



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES - AUGUST 24, 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
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 ([3:59 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 *(5:46 YouTube)*

- A. General Session
- B. Executive Session

Commissioner Mehl motioned to approve the General Session Minutes from August 17, 2021, Commissioner Lerner seconded the motion. There were no Executive Session Minutes. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments *(6:44 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. *(7:30 YouTube)*

The Commissioners thanked the public for their engagement.

V. Update, discussion and potential concerning report from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC. *(8:23 YouTube)*

- A. Updates on Census Data and integration, creation of grid maps, approved competitive measurement integration
- B. Public Training update

Mark Flahan from Timmons/NDC provided an update that ESRI is currently processing the Census data, and that until that is completed, Timmons is in a holding pattern. Once the 2020 data has been uploaded onto their system they will be able to move forward.

Timmons/NDC is developing training videos that will be broken down into six different sections to make it easier for the public to access and be available on the IRC website in early September. Flahan will provide to staff the ESRI training YouTube links to post to the IRC website.

VI. Executive Director's Report and discussion thereof. *(16:22 YouTube)*

- A. Discussion/update of proposed timeline for IT integration and migration
- B. Budget and financial presentation
- C. Outreach strategy plan
- D. Updates regarding new employee training
- E. Update regard to public records requests

Executive Director Schmitt updates the Commission on the status of the migration to Office 365, and stated that the issue is much more complex than anticipated, and is hoping to provide an update at next week's meeting.

Schmitt presents YTD budget information for the current fiscal year. Expenditures in the amount of \$405,148 have been incurred so far. A request for an overall estimate of monthly IRC expenditures was made, which Schmitt will work on to present to the Commission. Legal fees have the most potential to impact the budget.

Public Information Officer Michele Crank, and Community Outreach Coordinators Marie Chapple and Alex Pena update the Commission on the Outreach Plan. Staff is working with ADOA on redesigning the IRC website to make it more user friendly and developing a FAQ page. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram sites have been created for the Commission to promote upcoming meetings and direct the public where to submit comments. Staff is exploring other social media sites to join, such as LinkedIn, Next Door, Pinterest and Reddit. The IRC newsletter, which will be a weekly publication, will be placed on the website and distributed to all who have subscribed. Marketing toolkits, spotlight video clips and a list of government organizations and minority representing groups are being created to share with the community.

Schmitt advises that the new employees are working on completing the state mandated training, and all staff will participate in an upcoming state mandated training.

Deputy Director Van Haren spoke as to where the public may find the Public Records Request forms on the IRC website.

A motion was made by Commissioner York, and seconded by Vice Chair Watchman to move into Executive Session to obtain legal advice on how to honor their responsibilities to provide public records. The motion was approved 5-0.

Upon reconvening from Executive Session, Chairperson Neuberg informed the public that there will be a data migration from Google into the Ballard Spahr e-Discovery system. This information will be thoroughly reviewed by the legal team to decipher what items are privileged, and what items are public records. This process will ensure the requested public record information is processed and distributed quickly and efficiently. The legal team provided a review of legislative privilege, and the Commissioners discussed their responsibility to document and organize any correspondence and work to enable them to honor public records requests as efficiently and effectively as possible.

VII. Update, discussion and potential action regarding retention of Voting Rights Act Consultants. [\(1:25:51 YouTube\)](#)

The legal team advised the Commission on the retention of Voting Rights Act consultants. Ballard Spahr selected Professor Stephen Ansolabehere from Harvard University, and Snell & Wilmer selected Professor Sean Trende from The Ohio State University. These individuals will assist the legal team as they advise the Commission on the requirements of the Voting Rights Act and compliance of the maps the Commission draws.

VIII. Discussion of future agenda item requests. [\(1:30:01 YouTube\)](#)

A report from mapping on compactness and contiguity.

A request for an objective analysis of the constituency of Arizona is, and having opportunities for those groups to speak to the Commission.

X. Announcements. [\(1:35:43 YouTube\)](#)

The Commissioners and staff will attend ESRI mapping software training today at 11:30am.

XI. Next Meeting Date. [\(1:36:39 YouTube\)](#)

The next business meeting is Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 8:00am.

XII. Closing of the Public Comments. [\(1:35:54 YouTube\)](#)

Public Comments were closed at 11:00am.

XIII. Adjournment. [\(1:37:26 YouTube\)](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34am. Vice Chair Watchman motioned to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Lerner seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 5-0.