



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES - JULY 27, 2021

In Attendance:

Chairwoman Erika Neuberg
Vice-Chair Derek Watchman
Commissioner Shereen Lerner
Commissioner David Mehl
Commissioner Douglas York

Executive Director, Brian Schmitt
Deputy Director Lori Van Haren
Public Information Officer, Michelle Crank

Roy Herrera, Esq. Ballard Spahr
Jillian Andrews, Esq. Ballard Spahr
Ryan Regula, Esq. Snell & Wilmer
Mark Flahan, Timmons Group
Doug Johnson, NDC Research
Ivy Beller Sakansky, NDC Research
Angla Miller, Transcriptionist

I. Call to Order and Roll Call *(9:22 YouTube)*

- A. Call for Quorum
- B. Call for Notice

Present:

Chairwoman Neuberg
Vice-Chair Watchman
Commissioner Lerner
Commissioner Mehl
Commissioner York

A quorum is present.

Executive Assistant Valerie Neumann confirmed that the meeting agenda was properly posted at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

II. Approval of minutes from July 20, 2021 *(11:02 YouTube)*

- A. General Session
- B. Executive Session

Commissioner York motioned to approve the General Session and Executive Session Minutes from July 20, 2021, Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 5-0.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments *(12:19 YouTube)*

At 8:09am Chairwoman Neuberg opened public comments and indicated that public comments would be open for a minimum of 30 minutes and would remain open until the adjournment of the meeting.

IV. Discussion on Public Comments received prior to the July 19, 2021 meeting. *(13:06 YouTube)*

Chairwoman Neuberg stated there were not many public comments, and since the Commission has embarked on the Listening Tour, the feedback has been tremendous.

V. Update from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC. *(13:48 YouTube)*

- A. Travel schedule/meetings update
- B. Grid maps and progression
- C. Discussion on holding 2 or 3 Listening Tours

The mapping team shared with the Commission that they have received 60 digital Community of Interest submissions so far, and still have the paper submissions to process from the first three Listening Tours. Timmons/NDC gave another brief demonstration of the web-based Community of Interest form, and how to use the SocioEconomic report, and encouraged the public to complete the Community of Interest form online prior to attending the Listening Tour. By doing so, this will enable the mapping team to display their community at the public meeting while they are giving testimony.

Chairwoman Neuberg asked the mapping team if there are ways for the Commission to solicit more information from the Communities that are not speaking out. The mapping team suggested that more outreach will solicit more data.

Using a rubric to grade and look at maps was discussed along with the legal challenges of using this approach. The mapping team suggested that at a future meeting they can present information on the measures they can provide regarding the six criteria. The legal team suggested if the Commission wanted to further consider the rubric idea, to allow them the opportunity to look into

any legal implications they may face.

The mapping team clarified the grid maps and the progression and timeline. Once the grid maps are produced, the current districts get wiped out and the Commission has to start from scratch. Grid maps are produced and adopted, approximately Sept. 14th. Feedback from the public is received on how the grid maps can be improved, either from another Listening Tour, online meetings or with the technology tools available 24/7. Draft maps are then adopted at the end of October, and the Commission will hear from the public once again. The last step will be the final map, with an aspirational date of December 17th.

The mapping team suggested that one more listening tour is sufficient, as public input is available 24/7. The best time to do another Listening Tour would be between producing the Grid and Draft maps. A decision should be made by the next meeting, so the IRC staff may begin working on the logistics of putting another listening tour together.

Mapping training was discussed for the Commissioners and the public. The mapping team will tailor the training on the mapping software so the Commissioners can be aware of how the public can draw maps, but mostly use it as an evaluation tool.

VI. Discussion concerning a summary of recent litigation related to the Voting Rights Act. [\(1:22:07 YouTube\)](#)

The legal team advised the Commission that there were no new updates. A presentation will be made next week about Native American Voting Rights and the Voting Rights Act.

VII. Executive Director's Report and discussion thereof. [\(1:23:36 YouTube\)](#)

- A. Discussion of proposed timeline for IT integration and migration
- B. Discussion and possible action on Community Outreach Coordinator
- C. Survey location on website
- D. Travel schedule/meetings update

Executive Director Schmitt thanked the public for attending the Public Meetings and gave an update as to attendance; Pinal county had 95 attend the meeting in person, with an additional 18 attend at the satellite locations, and 16 joined online. The meeting in Glendale had 108 people attend in person, with 26 joining online. In Phoenix on Sunday, there were 54 in person, and 45 joined online.

Public Information Officer Crank addressed the Listening sessions that were taken off the schedule on the Navajo Nation due to lack of a response or confirmation. Crank is working diligently on getting these locations back on the schedule.

Vice-Chair Watchman motions to go into Executive Session to discuss HR items, Commissioner Mehl seconds the motion. The motion is approved 5-0.

Executive Director Schmitt summarized that after interviews several candidates stood out for the Community Outreach position. The position was advertised for one year, but opted to select two candidates, with six month terms. Commissioner Mehl motioned to approve two Community

Outreach positions for a term of six months subject to HR approval. Commissioner Lerner seconds, and the motion passed unanimously 5-0.

VIII. Discussion of future agenda item requests. [\(1:46:11 YouTube\)](#)

A presentation by the legal team regarding Native American applications of the recent Supreme Court Decision.

Chairwoman Neuberg and Vic-Chair Watchman are speaking at the Inter Tribal Council Association on July 30, 2021 at 9:30am.

IX. Announcements. [\(1:47:46 YouTube\)](#)

The Commission strongly urges the public to attend the upcoming Listening Tour meetings.

X. Next Meeting Date. [\(1:49:50 YouTube\)](#)

The next meeting is Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 8:00am.

XI. Closing of the Public Comments. [\(1:50:14 YouTube\)](#)

Public Comments were closed at 9:47am.

XII. Adjournment. [\(1:50:45 YouTube\)](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48am. Vice Chair Watchman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 5-0.

