



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES - AUGUST 17, 2021

In Attendance:

Chairwoman Erika Neuberg
Vice-Chair Derek Watchman (*joined the meeting at 9:23 a.m.*)
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
Angela Miller, Transcriptionist

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call (*3:38 YouTube*)
A. Call for Quorum
B. Call for Notice

Present:
Chairwoman Neuberg
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 *(5:19 YouTube)*

- A. General Session
- B. Executive Session

Commissioner Lerner motioned to approve the General Session Minutes from August 3, 2021, Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion. There were no Executive Session Minutes. The motion was approved 4-0.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments *(6:26 YouTube)*

At 8:03am 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. *(7:12 YouTube)*

Concerns from the public regarding reaching people who were not able to participate or attend the public hearings. Three of the fifteen listening tour hearings were in Maricopa County, but 60% of the state's population resides in Maricopa County, more data may be needed from this area.

V. Update, discussion and potential concerning report from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC. *(9:00 YouTube)*

- A. Meetings update
- B. Discussion on when to increase number of regular meetings per mapping team's schedule
- C. Software training for Commissioners, staff, and general public
- D. How to obtain data between Grid and Draft maps discussion
- E. Understanding of public comment and map submission during various map determination phases
- F. Introduction of polarization expert addition to the Timmons/NDC team.

Mark Flahan from Timmons/NDC shared the total Community of Interest submission data, with the one day extension the Commission requested. There were 910 submissions, 5% of the submissions were submitted on behalf of an organization, and under 1% were being paid to submit comments.

Timmons/NDC suggested increasing the amount of meetings to 1.5-2 per week in addition to the regular business meetings beginning with the week of September 20th. An alternative to the Commission traveling throughout the state the week of Oct. 18th, would be to hold public meetings at a central location or virtually where the public may give input on the draft maps. Timmons/NDC will work with the IRC staff to firm up a schedule.

A four hour training by ESRI on the redistricting system in a private setting for the Commissioners will be held at the next meeting, August 24, 2021 after the regular business meeting. Timmons/NDC will work on posting training videos on the website for the public.

Timmons/NDC updated the Commission on a new addition to their staff, Dr. Lisa Hanley who is an expert in polarized voting analysis.

VI. Executive Director's Report and discussion thereof. *(1:22:33 YouTube)*

- A. Update on budget and financial presentation
- B. Discussion and potential outreach efforts to local elected leaders
- C. Outreach and communication plan
- D. 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 introduced Alex Pena, the new Community Outreach Coordinator to the team. The Outreach team provided broad categories, derived from the public comments of how to increase participation in the redistricting process. Earlier and broader notification, how the public can prepare for the meeting (format, goal, background information), and ways the public can participate (virtual, in person). By distributing more press releases, and making the website more user friendly are also some of the communication avenues being addressed.

Vice Chair Watchman joined the meeting at 9:23a.m. (1:26:02 YouTube)

Schmitt is working on scheduling the 5 "C's" presentation, which should take place in the next several weeks. The Commissioners may send the Outreach Team a list of any organizations they feel may not have been reached out to.

The budget information should be available to the Commission for next week's meeting, Schmitt is working on compiling the figures with the Central Services Bureau.

Schmitt advises that the Community of Interest Report will be provided to the local elected leaders who may respond or include additional information.

VII. Update, discussion and potential action regarding the release of Census Data, integration of competitiveness measures, creation of Grid Map, and impact on established schedule. *(1:48:37 YouTube)*

Timmons/NDC informs the Commission that ESRI is currently processing the Census Data and although the data was provided four days early, there will be no impact to the schedule or timeline as long as there are no issues found with the data.

VIII. Update, discussion and potential action regarding retention of Voting Rights Act consultants. *(1:51:29 YouTube)*

The legal team advised that they are in the process of retaining consulting experts who will assist in providing advice to the legal team during the map making process. These individuals are nationally recognized experts in voting rights act and other constitutional principles that apply to redistricting.

IX. Discussion of future agenda item requests. *(1:55:16 YouTube)*

Staff is to provide an overall strategic plan regarding outreach and potential additional public testimony.

X. Announcements. *(1:55:55 YouTube)*

XI. Next Meeting Date. *(1:56:09 YouTube)*

The next business meeting is Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 8:00am, with ESRI mapping training taking place via Executive Session, the same day from 11:30am - 3:30pm.

No meeting will be conducted on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, the Commission will take a break that week.

XII. Closing of the Public Comments. *(1:59:16 YouTube)*

Public Comments were closed at 11:00am.

XIII. Adjournment. *(1:59:47 YouTube)*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01am. Commissioner Lerner motioned to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner York seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 5-0.