your mapping endeavors.

And I grant how there may be additional modifications that the Commission may want. Because again you own this process.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

It's the Commission's process working through it and seeing what parts of it will work and what parts won't.

The initial COI process you will recall the issue was that the COIs were being examined independently from anything else.

So they weren't being put in a District, a draft District map.

They weren't being overlaid over the current districts.

Or anything to put them in context.

So this will be the first time that the Commission is seeing what the public has provided to them visually on the map.

In conjunction with the draft lines that the Commission has already drawn respecting the first criteria, the portion of it and in particular dealing with equal population.

So certainly the Commission can vote to adopt and then amend at a future time.

Or as the Executive Director suggested, kind of review it a little bit further and see where we are.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, so we have two people who want to comment but we do have a motion on the floor but I am asking you to clarify what the motion is and let's stick to one motion so it's not confusing.

Let's do one first.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So the first one would be to adopt the process that was created by our staff last night.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So we have a motion to adopt the process and I believe someone over here seconded that.

Commissioner Lett so we have a motion to adopt the process we have a second from Commissioner Lett we have comments waiting from Commissioner Orton and then Commissioner Curry so please proceed Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Go on, Hun. Excuse me.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So from what I understand, the clusters that we're going to see are what Moon Duchin described a few weeks ago of putting them altogether and there were so many that they decide where the level is that they are going to cut it off.

So we are missing anything below that line.

I think she used 16 as the where they were going to cut it off.

So with that in mind we know that they're not all on there and we need to take others into consideration.

I would highly recommend that I think our staff also was recommending that we not adopt this right now but we try it out and see and make adjustments if needed.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: And I somewhat agree.

I just think that all of us don't have just a packet a piece.

I know that the machine got broke last night but I would love to read this and compare it with my notes either tonight or tomorrow.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I would echo the concern and Commissioner Lange's concern that I haven't had enough time to read through this and really sort of think about it and process it.

So I am and it does not sound like our staff wants to adopt it at this point.

I personally am in favor of not adopting at this point and maybe when we come back from the lunch break, we can spend a little time going through clusters seeing how the process works and if it works, we can potentially adopt it as a process.

And then my concern with the MGGG report is I think it's a good tool but I certainly don't want us to rely on that to the exclusion of other tools and think that this is the only thing we are relying on and I don't want the public to think that because this is very high level. We have less than 50 words per cluster describing them.

And I just don't want the public to feel frustrated that we are potentially just looking at this and not relying on all these you know abundant public comments with all the color that is associated with them and all the different details and just relying on clusters.

I do worry that even if we were to choose to adopt this plan, I don't think it's required that we adopt this report as well.

I think it's like I said just one piece of data that we have to look at.

So Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I completely agree with that.

And the comments that Cynthia made.

Back up to our original process, what we started to assess each of the COIs individually.

We saw how cumbersome that was and it didn't work to our advantage from a time perspective.

So I would suggest that we try this out as well and see if it's going to meet our needs as we move forward.

And if it doesn't, we can supplement it with other things as well.

I yield.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well, I don't agree.

I think we need a process to move forward with.

And that doesn't mean that we are locked into this process.

But we need some type of steps.

We adopted as Commissioner Clark has said we adopted a process that is and it was his process that proved a little cumbersome so now we are trying to adopt a streamline process so that doesn't work we can adopt another one.

And I don't see where we have to adopt MGGG's information, period.

It's information that we're going to use.

We are not adopting it or not adopting it.

We are just going to look at it just like we are going to look at Commissioner Curry's notes or at least she is going to look at them and Commissioner Vallette is going to look at her notes, I'm going to look at my notes and those will be up to the Commissioner to introduce those comments if they choose to.

To address Commissioner Lange's comment is one comment less important than 200 comments? Well, in all honesty, yes.

It is.

One of the problems that we've been having here is the people who want to be a community of interest certainly come out and they accumulate people to come out with them or comment with them.

That doesn't mean that the other 10,000 people in the community surrounding them are in agreement with it.

So somehow, we have to figure that one out.

So those are my comments.

I agree with Dustin's motion to adopt something to move forward or we are going to sit here and argue about how are we going to move forward for the next half a day.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Lett, are there any additional comments or discussion on the motion? All right, seeing no further comments or discussion, we have a motion made by Commissioner Witjes, seconded by Commissioner Lett to adopt the proposed COI and public comment process and considerations versions 8.31.

I'm going to actually ask for a roll call vote on this one.

Department of State if you could accommodate us on that I would greatly appreciate it.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair to restate the motion this is a motion to adopt the rules of procedure that have the draft rules of COI process and considerations.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, the COI and public comment process and consideration version 8.31.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

Commissioners please indicate your vote with a "Yes" or "No."

I will call Commissioners names in alphabetical order starting with Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

- >> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?
- >> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?
- >> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?
- >> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?
- >> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I will abstain.

Reason being that I'm in favor of it as a process if it works properly.

We have not proven that it works properly so I will abstain.

- >> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Under Commission rules of procedure the two methods of abstention are lack of information or a conflict of interest.

So that would not be an appropriate hinging it on whether it would work or not would not be.

- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That would not fall under lack of information?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I believe the way that Commissioner Clark worded his statement was that he is in favor of it unless it doesn't work.

So that to me maybe if the secretary would like to loop back to Commissioner Clark at the end of the roll call?

- >> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I will change my vote to no.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?
- >> COMMISSIONER CURRY: No.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?
- >> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?
- >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: By a vote of 5 yes to 7 no, the motion does not carry.
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right thank you very much, guys.

We are at 12:02 we are supposed to take a lunch break at 12 so without objection we will take a 45 minute recess so everyone can have lunch.

Hearing none we will see everybody back here at 1:we will say 1:17 p.m.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Call this meeting of the MICRC back to order at 1:37 p.m. for the purposes of the public watching and the public record I will turn to Department of State staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> Good afternoon, Commissioners when I call your name please indicate if you are present, if you are attending remotely, please share where you are attending remotely from.

I will start with Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>> Commissioner Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Present.

>> Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present attending remotely from Charlotte, Michigan.

>> Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.

>> Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> Commissioner Kellom? Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present attending remotely from Reed City Michigan.

>> Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> Thank you we have a quorum.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

Continuing on with our where were we at, sorry.

I need to look so we are continuing on with our new business, communities of interest in regions where maps have been drafted.

So we have the proposed plan in front of us.

The suggestion of our staff is that we maybe try to start with one in the Upper Peninsula and look at those clusters.

And kind of do a test run through this process and see if we are comfortable with the process and then if we are comfortable with it then we can make a decision on whether to adopt it, does that seem acceptable to everyone? Okay, Kent are you ready? So I

believe the first step in our process we will review the data of the COIs and clusters using from clusters from Michigan COI report.

We are going to look at a selected region as well as individual COIs within the cluster but a description of the cluster will be read aloud to the Commission and the clusters will be displayed sequentially in numerical order A1, 2 and 3 and proceed through the steps of the process for each cluster.

So I think what we want to see overlaid if you are able to do it is A1.

Is that A1 in green? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This is the set of area cluster A1.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, and do we have the description on that or is that in Moon's report?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair, [no audio]

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Excuse me is anybody talking? [No audio]

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Hello? Commission? Toi, can you hear me?

>> I can hear but if they are talking, I can't hear anything either.

>> Me to, yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I tried sending a message.

[We have no audio]

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I just got a message Toi they are working on it now.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda and Erin can you hear us now? Excellent, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So now that everybody can hear, so what I would ask again is if you could cycle through those maps again really quickly because I don't think there is significant changes in the Upper Peninsula.

I think the changes on those maps are in the upper part of the Mitten.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That's what I'm seeing right now.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I thought we were pretty good.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This was version one.

And you know we are primarily looking across this area.

Turn that off.

Turn on version two.

And it's very similar.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Turn that off, version three.

Still pretty if not identical it's very similar.

So, yes.

Any of these versions in that area will give you a good representation of what you've drawn.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so I think two of the maps carve out the Sault and include it with the western portion and two of the maps, put the Sault with the upper part

of the Mitten in light of our description of the core Upper Peninsula and looking at the District we have right now do we following my plan here do we believe that the draft District lines interact with the COI cluster in that format? Any thoughts, comments, concerns? Commissioner Wagner I think you have your hand up.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I do. We did not hear anything after whoever said Madam Chair, so if you could recap what the description is so we are on board that would be wonderful.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Absolutely. We are looking at cluster A1 which has seven submissions for the core Upper Peninsula. The submissions emphasize a strong Upper Peninsula regional identity. This region also identified three main zones. Communities bordering Lake Superior, communities bordering Lake Michigan and those bordering the Wisconsin border. Main concerns in this area were about environmental threats and the prosperity of travel communities. Regional economies depend on Marquette County. And many public services are available closer to Marquette City.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: And, Madam Chair, for the benefit of Commissioners and the public, the description of each of the individual COIs that comprise this cluster, A1, is listed on Page 22 of the report.

