



**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES - AUGUST 31, 2021  
8:00am**

**In Attendance:**

**Location: Virtual via Google Meet**

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  
Community Outreach Coordinator, Marie Chapple  
Community Outreach Coordinator, Alex Pena

Roy Herrera, Esq. Ballard Spahr  
Jillian Andrews, Esq. Ballard Spahr  
Brett Johnson, Esq. Snell & Wilmer  
Eric Spencer, Esq. Snell & Wilmer  
Mark Flahan, Timmons Group  
Doug Johnson, NDC Research  
Ivy Beller Sakansky, NDC Research

Sarah Porter, Kyle Center for Water Policy  
Robert Medler, Western Growers Association  
Phil Bashaw, Arizona Farm Bureau

Angela Miller, Transcriptionist

I. Call to Order and Roll Call *(3:55 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 August 31, 2021 *(8:15 YouTube)*

- A. General Session
- B. Executive Session, Item VI,E

Commissioner Mehl motioned to approve the General Session and Executive Session Minutes from August 24, 2021, Vice Chair Watchman seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments *(8:18 YouTube)*

At 8:05am 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 Sept. 14, 2021 meeting. *(9:01 YouTube)*

The Commissioners advised that feedback from the public has been good and they would like the public to keep the comments coming. Chair Neuberg addressed a comment regarding posting transcripts of the Listening Tour meeting that were not recorded, and that staff is working on fulfilling that request. Neuberg also addressed a comment about concerns that communications between the Commissioners and the mapping team related to lines have been conducted outside of business meetings, and confirmed that no such conversations have transpired. Also noted were numerous comments related to frustrations navigating and submitting the Community of Interest mapping tool.

V. Arizona 5C Presentation, Round 1. [\(14:22 YouTube\)](#)

Sarah Porter from Kyle Center for Water Policy gave a presentation on critical water issues in Arizona and the west. *This presentation is posted on the IRC Website*

Robert Medler from the Western Growers Association, and Phil Bashaw from Arizona Farm Bureau gave a presentation on Arizona Agriculture. *This presentation is posted on the IRC Website.*

VI. Update from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC. [\( 1:42:06 YouTube\)](#)

- A. Updates on Census Data integration
- B. Mapping Software public training update and additional software training to commissioners and staff
- C. Discussion of competitiveness, compactness, and contiguity formulas and integration into the software
- D. Explanation of measurements for polarization data analysis during the map creation phase
- E. Overview of map creating schedule and meeting deadlines, including presentation of Grid Maps
- F. Discussion regarding ethnicity demographics and concentration of communities

Mark Flahn from Timmons/NDC updated the Commissioners and staff that ESRI has successfully updated and downloaded the Census information, and is in the process of loading the Census data into the mapping firm's system. Flahan advises that everything is on track and trending a little early.

Flahan advises that Timmons/NDC is working on creating short training videos for the public which is on target to be ready by the public session training session on Sept. 13th.

Doug Johnson gave a presentation on the Arizona Constitution compactness and contiguity Criteria. *This presentation is posted on the IRC Website.*

Dr. Lisa Handley gave a presentation on Analyzing Voting Patterns to Determine if a Redistricting Plan Complies with the Voting Rights Act. *This presentation is posted on the IRC Website.*

Flahan advises the ethnicity demographics and concentration of communities are provided in the socio economic web report on the IRC website allows the public to look at demographics and data points for the state of Arizona.

Timmons/NDC advised that the Grid map is on schedule to be presented to the Commission on Sept. 14th, and they suggest that the Commission hold 5 Grid Map public hearings to obtain input from the public, with dates, time and locations to be confirmed with IRC staff. The Draft Map

decision dates are tentatively scheduled for the week of Oct. 18th - 22nd.

VII. Executive Director's Report and discussion thereof. [\(3:36:36 YouTube\)](#)

- A. Update on Outreach strategy plan
- B. Update concerning public sessions scheduling

Executive Director Schmitt updates the Commission on Outreach activities. The team has made contact with over 75 municipalities, groups and organizations over the past week and attended several meetings with community stakeholders to discuss how to disseminate information to the community. The IRC's first weekly newsletter was distributed last week and the team is working on developing a social media toolkit to provide to the public and community groups.

Schmitt advises that Information regarding upcoming Public meeting dates will be posted to the IRC Website once confirmed with Commissioners.

VIII. Discussion of future agenda item requests. [\( 3:39:14 YouTube\)](#)

A request to the mapping team for a "Mapping Best Practices" guide.  
A request for an overview of ethnicity demographics presentation.  
The Community of Interest report will be completed and shared at the next meeting.  
A continuation of the 5C's presentations was requested.

IX. Announcements. [\(3:43:36 YouTube\)](#)

There will be no meeting on Sept. 7, 2021.

X. Next Meeting Date. [\(3:47:09 YouTube\)](#)

The next meeting will be September 14, 2021 at 8:00am.

XI. Closing of the Public Comments. [\(3:47:15 YouTube\)](#)

Public Comments were closed at 11:44am.

XII. Adjournment. [\(3:47:47 YouTube\)](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am. Chair Neuberg took a vote to adjourn which was approved 4-0.

Minutes taken by Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant