



## PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES - AUGUST 10, 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  
Community Outreach Coordinator, Marie Chapple

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  
Cathy Taylor, Transcriptionist

### I. Call to Order and Roll Call *(5:10 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 3, 2021 *(13:24 YouTube)*

- A. General Session
- B. Executive Session

Commissioner Lerner motioned to approve the General Session and Executive Session Minutes from August 3, 2021, Commissioner York seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 5-0.

## III. Opportunity for Public Comments *(8:21 YouTube)*

At 8:04am 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 August 3, 2021 meeting. *(9:07 YouTube)*

The Commissioners were thankful to the public for the very specific, onpoint, and meaningful comments received. The Commission would like to extend and expand outreach, and are hopeful that the Community Outreach Coordinators can assist with this task. The Commissioners also welcomed requests for speaking engagements from the public. A topic that was mentioned numerous times from the public about extending the Community of Interest Survey period was mentioned.

## V. Update from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC. *(22:07 YouTube)*

- A. Training Dates
- B. Competitiveness/Grid Map Selection discussion
- C. Discussion on/if when to increase number of regular meetings per mapping team's schedule.

Mark Flahan from Timmons/NDC updated the Commission that over 616 electronic Communities of Interest Surveys have been submitted electronically. The paper submissions have not yet been processed. Public feedback regarding how the Socio Economic report was difficult to navigate, Flahan was able to locate an application that was more user friendly. This application will also get posted to the IRC website, so the public will have two products to view demographics.

The Commission and the mapping team discussed extending the Community of Interest Survey deadline and the mapping team suggested that it could be extended, by a day or two. Once the deadline hits, the dashboard will still be available to the public, but the survey will be turned off.

Commissioner Mehl motioned to extend the Community of Interest Survey deadline to August 11, 2021 at 5:00PM. Commissioner York seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously passed 5-0. The new deadline was posted to the IRC website.

Training dates for the redistricting system and options were discussed. A window of 2-4 hours will be needed, and can be held via a virtual meeting. It was suggested that the afternoon of Aug. 24th, after the regular business meeting would be a good time for the Commissioners to do a group training. Flahan will report back at the next meeting as to specific time requirements.

Increasing the amount of meetings and the timing was discussed. Doug Johnson from Timmons/NDC explained that there will be several intensive weeks around Oct. 15 - Oct. 27, where daily meetings may be necessary. Between the adoption of the grid maps and the draft maps, it may be necessary to add another meeting every week or every other week, and then the next listening tour, followed by another intense week of meetings.

VI. Presentation, discussion and potential action concerning Competitiveness measures/Grid Map Selection decisions. *(57:50 YouTube)*

- A. Competitiveness
- B. Grid Map Selection

Commissioner Mehl made a motion to direct the mapping consultants to develop a grid map that begins at the township medium and goes clockwise throughout the state, with equal populations, keeping counties together where practicable. Commissioner Lerner seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

Doug Johnson from Timmons/NDC presented a summary of the content discussed from the expert speakers on Competitiveness from last week's meeting. *(This presentation is available on the IRC website.)*

Commissioner Mehl made a motion for the Commission to adopt one of the competitiveness measure tests as using a basket of actual past elections from 2016, 2018, 2020, excluding outlier elections (defined as 56 or more), and uncontested elections, then using that basket to produce two metrics, a simple average and a count of swing districts. Commissioner Lerner seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

Commissioner Lerner made a motion to use two ranges for the simple average analysis in reference to the competitiveness measure test, one range would be 48-52 and the second range is 46.5-53.5. Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 5-0.

VII. Executive Director's Report and discussion thereof. *(2:41:05 YouTube)*

- A. Discussion of proposed timeline for IT integration and migration
- B. Discussion and possible action on Community Outreach Coordinator
- C. Discussion of potential outreach efforts to local elected leaders
- D. Travel schedule/meetings update
- E. Update on budget and financial presentation
- F. Update on potential future speakers to discuss agriculture, water, forest management, economic centers, transportation, and other potential categories relevant to communities of interest.

Executive Director Schmitt provided a Listening Tour update, over 2,100 people attended the meetings in person and virtually, over 600 Community of Interest Surveys were received on our website, collected hundreds of paper surveys, and there were over 400 speakers who testified.

Schmitt introduced and welcomed one of the new Community Outreach Coordinator, Marie Chapple to the team.

Schmitt is working on putting together budget submissions for the Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting (OSPB), which is due on Sept. 1, 2021, and the “Five C’s” presentation for the Commission in the next several weeks.

Schmitt advised that his team is working on expanding communications and will come back to the Commission with a plan for future outreach.

VIII. Discussion of future agenda item requests. *(2:56:00 YouTube)*

Social media/outreach methods.

Between the Grid maps and the Draft maps, how does the Commission get data without a physical tour?

IX. Announcements. *(3:02:08 YouTube)*

The September 7th regularly scheduled meeting will be skipped.

X. Next Meeting Date. *(3:03:27 YouTube)*

The next business meeting is Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 8:00am.

XI. Closing of the Public Comments. *(3:03:45 YouTube)*

Public Comments were closed at 11:00am.

XII. Adjournment. *(3:4:15 YouTube)*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01am. Vice Chair Watchman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 5-0.