So if you turn to Page 22 you will see the written descriptions from individuals who submitted these COIs describing them.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, so we can all see the descriptions on Page 22. So do we feel that our District interacts with the COI in a way that in a way that -- how do we feel it interacts with the COI? I think, Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I was going to say, strictly speaking with the Senate, I would say, yes, which is what we are looking at right now.

So I would say, yes, it does encompass it.

It would be nice if we could take the whole UP and put it into one Senate District; but, of course, we know that's not possible.

But I would say, yes, it does conform with it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Ms. Reinhardt, did you have a comment?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I was just going to indicate that for the first step two of the COI process, it outlines that for each District within this plan, beginning in sequential order within the regions. So starting with District one, a Commissioner will begin a discussion among the full Commission noting possible changes to the full District lines. So that would continue from where we left off in line drawing.

And the next Commissioner.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay do we recall where we left off online drawing? Because I don't remember who is last.

I think Janice and then Erin left that area open, right? No, because I thought Erin was next because I thought Janice sort of stopped and then Erin didn't draw the coastline. Okay, so it would be she was -- she chose to stop. So I would, you know, I mean, so, Erin, do you want to start or do you want us to go with the next person? I can say we can interpret that either way.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: It doesn't matter. I can start just exactly what are we doing now.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: You are looking at the map that we have right now where we have District one in the Upper Peninsula and you are comparing it to the description of the cluster of COIs that we have.

And seeing or making a determination or comments about whether you think any lines should be drawn to accommodate that COI differently.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No, I thought we pretty much did what we needed to do with that when we did it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange? I'm sorry, Commissioner Wagner. I did not mean to...

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: That is okay. I was going to say there is that portion that we can't encompass with the entire UP because of population, but other than that, I think we satisfied that requirement.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay, so the clusters start on Page 22.

Do they end on Page 22? I'm sorry, I'm doing this online.

I don't have however many pages printed off.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So I'm looking at it online in my PDF viewer. And it's showing Page 23 is the supporting data for cluster A1.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm sorry, where is cluster A1?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: A1 is the Upper Peninsula so if you scroll back up to Page 19, yeah, it's just basically the entire Upper Peninsula so cluster one is the entire Upper Peninsula including Mackinac Island.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: So Page 22 shows the comments about it.

The potential communities of interest.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: So I'm looking at 1234567.

Did we only get 7 input on that?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That's what it's showing, yep.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Again 7 that were put in the online portal.

Obviously, we had more comments than that at the hearing itself because we had over 70 public comments at that public hearing.

Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Clusters A2 and A3 both also include the Upper Peninsula.

They just also include parts of the upper Mitten as well.

But the UP is in those, A2 and A3 so we might also want to look at some of those comments.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange, did you have another comment? And then Commissioner or Ms. Reinhardt.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Lange just to provide additional detail so these clusters that have been provided to us have been produced based on geographic and thematic themes.

So while cluster A is not all of the submissions that we've received in the U P, they are a cluster of COIs in the UP that fall under the theme as described for cluster A1 on Page 1 of the report.

That Commissioner or Madam Chairperson Szetela read at the beginning.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: When I look at cluster A1, it indicates the main concerns in this area were about environmental threats and the tribal communities.

I don't think we have sufficient data to talk about environmental threats.

I haven't seen it.

I have not read it.

I've just heard the general statement.

So I don't know if we meet that.

But just it includes most of the UP any way which would be a common interest for the entire UP.

And the tribal areas, I think we considered when we were drawing the maps and they are split between the two areas.

But the two Senate areas.

But I think we distributed them as equally as we could because of the population.

So therefore I think we met those two criteria.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So keep in mind we have two versions of the Senate map.

One that includes the Sault St. Marie area going westward and this version that is in front of us that puts the Sault St. Marie version going south we have two different versions.

The other thing I would point out although the Sault locks flow through to the rest of the lake, so it's not like they are entirely separate. But, Kent, can you Zoom back out a little bit? That portion of Lake Superior is being put down with the southern whereas in the other map because we included the upper tip of the Sault the whole Lake Superior coastline is being included in one District so something to think about.

Commissioner Rothorn, did you have a comment? Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Didn't we draw it this way to preserve the Native American population and not cut them in half in two different districts?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Could you repeat that?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I thought we drew this particular version of the districts in the UP so that we weren't cutting a Native American population in half.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We are actually cuts it either way honestly so we have two differ ways we are cutting it so it's one way or another but we were trying to meet the population.

So you can go sort of vertical or horizontal but either way if you look at the map of the Native American population in that area it's pretty significant but it's also fairly spread out over that tip of the eastern tip of the Upper Peninsula.

So you know that would -- it's just how do we want to divide it up is what it comes down to.

Either way you will have to split the community to some degree with respect to the Marquette side, the tribal reservation there that's all included in one District.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Okay Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Can we see the heat map of the I guess the racial one with the Native American population on here? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm trying to figure out how exactly we are going to approach this.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think you can add in addition to population total, total Native American population, if that's helpful we could see the numbers underneath.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay but what we have here is an empty plan with no districts in it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And the magenta lines are merely the overlay the shape file.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The boundaries it's not the data file because I can't have four or five different redistricting plans.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: At once.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: All using the same matrix tables.

It's empty, well I know what I can do.

Here we go.

Let's do this.

I'm going to create a District, I'll create a District one, select a box and what region do you want to look at like right through here?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So that area right there when we assign it creates at least we can get an idea of it.

So there.

Where would the race, I'm looking where Native Americans are.

What field would show that? So anyway this area, this area that we have right here is 73% non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic Black.

Minority 27%.

I do not see that table or I'm not familiar with the table here that shows population.

Is it Native American, is that it right there? Somebody from EDS would have to better explain exactly what each one of these fields are.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I believe NA is Native American.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So that region right there is just the population, non-Hispanic race alone which would be non-Hispanic, Native American, 12.7%.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Szetela if it's helpful I have the image that shows the map of Michigan of non-Hispanic native population that I believe Mr. Brace displayed for you all previously.

I'm happy to share that if that is helpful.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, I think that would be helpful.

This is it.

Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Forgive me I'm stepping back here on a step but I was just looking at the legacy data and population itself.

And I feel if we were to split it going east-west we are going to do more harm than if we would split it north-south like it is now.

The majority of population Native American is in Chippewa County with 8263.

Mackinac County is 2452.

Luce County only has 600 something.

So I think it's good the way that it's drawn at this particular point.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Most of the population is around Sault St. Marie.

Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I recall a comment being made when we were doing the District lines and most of the Native Americans don't live on the reservation. They live off of it.

So it really disburses away from the reservation area as well.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Right that is what this is reflecting so this is not reservations these are not reservations.

The reservation is to the west of Marquette.

That very concentrated area in Baraga County, but these are not reservations.

These are just census information showing where the population resides which as you can see most of them are off reservation.

With the concentration around Chippewa county and Sault St. Marie and to the west side but the west side is already included.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

It's how do you divide Mackinac versus Chippewa and why we have two different maps they were divided differently.

And that in some way based on the population divides the Native American population. It's just which way do you want to do it, do you want to do it north, south, do you want to do it east-west? Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Can we be certain that we are also not dividing a reservation? Because that seems like an entity that we would not want to have more than, yeah, one representative for that entity.

So I appreciate the population data, if there is a reservation and I think I heard you say Baraga County is where the reservation is I just want to make certain before I sort of say thumbs up.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think we would have to pull up a map of the reservations to look at them, to make sure.

Because there is lots of small little reservations.
Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm just a little confused at what we are currently looking at.

Is this just I understand they are Senate districts but is this one of the versions of the Senate District map that we made? Or is this both of them overlaid on top of each other?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sorry are referring to what's on the screen right in front of you?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Just to make sure that the viewing public watching via the live stream understands what you are talking about I'm going to stop sharing this screen which is the Native American population and switch back to the map.
So give us just one moment.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So MC to answer your question based on the maps of what I'm seeing as the tribal communities, there is the Sault St. Marie Chippewa tribe in Sault St. Marie and Bay Mills Chippewa Indian community which is if we can get back to the map, I can show you.

Then there is a smaller tribal area right by the edge of Mackinac Island.

So still on coast land Upper Peninsula but like right off the coast of Mackinac.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Anything split?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I need to pull up that map again and it looks like we got bopped out.

And then if you move in the upper part of the Mitten, little Travis Bay band of the Ottawa Indians is on the coastline as you head towards Traverse City, I think it's actually Petoskey area.

So looking at our version of the map that divided to the west, so this area right here how we have Chippewa divided includes all of the Indian reservations in Chippewa and in Mackinac and in Emmet county.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair I just wanted to clarify using this screen up here to make sure that we are all on the same Page about what we are looking at here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Okay, so this beautiful magenta line.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Those are the Senate districts that you've previously drawn.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: One of four.

And these green lines that you see, those are the individual COIs within the cluster.

So the outer boundary of all of these COIs, that is the whole cluster.

And then you see how there are these mini ones in the middle so like this right here is one individual COI submission that makes up or is part of the cluster.

And if you have a question about well what is this one COI here? We can tell you what number it is.

And you can read the description as well.

So I just wanted to clarify in case there was any confusion about what the lines are there.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: And I'm going to come over there too Sarah so one second.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Ms. Reinhardt so Magenta are the draft lines that the MICRC drew.

The green is the individual boundary of the cluster.

And the blue.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Blue is the shoreline or these blue Kent what are these blue lines here? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Those are the Township boundaries and the dotted line of course is your locality boundary.

I'm going to get over here to our cleaner picture.

Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, can you guys hear me? Okay so Sault St. Marie is a reservation, Bay Mills is right about here and we have more Chippewa right here and right here.

And yes.

So if you're looking at Sault St. Marie on a map, that is where the Sault St. Marie Chippewa tribe is located at. And if you go directly west from there you hit Bay Mills.

And if you come down on the very lower portion of the Upper Peninsula, right where the Mackinac Bridge joins it, there are several smaller reservations there.

And then if you continue down in the upper portion of the Lower Peninsula and you come over into Emmet County, I'm not exactly sure where the dividing line is. But there is an Indian reservation, I believe, right in Petoskey. So those are the Indian reservations.

And then if you go over to the west side, there are two more significant reservations on the west side of the Upper Peninsula.

One is on the west side of Marquette.

And the other is lower down near the border of Wisconsin.

So those are the Indian reservations.

Does that make sense to everybody?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Just a suggestion, obviously the people cannot see what you're talking about because you are on the front map.

Would it be possible maybe to come to the back map here, which they will see online?

And obviously your explanation was very good.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I'm going to need a pointer.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I can add a camera.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Looks like Rhonda has her hand up.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: If I stand on a chair, it could be catastrophic.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I can join the Zoom meeting on my phone and capture as you are here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: If I have something long, I can point with I can just point. I'm stepping on a Chair.

Everybody is like no.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: The lawyers say no.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Lasers we like lasers.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Can everybody hear me? Right here, Sault Ste. Marie, that is a reservation. You come over to the west, Bay Mills is right about here.

If you come down here, back out again, please, you come down here, you have some small reservations here again, Chippewa.

Can you back out on the Upper Peninsula again? So, whoops, Zoom out just a bit.

I need to see over by Keweenaw Peninsula.

Just a little more.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Did you say Keweenaw.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I'm holding a pointer and talking on a microphone and standing up front and you are picking on me.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I apologize.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So we've got Indian reservations here.

Indian reservations here.

The rest of them are over way on the west side. And then as you come down into the Upper Lower Peninsula, if we can Zoom out a little bit more, and show me the tip of the Upper Peninsula. Down near Petoskey, which is right about here. There we go, right in this area we have one more.

Little Traverse Bay, yes. Little Traverse Bay Area. So the map that we have right now, the eastern side of the Upper Peninsula together. And then we already have the ones on the western side together as well.

Good?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you, my seat was closer than yours.

So that everyone has been oriented to what is on the screen, I would encourage the Commission to focus on where those magenta lines or the pink lines intersect those communities of interest.

So it looks that there is one in the top that I think Ms. Reinhardt can...

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: So, Kent, can you Zoom out to show the whole coastal? Because I just want to be clear one more time about when we are talking about a cluster, the cluster A1, this entire right here.

And then see how like.

>> This is the interpreter speaking. I can't quite hear.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Sorry about that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I forgot to turn on my microphone.

SO when we are looking at this map now, this entire green Section, all of the green, that is the cluster.

That is A1.

When we are looking at see this cluster or this individual COI that is on the far left, that includes Houghton and Gogebic. So that is one COI submission that is included in the cluster.

And now if we add back in the District lines, thank you, so I believe what your General Counsel is saying is one place you might want to focus in on is where these two lines intersect.

So, for example, this COI that Kent has his mouse over, you can see that you all have a District line that is this magenta line, that goes right down the middle of this COI here. So it essentially divides what this person considers a COI. So those are the areas you may consider Zooming in on or looking for and assessing how you review those.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner, we got a bunch of hands.

Commissioner Weiss, I believe you had your hand up for a while. Then we will go to Commissioner Rothhorn, then Commissioner Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: I'm sorry to be a little bit of a pain. My suggestion and your explanation is very good, but my explanation, if Kent could increase the size of his mouse and turn it black. And Sarah could sit at his computer while she is talking and use the mouse and show exactly what she is saying.

Because the public cannot see what you are doing.

And I think we did that to Kim's mouse the other day and it worked a lot better.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That is a great suggestion.

Thank you, Commissioner Weiss.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So Sarah can we identify which green area ties to which comment?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, absolutely so Kent, for that green area that I just mentioned the magenta line intersects with can you tell me what the number of that COI is? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: There's one large one.

I'm going to try to blank it, that whole peninsula.

Of course that is split.

And then this one along the lake border there is 29749.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: So on Page 22, 29749.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You also have the southern, it's the same number and it's split in the same and then there is an upper peninsula.

But 29749 are the two COIs that are split.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: And you will see that there are three submissions that have that same number and what that means is that when that person was drawing their COI on the portal, they indicated three distinct areas in the same submission as three distinct COIs.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So it's counties on Lake Superior counties on Lake Michigan counties affiliated with Wisconsin that is how that person divided up and a that is what we are dividing with this map.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Correct.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID:

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: MC?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So these Magenta lines are just one version of the Senate maps we drew the other day.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So are we going to like compare how it looks to all of the ones that you know all of the versions that we had? Or is that up to whoever's turn it is. I think it's still Commissioner Wagner's turn.

Trying to figure out how we are doing this.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That is an excellent question.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

And I would put that back to you all actually.

If you all want to examine each of the districts that you've created or the draft plans that you've created for Senate, you certainly can.

Or if you decide there is a few that you don't want to proceed with, that is entirely up to you.

And I'll also note that even though the person kicking off the discussion may go in alphabetical order and it is Commissioner Wagner who may kickoff the discussion, it's absolutely encouraged that everyone engage in this discussion as the Constitution intended, all 13 of you.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Kent.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We can run through the four that were done August 26.

This is version four.

And you can see Chippewa is split east to west.

We turn that off and you see version two.

Very similar pattern.

We turn that off and versions two and four are very similar.

That's version one with the north-south kind of split.

And version three with a north-south kind of split.

As a matter of fact you can't even see a change.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: For version three it looks like it's not including Emmet county but version one is including Emmet County and that gets into another Indian reservation there.

So go back.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: What we are looking at right now is a version three.

So we will go turn that off.

Turn version one on.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yep, you see how it includes Emmet so it will grab the other Indian reservation down there the little Bay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Snap out just a little bit more.

Again that is version one.

Version two.

Takes a second to pop up.

Turn version two off.

Turn version three on.

Turn version three off.

Version four.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Any thoughts on preferences on particular versions?
Commissioner Orton?

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well, I don't know how we reconcile this, but we have also had significant public comment recently that Cheboygan is a community of interest with the west side of the state or the west side of the upper part of the Lower Peninsula as well as with Mackinac County.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

So I would say on that we can change that to include those... change the lines to draw that County. But I want to kind of focus on the UP for right now.

So like just to help facilitate discussion, so we have plan four and plan two, which I think one is showing right now, this is four, where we have the north-south cut going through Chippewa County.

Is anyone in favor of the plan? Keep in mind this keeps together the shoreline, the Lake Superior shoreline, versus the other plan, which kind of bops up, which cuts...and I see Erin Wagner has her hand up, cuts the southern shoreline.

Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I have a question.

I guess it would be for General Counsel.

On this COI submission we have up there, the one that is there 39749 two times specifically states in the description they are a liberal based group.

It has something to do with Marquette.

But seeing as how communities of interest are not supposed to be politically inclined or whatever, do we include that as a COI?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: General Counsel? I mean I would also point out too she is saying my personal COI is this liberal group in Munising and Marquette. But the regions that were identified are the upper coastline, the lower coastline, and the Wisconsin. So I don't know that we are even treating that liberal group as a separate COI.

And it honestly wouldn't matter anyway because they are together anyway, Manistee and Munising.

General Counsel, please comment.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much.

So I'm looking at Page 22 for the capture that Commissioner Wagner is referencing. Commissioner Wagner, will you restate the number again, please?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Give me one second, I'll find it for you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: 29749.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: 29749. It says, my personal feel, I have a liberal based group in Munising and Marquette that is concerned with diversity preservation.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much, Madam Chair.

In looking at 29749, they indicate it's a group in Munising and Marquette that is concerned with diversity, presentation of Lake Superior shoreline and the tribal communities that Commissioner Wagner highlighted.

The concern is the inclusion of a liberal based group, which would be an ideological group as opposed to a political group, particularly given the citation of the shoreline presentation and presentation of tribal communities.

The Commission may wish to consider it.

Is that responsive, Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: It is.

Thank you.

And then I'd like to point out that Rhonda probably had her hand up for ten minutes before she put it down.

She might have something to add.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange, did you have a comment?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'll pass.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Any other comments or questions? Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Well, I think this version matches up with the communities a little bit more than the other one with the north-south split.

I mean, the only COI that this breaks up is the one with Chippewa County and that's only really taking out Sault St. Marie but the rest of it is intact.

The Mackinac one is intact.

And it seems like we are splitting them up less than the other version.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I actually disagree with respect to the Native American populations because I think you are dividing the Bay Mills and the Sault St. Marie tribe of Chippewa from the tribal reservation lower down across Mackinac and then further separating them from little Bay so we have three different Indian reservations that are in three different districts.

I personally prefer the one that comes up and then down around.

Commissioner Weiss and then Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, Madam Chair I tried to tend to agree with you.

This District I believe I drew this in District 1 or the Section in map one of this.

Which I included the Chippewa, Emmet and Charlevoix area because I got crucified a little bit not taking into consideration of communities of interest about my statement about drawing boundaries so when I did it, I took the three and put the Indian reservations together.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I would also agree with you Commissioner Szetela, that this is further dividing.

I'll try, sorry.

This is further dividing the Native American population, I believe.

I prefer the north-south boundary line as opposed to the east-west, boundary line of the District but again that is just my opinion.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid, did you want him to put up either map one or three? Three does not have Emmet County. One does.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: If what we are worried about now is the concentration of Native American population, why don't we just check which one has a greater Native American population.

I believe we have that data.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: As Kent had indicated previously this is a blank map. So looking at this map he can't access that data.

He would have to select and then create a District and then look at it.

So it's not as easy as just looking at the District because it's not populated because this is basically a blank map with overlays on it.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Well if that's true and what you're saying is correct in that this one does dilute the population then I'm in agreeance with you and the rest of my colleagues.

I think we should just eventually make sure that that is, in fact, there is a denser population in that District.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Rhonda Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: There are to sets doing north and south.

Two sets of maps that have is a split north and south.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: We have no way of showing those side by side, do we?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I don't think so Kent, can we?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I was doing something else. Load up multiple redistricting plans and show the tables in a variety of places.

I can I believe look at the tables for some of these plans if you give me one second just to see what I can do.

Because I think I can.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Rhonda's question is different.

She basically wants to see map two and four since those are the two with the north-west split side by side. And then maybe look at map one and three side by side just to see what are the differences between the two maps is what she was asking specifically for the north, south, which is four and two.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Correct.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: One and four lit up, is that what we are looking for?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: This is one and four together?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, that is four, okay? I'm sorry I'm getting it all twisted up the magenta here is four, plan four.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The blue here is plan one.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think we want to look at two and four.

Sorry I'm being very demanding today.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is fine.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Two and four.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This will be two popping up on the screen.

That is two.

Turn two off.

That is four.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: They are very similar.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: In this area I saw earlier two and four are similar.

One and three are similar.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Two and four are the ones that split rather than going east-west kinds of split north and south correct Kent Ken two and four split east to west what we are looking at right now is four.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: You have Native American reservations at Sault St. Marie and then Mackinac and down near Petoskey and Emmet County.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Sorry what did one do? These colored lines you guys you got to understand how I see color.

So.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Can you show her one? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes.

Nothing, one.

Let me change that color for blue because a lot of people can't see blue very well.

I will make this I don't know if this will be better or worse for you.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Go back to the blue, please.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: How about red? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Orange.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That works.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Orange works a little bit better for me, thank you.

Okay.

And I think I was speaking and when I was saying north-south, I was talking in terms of having kind of a northern District and then the southern District was split off so that's why I had you go back to that map.

Not splitting them east to west.

But top and bottom.

Let me put it like that.

I'm more for the top and bottom one.

Does that make sense to you guys?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So you like two and four better the ones where it's.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: The ones where, yes, I guess it would be east where the line is going east and west and it makes kind of a north and southern District.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so two and four then.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That one.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I got it all straight now.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right any other comments? All right so do we want to kind of settle on a plan at this point?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much.

That is very amusing that you just said that because my suggestion was going to be if the Commission wanted to discuss proposed amendments for the change log or the to log in -- to log down as proposed changes, I call them change logs for project management.

But the Commission could select you know for Senate map two or Senate map three whichever it's looking at if it would like to talk about proposed amendments to log in, that would be -- we could capture that by Senate map, by draft Senate map if that would help the Commission.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I want to recognize that, yeah, the you know the 29749 does say tribal communities and I like the suggestion saying because the east-west drawing the line and preserving the Lake Superior shoreline does make sense to me.

And it does look like I can't tell if we are actually benefitting the native people there. There is a Sault St. Marie tribe that would be split more this way even though it does preserve the coastline and because the COI which I think is what we are trying to evaluate says preservation of shoreline and our tribal communities.

I feel like in order to evaluate it I need to, right, take that suggestion which is like can we look at the different -- what populations are split or what are the -- what's the, yeah, Native American population in each of those in order to evaluate and actually get a choice.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: See I like the north-south split better.

And I'm looking at it also from the perspective of the state rep that's got to deal with these areas.

So the map that's being displayed right now shows them the full length of the UP.

Now, if he lives in Marquette how often is he going to get to the other side and if he lives on this side Sault St. Marie how often is he going to get to the other and it's so distributed.

That is why I thought the -- they both represent the communities of interest, the one and the three map I thought.

But I thought the north-south split on one was better.

I yield.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Any other comments? Is that Rhonda? Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: And I will make a comment kind of to Doug's. I understand what he is saying since it's such a vast area it makes sense but the same could be said about the second District that we are making that incorporates the Lower Peninsula with it.

You get somebody that's elected from say the Lower Peninsula and they still have part of the UP to represent too.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: No matter if she is one or three the Lower Peninsula is going to come into play with that other District.

So that's a given that that is going to happen.

So I just wanted to mention that.

I yield.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right, any additional thoughts? Comments? What do we want to do here? Do we want to do anything?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I need the data.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: You need more data.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Yeah, which one because I think they are equally.

I don't see a, yeah, I don't feel like I have enough data, I guess.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Just curious what data would sway you one way or another? I'm just trying to understand.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I think Anthony asked for it.

Can we see the Native American population in version one with an east-west split? And then the version two with the north-south split? Basically .

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So you want to see which one has more Native Americans together.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Kent then Commissioner or Orton.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I labeled the townships with what I believe is the population Native American combined, Native American white, let's remove that.

I'm not sure, Kim Brace would need to explain this in more detail.

But these are Native American, non-Hispanic Native Americans.

The higher number, I wish I could you know be sure, but if somebody has the original description of what all these fields are, you could look at them.

Maybe after a break or something we could get a better feel for what or which one matters.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: He has a document that has them.

I just need to find it for you but one of the documents has a cover Page and it describes it.

So I will dig and look for it right now.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So at the least if we have an understanding what these numbers are, you can see a higher number here.

These numbers climb right through here and I just I know they are Native American but I don't know how they are divided up.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: NA underscore A is Native American.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay, so that would be the lower number.

What is the NA underscore C that is combined?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, that is combined.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Maybe that is, so I see NAA, NAC and NAW.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Microphone please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Native American combined with one or more races if I remember correctly, NA underscore A is Native American alone and identified as Native American alone.

NA underscore white I believe is Native American and white as they chose.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: This is helpful Kent.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Next to the shoreline is a fairly high number.

Right here is a fairly high number and then another fairly hi number that is they are split.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: That is the Bay Mills.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Can we see these same numbers with one of the other maps that split it the other way? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We would like to load one of the other Senate maps.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Number one, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, ma'am.

So this is number two we are looking at.

I turned that off then I will turn on number one.

Let me turn on counties maybe.

There is significant Native American population for counties or localities.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Could you scroll down a little so we can see the numbers that are behind the spreadsheet? No, the other way.

There we go.

Orange is the first version V1.

Magenta is two and they share a common boundary for a certain distance.

This is version two, orange is version one.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Looking at the numbers I personally feel that the orange so that is version one preserves more of the Native American population.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: That is what I'm seeing too.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: But I don't know about the lower the top part of the Lower Peninsula portion.

I don't know if number one is where we want to go there.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We are limited to the Upper Peninsula right now any way so I think we can kind of adjust that later.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Turn to off, we are generally focused in this area, the UP, southern part of the UP?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right so any additional thought, discussion, debate? It seems like it seems like there are a few people who like version one or three, which are the kind of perpendicular division is how I would describe it that cuts off the Sault St. Marie into its own separate area.

So General Counsel, at this point do we need to take a vote on whether we like that? Or what is kind of -- I know we are trying to figure out this new procedure.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: No Madam Chair, absolutely not.

The Commission is deliberating the information before it and the additional information that you're looking at.

So if you're in step three specifically about the COI process, what I have heard is that one and three where the line would run north to south is the one that you're looking at. If there is any adjustments to those lines it would be appropriate to have staff capture it in the potential change log for consideration later.

And then to move forward to the next cluster.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Since we have these four versions, how do we record that we are choosing this so we don't have to redo this?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: That is an excellent question.

So what I would recommend is that the for the Upper Peninsula that the change log would reflect that proposed drafts one and three and any, again, I don't want to it's completely up to the discretion but if the lines shifted in one and three and that, that would be logged.

And I would also recommend logging for draft proposals two and four.

That the Commission would direct staff to make a note that because of this split east to west, that that would be the reason why the maps one and three were moving forward for consideration.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, does that sound good to everybody?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: May I make one note?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You still have the northern part of the main body to evaluate.

So we are just talking about they really have only talked about that one split between District one and three on the U P.

You see what I'm saying? We still have all these districts.

And this District goes across there too.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah well, I think we are kind of just focusing on the Upper Peninsula for right now and cluster A1 which super peninsula only and plan Senate plan one goes a different way.

And the lower Mitten than plan three.

So I think once we move down to that next cluster, we would evaluate which one of those plans we like better.

But I think at this point we've sort of converged that four and two are not preferred, the ones that have the east to west lines running just south of Sault St. Marie and that the preference is for the north and south lines that are represented in Senate plans drafts obviously one and three.

All right, I had a thought and it popped out of our head and I think we are kind of comfortable with that having looked at those four Senate plans and I think we should pull up the house plans and see how the house plans align with.

Go ahead.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: So certainly you all may do that if you want.

The process contemplates going through the remaining clusters for that area before moving on to a different District type.

But if you would prefer to switch over to a different District type for each cluster, that's up to you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So we have I believe a little bit of cluster, I'm trying to find my document here, cluster A2 I think might have a little bit from the Upper Peninsula as well.

Let me look back here.

So wait so A2.

Okay, all right so let's move on to the next cluster then.

And again we are just focusing on the Upper Peninsula right now so cluster A2 let me read this off for everybody.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

Upper Mitten east this area is united by seasonal tourism based economy and agricultural there is a lot of outdoor recreational opportunities residents regularly travel to nearby communities for goods services and hospitals concerns are lack of nearby essential services and keeping the coastline and watershed clean.

So that's A2.

And let's scroll down to the comments about that.

Okay so we have data supporting cluster A2.

Which has quite a few comments.

All right, so.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The green on the screen is the COIs and cluster number two.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So I'm just working backwards through these and a lot of them are about Leelanau which is Traverse Commissioner Lett that is Traverse City.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Cheboygan.

Leelanau.

GT which I believe means Grand Traverse, Benzie and Kalkaska where all the cows are buried.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: If it's helpful we can provide the numbers that are in the U P specifically.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: If you can provide UP specific ones because that is what I was looking for.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 33828.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: 33828.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Is that the only one? So the map drawn reflects my area represented by District one of the U.S. house of representatives my interest in these areas is to see a State of Michigan map that represents spec areas by County school District et cetera.

So that the needs of the community remain consistent with other elected offices.

Local Board of Education Township boards national districts et cetera.

Individual area information associated with that is interested in these counties as this represents my U.S. representative area which affects how the rest of the state allocates districts are drawn.

I live in Emmet and have resort property along Saint Mary's river in Chippewa.

So did we have a particular map associated with this? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, we had the primary one dealing with the UP is that. 33828.

That is the only one.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Can you make that, yep, display again? It's kind of flashing in and out.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yeah, I'm trying to show you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It goes a little past.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It's still in green but it's this whole area and then some down in here.

And all I can do is blink it.

I can't.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It grabs I think that is Luce County I apologize if I'm mispronouncing.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 33828 have it coming well south.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: But we can't include that just because of population.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We can't.

I agree.

All right any other comments about that comment? That COI? I mean I don't think it's something we can accommodate because we don't have the population.

So though in fairness she is talking about house of representatives so when we are looking at this is a Senate map, we are looking at so perhaps we could.

I'm curious what the population is.

She has, he, she, I'm calling her a she, she might not be.

I'm curious what the population is for that community of interest that she selected.

Because I would suspect it might exceed 91,000 too.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Let me see if I can pull that up.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Area 33828.

Looks like it has a population of 229,060.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right, so much too big for a State House of representatives District.

Okay, all right so I think we can move on from that comment.

So because we don't have the population to support it and it would be too big any way.

So that is the only UP specific item in the Upper Peninsula or in the data cluster A2.

Is that correct? I'm hearing and seeing grand Traverse, go ahead Commissioner Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I understand that we are focusing on the UP right now.

But I understand that we are, that's better thanks I understand that we are focusing on the U P right now.

But this second District, this second Senate District however we draw it it's going to drop down into the Lower Peninsula.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

So we may want to examine that part too because it's going to go to the east or the west.

Where the two choices that we drew last week.

So do we want to examine that part now because it's a part of that cluster? Or do we want to save that for later? Because I believe that's in clusters A2, A3 and A4.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I would rather deal with those when we get to the Lower Peninsula rather than try to deal with them now.

We will go through the clusters and eliminate the Upper Peninsula ones and close out that region and then move on.

Any comments or concerns? Okay all right let's move on to A3 rural northeast which also includes some clusters up in the UP.

There are five comments here so let's see.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: On the screen now is the cluster of call it referred to as A3. Maybe.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So comment 25185 is talking about the Federal House, Lower Peninsula, west coast.

I believe that is a reference to the Congressional District.

And they are stating it's our belief that the UP and the east coast of Michigan have more in common than the current Federal map that includes the UP and part of the west coast.

So I'm not sure.

I mean, I don't think that would result in any changes to the Upper Peninsula.

So I think we can sort of set that one aside for now.

When we reach the lower Mitten, we can start talking about that.

And the rest of these don't seem to be UP specific.

There is a comment 29545, Upper Peninsula and northern lower, mostly rural in character with the exception of a few larger cities such as Marquette, Escanaba and Sault Ste. Marie. Southern counties could go to another Congressional district as needed to keep the districts compact. So, again, this is dealing with the Congressional district, not even the Senate. And I think our choices on the Congressional District are pretty limited any way because we are going to have to grab the whole UP.

All right. So I'm not seeing anything here under A3. Does anybody disagree? For cluster A3 is there anything that you think is specific to the Upper Peninsula that we need to discuss or talk about?

All right. If not, then let's move on to the next one, which I believe is A4. But let me just check that on the map.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: So the red outline that you see here, that is comment 29545, that does reflect the Upper Peninsula.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, that was the one I just talked about.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Great.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So A4 Mackinac, four submissions.

Or, no I'm, sorry cluster A4, 18 submissions.

All right. So I will find my supporting data.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I have missed A4 and creating A4 and A3 somewhere along the line.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Could you repeat that, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: A2 and A3 and A4 are the same, of course they are not supposed to be but here they are the same.

Somewhere along the line I slipped up.

I can create three and four, two, three and four given a few minutes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Let's just see what we have here.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: If there are individual COIs you would like to see within the clusters, we can pull those Szetela se pull them up.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay I'm just trying to find the supporting material for A4. It's just a long document.

So it's taking me a while to get through it.

Let me just do this a little faster.

So supporting data for cluster A4 we have lower and Upper Peninsula plan rural farm near lakes streams rivers tourist area logging mining, and small business.

That's 29974.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Give us a moment and we can pull that up.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Madam Chair?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Can I just make a statement? And I just want to be brutally honest right now.

I'm having a hard time following where we are talking about and everything without actually being able to go through all of these in advance and being able to look back on my notes from public comment.

It's all getting kind of jarbled for me.

And I don't know what to do about it.

I think honestly, I needed a little more time to prepare to do this.

And I'm just speaking honestly.

Because I'm kind of getting lost.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, thank you for sharing.

It's a lot. And I agree with you.

Why don't we just take a short break and we will give everybody a second to kind of look at what we are doing here.

I know I'm struggling going in and out of this document because it's 159 pages and I'm bouncing around and trying to follow things as well.

So unless there is an objection, let's take a -- we will say a 15-minute recess, give everybody a second to look at documents, kind of think about what we are doing. And we will come back and we will continue talking about cluster A4. And hopefully we are just focusing on the Upper Peninsula and that gives people a few minutes to look at their notes and kind of comprise their thoughts. So hearing no objections, let's take a recess for 15 minutes. It's 3:04 right now. We will come back at 3:20 p.m.

Thank you very much.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Ready to go? All right. I call this meeting of the MICRC back to order at 3:21 p.m.

For the purposes of the public watching and for the public record, I will turn to the Department of State staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hello, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please disclose your physical location. I will start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

Brittini Kellom?

Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present; attending from Reed City, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present; attending remotely from Charlotte, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

I will return to Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you 12 Commissioners are present and there is a quorum.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much. We are going to continue with this process of reviewing clusters of COIs for the Upper Peninsula region.

We are currently at cluster A4 and we were in the process of starting to look through go ahead Department of State.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Madam Chair.

First, I just want to commend the Commission for going through all of this as Commissioner Lange and Commissioner Szetela noted prior to going to break I know it is a lot of information.

And sorting through COIs is definitely challenging work so thank you for the commendable work you are doing.

One thing that I wanted to point out was I feel that this might be a good time for us to continue examining the process that has been proposed to you all.

So allow me just a moment to pull that up.

But if you look at the current step that we are on, it contemplates that Commissioners can also discuss among the full Commission possible changes to draft District lines to accommodate some of the COIs.

So if while you're looking at these clusters and the districts that you've previously drafted if you have ideas about ways the lines may shift to accommodate some of those COIs you can propose them.

However, importantly, those changes are not directly made at the time they are proposed.

The process goes on to describe that after deliberations about potential adjustments to a District based on the conversation among Commissioners, the Chairperson will direct the secretary or Commission staff to add proposed District changes to a log of proposed adjustments.

So this log may say for example, and this is just a hypothetical example.

That District one needs to shift to the left to accommodate COI, 21212.

I just made that up so it's not a real District, not a real COI but that would go into a log and those changes would not be directly made.

The reason being that once all clusters and COIs and regions or areas have been examined, we can return to that log and examine all of the proposed changes to that specific District.

And you all can consider which of those changes to actually proceed with implementation.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So that is helpful. So just to make sure everybody understands, we are actually creating a log as we go, just like now, we looked at the

Upper Peninsula and we looked at two different Senate maps. And had some discussion around which ones we preferred and the rationale behind that. So that would go into a log. And then when we come back and decide to -- so if we have any changes for that region, we can look at the log and decide, okay, we are going to move lines or we are not going move lines or we are going with one versus two or three versus four or whatever the case may be.

This process is just about recording in a log where we see the need for changes, not in actually drawing the lines to make those changes right now.

Does that make sense to everybody?

Commissioner Lange, I see you have your hand up.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: So what exactly in the process was it saying about each Commissioner taking a turn? What are we taking a turn doing?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think we are supposed to be taking a turn going through the COIs; is that correct or?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: No General Counsel you can go ahead.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Yes, through the Chair of Commissioner Lange step two of the process would have the Commissioners on a rotating basis opening up the discussion which is similar to what you were doing in your mapping work.

So that is a collaborative discussion between the full Commission.

But it is started and led out by the next Commissioner in that rotating alphabetical order under step two of the process.

Is that helpful, Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE:

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: So Commissioner Lange if I may, an example of this might be from my fictitious District and my fictitious COI20212 if it was your turn and we were zoomed on that District one you may open the discussion by noting I see that District one intersects with COI21212 what does everyone think.

Something like that.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Can I get some clarification on this? Are we when it's our turn are we going to be doing what Rebecca has been doing or just initiating the conversation?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I realize Ms. Reinhardt and I have us looking at opposite sides of the table like a tennis match but to answer Commissioner Clark's question the Commissioner who is next on the rotation going into that area would again been encouraged to look at the conflicts between the proposed COI lines and the proposed District lines and focusing in on those conflicts of those boundaries.

And then determining and facilitating the Chair would facilitate the discussion between the whole Commission on that issue, on that proposed conflict between those lines and whether there would be a proposed change reflected in the log or there would not be a proposed change reflected in the log in the proposed lines would remain as they are.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Keep in mind we don't have to do that if that is not what you guys want to do.

If you want me to keep calling clusters and identifying I'm happy to do that as well so whatever works best for the Commission this is why we are kind of practicing with the COI plan to see what is the most convenient way to go through it.

Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: She put a message in chat. She was having unstable Internet again.

So as soon as she is in, okay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think you might be frozen Commissioner Wagner. Maybe turn off your video and try to speak and see if that helps.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: She put a message she is going to try to turn off her video it looks like she is frozen.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Not the individual numbers. Is it just like this?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Could you repeat that Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Can you hear me now?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It's a bit echoey but try to go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER:

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Madam Chair, if I could, could I ask Commissioner Wagner if she wants to send her message in the chat and if she is having unstable.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, that is perfectly fine.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: So Commissioner Wagner because we can't hear you if you want to put your question in the chat, I would be happy to relay it to the Commission for you.

I think she might be froze.

Why don't we move on and if she pops back up in chat or pops back on, we can come back to her question.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay thank you Commissioner Lange. Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I wouldn't have suggested this but since you did say that you would continue to do it how you're doing I think your voice is very clear when you talk.

I would like you to continue if anybody and if you get tired you can someone else can take over for you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I see Commissioner Wagner again so let's try again Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: There she is.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I turned off my video because I have got unstable Internet.

But I was trying to tell you when I envision getting the heat map for today's discussion it was actually the heat map with the individual clusters and dots and everything to where if we stick it on a map of Michigan, we could see whether or not it was encompassed by District lines is that not an option? Because having to figure out which cluster we've got by numbers and then going to that in the supporting documents, it seems to be belaboring our process here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, I agree Commissioner Wagner.

It's a long document and it's difficult to navigate.

What I would suggest for everybody is we do have some copies here.

And I would certainly encourage you to do the same at home or we can send copies out if you don't have a printer available to you staff printed out Page 18, Page 19 and I think it's Page 20 where it shows the clusters grouped in groups of nine so you can actually see the clusters and that way it's easier to sort of stay in the reference document portion of the document on your computer while still seeing what's in the document.

So I think it's a bit of a learning process for all of us to learn how to navigate this document but I think if you print off those pages that might help because then you can see looking at those few pages what cluster we are going to be moving on to next because you can see the regions are implicated on those pages so I would suggest that unless someone has some other suggestions.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Wagner, unfortunately we are unable to display the actual heat map as an overlay on the screen.

But as Commissioner Szetela suggested my recommendation as well would be to reference both the map that is displayed with the individual COIs in the cluster as well as the images that the heat map from the report.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Two questions and I will let you guys get back to it in reference to Janice about letting you do it all that is up to the Commission.

I'm fine with that.

If we still do once you say what it is, where it is, we still do an alphabetical order or what we do for input back so that way nobody is getting let's say missed or you know we can keep it each Commissioner does get a say in it.

So I would be fine with that.

And I totally just, oh, my other question is when you guys did the community of interest the first time and the process was very slow, you were determining if something was truly a community of interest or not.

So how are we incorporating that with these? I guess I'm asking.

I remember one that was thrown out right away was the hello District or hello thing.

So I want to know are we just saying whatever is on the heat map is definitely a community of interest that we are going to work lines around? Or are we going to be evaluating the community of interest as we go still? And those are the questions I have at this time.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think the intention is you know we are still in the UP and we don't have a ton of comments there.

But I think as we move further into this document, we are going to see more comments and more conflicting comments and I think at that point we will be moving more towards that same process of okay these five comments say this but this one comment says that and how are we going to resolve that conflict between the different comments.

So I think that is the intention.

I think at this point because we have very few comments for the Upper Peninsula and they are not for the most part contradictory I think we have not really encountered that yet.

But I believe that is the intention that we will, in fact, do that.

As we move and continue to move down the state.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much. To build on your response to Commissioner Lange's question, as the Commissioners are going through their review and preparation for moving through the COIs, undoubtedly you will come across COIs. I think Commissioner Wagner had an excellent question earlier. So the example I would give is there was a COI in a cluster or, excuse me, in the report or even in individual community of interest submission that said something along the lines of this is the potential community of interest boundaries that I am drawing, which encompasses the political party of such and such County or such and such area.

That would clear the Commission, would be within its power to pass over that comment.

Don't think those considerations, other than those types of considerations, I do not believe the Commission needs to individually consider each community of interest, particularly in the manner in which you are covering it in your clusters and the themes.

But certainly, if there were individual ones that needed to be called out, I think an example that Mr. Morgan gave, that was also a very strong example would be the noncontiguous hello cluster, excuse me, community of interest.

It was a proposed community of interest that, again, was not contiguous.

So that it would be appropriate to not include if, again, it was conflicting with District boundaries.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right, okay. So at this point we are going to talk about... unless anybody has any questions, we are going to talk about that cluster four. I think sort of the process that we are coming up with is I'm going to read off the communities of interest that are identified.

I will ask Kent to bring them up on a map so we can see them and then we can have discussion with respect to those particular communities of interests. And, per Rhonda's suggestion, I will start alphabetically with each one. And I will call on each of you in order to see if you -- not each person for each COI to be clear.

So one person per COI and specifically ask if you have any questions or concerns or comments or changes.

And then, otherwise, we will open it up to the floor to allow any additional comments and then make a decision on that COI.

So if that makes sense to everybody, let's move on to cluster A4.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Certainly the Commission can call on Commissioners alphabetically to discuss COIs but the process does contemplate calling alphabetically per District to discuss how the COIs in and surrounding that District intersect.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so that would mean basically one person for the entire upper peninsula? Because we really only have one District there.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: So Madam Chair again the similar to the mapping that the Commission just did, that it would be one District per Commissioner to start the conversation.

And then it is opened up to the full Commission.

So it's very similar to the process that was undertaken for your mapping work.

Your draft mapping work.

Where the Chairperson would orient the Commission and the public to what cluster they are in and read the description.

And then the rotating Commissioner the next Commissioner in alphabetical order would begin the discussion and the consideration in that District and then it would open up to the full Commission.

Does that provide additional clarity?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: It does.

It just we have a lot of clusters in some districts so that means one person could potentially end up having 50 clusters.

They are having to go through.

Whereas I mean if that is if I'm understanding you correctly.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: And certainly that could be another modification.

I know I've been jotting down notes.

For potential modifications to the policy as written.

One would be that the Chairperson would announce the description of the cluster.

Certainly if the Commission wants to proceed with each rotating Commissioner through each cluster within a District that could also be an appropriate modification if that's what the Commission would desire.

I know earlier prior to the lunch recess I highlighted that in step four the recommendation to grant the Commission more flexibility and make the change from a region to one or more regions.

So again as these things are being considered by the Commission if you wanted to flag different changes to the process, we are happy to capture them.

For the Commission's consideration.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: How do you want to proceed with this? You have a COI plan in front of you.

Do we want to call on one person to go through the communities of interest? Or is that what you want to do? Okay all right so Commissioner Clark you get to start with cluster A4.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay, and are we doing just the Upper Peninsula?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: We are still in the upper peninsula but looking at the cluster comments from A4, some of which impact the Upper Peninsula, some of them don't.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay well I'll go through the cluster comments since I hadn't had an opportunity to run through them and segregate the UP from the lower Mitten.

We may get some overlap.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: And for reference that is on Page 31 of the report.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: No I've got them up here, yeah, thank you.

One comment says it's rural farm near lakes, streams and rivers, tourists and logging, mining, and small businesses.

On the Lake Huron side, which I'm going to skip this.

Well, I'm sorry let me take a look at it I guess Lake Huron goes into the UP too.

The counties here are known as the sunrise side.

The Lake Huron coastline.

So I don't think that applies.

Straits of Mackinac and eastern UP.

This is of significance to us.

These communities are demographically, economically, cultural, ethnically and religiously the same.

They represent the straits of Mackinac in the eastern Upper Peninsula.

So I think that is covered already with what we've got.

Lake Huron communities on this map are demographically, economically, culturally, they represent coastal counties along Lake Huron known as the sunrise side.

So it's basically the same comment as before.

The Sault, I'm sure our District will end up being the whole UP plus most of the northern lower; but really, I don't feel any connection to the western UP.

And once you add Petoskey and Traverse City, I don't feel that the UP voices are heard at all.

I think that one is of significance.

And maybe needs some discussion.

Because what we have done is we have taken the Western -- well, we have taken the eastern part of the UP and we have put that into one District.

Go ahead, Cynthia.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think that mostly referencing Congressional District.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I do too.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I'm going to add that I think we do have because it's the Sault St. Marie specific, we do have a district that allows the Sault and the bridge sort of as an eastern Senate District. And I think we are sort of complying with that in many ways right now.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think we can move by that one.

Next one says end the practice of gerrymandering.

Personally I don't feel that we are approaching this with that at all.

But let me read what they said.

I live in a County filled with republicans. That being said, I would like a better representation of the differing political interests in Cheboygan County.

Cheboygan is not in the scope of what we are talking about, so we will move on and cover that later.

Northeastern Lower Peninsula.

So the next one, we will cover that one later.

The Sunset District, we will cover that one later.

That is down in the Mitten.

Districting plan for the 107th House District.

West end of Mackinac County and Luce County from a geographic communities of interest.

This plan achieves a near perfect District population balance and historically provides a partisan balance.

I think they are talking House rep at that point.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Doug, they might be talking about House.

So maybe that is true.

But I was going to say in the Senate, we can't put those two together because of population.

That's where the split is.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Right.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Next one, keep Cheboygan county whole. That is outside the scope of what we are talking about. We will consider that later.

Next one, keep Cheboygan County whole, same thing. Same response on that. The next on keep Cheboygan County whole.

Next one after that keep Cheboygan County whole.

And, again, that one is repeated. So that is the end of the comments I have for A4.

Any discussion needed? I don't personally see any.

Dustin, did you have a comment?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I was going to say the same thing.

I don't see majority of these comments don't really effect the Upper Peninsula and the ones that do are already for the most part handled with the districts that we drew, I think.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, I did want to point out that there is the overall submission information and the individual area information and you skipped over some because it just said Charlevoix and Emmet and Charlevoix, I just want to make it clear to the public we did see these and know they are there but they are not relevant not that we are skipping over them.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Correct that is correct.

Thank you.

Any other comments on this area?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Only that we also took into account the Little Traverse Bay band of Ottawa Indians, which was 32444 under Emmet and Charlevoix, which is, I mean, the Little Traverse Bay is up, I apologize I was wrong.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That is in the lower.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: That was out of the scope of what we are talking about.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I'd like to see what comment 36047 this is referencing. Is there a map associated with that one? It just says this area has a lot in common with tourism being the driving economy and agricultural and light industry second.

Is there like a map associated with that? Because they don't give a description of the area.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I can't find it.

We will find it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: They might not have it, it's 36047.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This here.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Just a question. I was looking at my notes from the public hearing in Marquette.

I don't see anything that contradicts anything we've done.

But it brought up the question are we going to consider those like all of the public comments at the same time? Or just these clusters?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think the intention of this process is just the clusters right now but certainly if there is something else that you're aware of that has not been captured by the clusters certainly bring it up because we received a lot of feedback other than what is just in the clusters.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Any other comments on A4?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Sarah Reinhardt?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: You may recall when Moon Duchin was presenting last week she had mentioned that several of the submissions included in the clusters were not, in fact, COI submissions but they were submitted as a District in the portal but had similarities to a COI.

So this is one such submission.

You can denote those as starting with a P in the ID code.

So this one is P2400.

So it was submitted as a District plan as opposed to a COI.

So while we don't have it loaded in the software here because what we have loaded are COIs, I do have it loaded up in the public comment portal if you would like me to share my screen so you can see it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That would be great.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sure.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: So this is submission P2400-1 this area has a lot in common with tourism being the driving economy and agricultural and light industry second.

And it was submitted as a District plan.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: But that map shows mostly the Mitten and not the UP. I think the only part of the UP maybe is Mackinac Island, which is we all know is tourism.

So I would -- my personal opinion is that that's already covered in what we have done. And that COI is -- has been applied appropriately to the current map.

Is there any other questions? Comments?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Following up on Commissioner Orton, am I to understand that we are, in fact, going to go through this whole process again with our individual notes? I think that would be folly.

We are here talking about communities of interest.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

We ought to be talking about whatever comments, impressions, COIs, however we got them, we ought to be talking about them.

I have no idea if I'm going to comment on my notes, probably not because they are horrible.

And I know Commissioner Orton excuse me that takes wonderful notes and so that's my comment.

I don't want to go through this whole thing three times.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I agree.

I think it's most efficient to do it when we are doing it and take everything into account. But I don't see that in the process.

So that was my question.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I mean I agree as well but keep in mind this is the first time we are trying this here.

So we have the opportunity to we are now getting an idea how this process is going to be working for communities of interest.

You can review your notes at home or before the meeting and then when we get to something that you have notes on if you want to share it share it at that point.

I don't think there is a right or wrong way of doing it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange and then Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: So I agree about the notes and possibly the written that came in that's been categorized for us and cataloged.

My thing is I don't want to get too deep in the weeds in any one area in the moment and have to go back like Commissioner Lett said and do this so with us being so close to 4:00 would it make more sense that we kind of end this now, coordinate tonight with our notes.

The report that Moon gave us, et cetera, and hit it fresh tomorrow, a little more organized? So we -- in other words, to do our due diligence before we start diving in more.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Imperfectly fine with that Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I think as we go through this, we see areas in the process where we could become more efficient.

And so my opinion is that continuous process improvement is perfectly acceptable.

And that we should note that, this change and when we do vote on the plan to proceed that way that those are incorporated.

And if we find something a week down the road that we need to change in the process, I think that is perfectly acceptable too as we talk about it.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think we just need to know ahead of time what areas we are working on so that we can all spend our time away from the meeting, going over our notes and all the other submissions that came in.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I completely agree with that. And I feel like we kind of no disrespect to staff because I know they worked hard on this last night trying to get everything organized but I do kind of feel like we need a little time excuse me before particularly we move into the northeast and northwest reason to review what Moon has sent us in the notes and the comment portal so we are better prepared.

I feel the Upper Peninsula is an easy and good place for us to start because I feel like we probably all can in our own brains just rattle off what the communities of interest are based on the feedback that we received when we were up there and I think that is helpful but I think once we move in the upper Lower Peninsula it's probably going to be more challenging and we probably per Commissioner Lange's suggestion do need a little time to dig into this data for tomorrow.

Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I just excuse me, I just wanted to say that this particular process that we are utilizing right now in the upper peninsula seems to work. I mean we were looking at the communities of interest that we were provided, looking at the heat maps comparing to what it is we have been drawing and I'd like to commend all of us for actually looking and going through the process and deciding yes have we complied or have we not complied with a particular community of interest.

Well we have.

And I think that if we have the ability to look over our own notes prior to a given region utilizing this tool as well, it's going to go a lot faster but I do think that this is working.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I would agree. I think we probably need some minor tweaks to the policy.

I know Julianne has been taking notes.

And wants to put in a little more flexibility for us as well and I think we can look at that tomorrow.

But unless there is any objection I would say let's stop for tonight.

I think we have made good progress.

We have on our agenda today Upper Peninsula, northwest, northeast, everybody can look at the agenda and see the order we would look at so this evening spend time looking at the northwest, northeast and know we will be moving west and southwest after that and southeast and south central.

So you have that order as item 6 on our agenda and just take a look at it and know that is kind of the process we will be proceeding in.

Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Sorry we are not going in the order of the cluster, cluster A1 we are not going in order but the order of the region.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: In the order as I said listed on today's agenda under 6A we were going to start with Upper Peninsula and then do northwest northeast and move to west and southwest and then southeast and south central so just to help everybody prepare next stop we've gotten through cluster A4 today and nothing else to consider and that is the end of the Upper Peninsula.

So tomorrow we will move to the upper part of the Mitten Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Senate and house and look at our notes for both of those in each area, correct for both house and Senate? Or are we.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think that makes sense, yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: The last piece I think it's the because of the tribes and because we were looking at the demographic data just feels like it's important to recognize that somehow we will get more information tomorrow I believe.

I'm looking at General Counsel to see if that is actually true.

Or if we are actually pivoting because what I'm thinking about is how we are right trying to wrap our head around a process and that demographic right in addition to the COIs, right, the yeah, all the polarized voting the rest of number one feels really important as we begin to wrap our heads around that sequence is what I'm thinking about and tomorrow may be the day.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair tomorrow is indeed the day Commissioner Rothorn.

Please expect Dr. Handley in Ann Arbor to present her findings from her analysis.

And then there will be a conversation and ability to have a Q and A period with Dr. Handley and Mr. Adelson.

And I think that that data again for compliance with the Voting Rights Act will be of great benefit to the Commission.

And I think once the movement into the racial data begins tomorrow that again even if a minority populations do not implicate the Voting Rights Act, they should be considered in conjunction with the third criteria's diverse population.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: So pulling off from what our legal counsel just said what Julianne just said, our agenda for tomorrow obviously we have unfinished business which would be going back to doing this and then for new business we have the racially polarized voting and everything.

Would it not make sense to maybe get that first before we finish with the unfinished business? To incorporate both of them kind of like what MC was saying?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I think absolutely I think that makes sense.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

And I mean even if we have to as a matter of procedure put our unfinished business first, we can decide we will table our unfinished business and move on to new business so if it shows up on the agenda tomorrow, I think that should probably be the plan to do that.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: And Dr. Handley will be available if we table it, she will be there for the entire meeting so it won't be a timing issue?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: That I am not certain of.

Unfortunately we are our Executive Director had to step out.

I see Mr. Brace giving me a thumbs up over there.

Is that true, she will be on from 1:00 or available at 1:00? General Counsel any feedback on that? I didn't see you sitting over there Dr. Handley, I just saw Mr. Brace so you will be available 1 or 1:30 to present so we are good on that.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair, certainly apologies to Dr. Handley, I was unaware she was in the room as well or that would have been a very easy solution. Certainly the Commission can amend its agenda as it desires at tomorrow's meeting.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right so I think at this point we are going to stop going over the COIs.

I think we have kind of tested out this process.

I think we can see what works and what doesn't work.

And we will move on to the next item on our agenda at this time.

So the next item on our agenda is agenda item 7 meeting minutes.

We have no meeting minutes to approve today.

We will move on to item eight without objection I'd like to ask our communications and Outreach Director, Edward Woods III to provide a report.

Please proceed Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you very much.

Just want to make sure we connect with the Commissioners about parking and logistics tomorrow.

As you know we are at the University of Michigan and parking is tight.

So we just want to make sure everyone is aware where to park and how we will transport you there and back from the facility tomorrow at the University of Michigan.

So just wanted to make sure you check your e-mail.

And have a conversation with me with regards to that.

So thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much.

Without objection I will ask Sarah Reinhardt from the Michigan Department of State if she has a report.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hearing no objection please proceed Ms. Reinhardt.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you, yes.

A brief update for you.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

Just wanted to update you all on the venue locations for next week.

So Monday the 6th is labor day, a holiday that we will not be meeting and on the 7th and 8th T we will return to Michigan State University's union hall in East Lansing.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

Correspondence received in advance of our meeting today was provided along with written public comments for the Commissioners in our meeting materials.

It's my understanding there are no future agenda items to share at this time.

Are there any announcements? I'm not seeing any announcements.

So as the items on the agenda are completed and the Commission has no further business. A motion to adjourn is in order/ may I have a motion to adjourn.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So moved.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Motions made by Commissioner Witjes. Seconded by Commissioner Rothhorn. Is there any debate or discussion on the motion? All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the meeting is adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Thank you very much everybody.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Just a reminder.