



**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 28, 2021
8:01am**

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, Alex Pena

Roy Herrera, Esq. Ballard Spahr
Danielle Arrelano, 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 *(5:17 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 September 21, 2021 *(7:01 YouTube)*

A. General Session

B. Executive Session, Items VII, A & B

Commissioner Lerner motioned to approve the General and Executive Session Minutes from September 21, 2021, and Vice-Chair Watchman seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments *(8:23 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 Sept. 28, 2021 meeting. *(9:08 YouTube)*

There have been numerous comments and frustrations from the public regarding using the mapping software. The public is using the same mapping tools as the Commission, but options to make it simpler are being addressed. The public may also submit a physical map to the Commission. The Commission addressed how the public can request translation services at the public meetings, along with noticing many frustrations with meeting locations, and concerns about reaching communities of interest.

V. Update from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC. *(15:31 YouTube)*

- A. Updates concerning polarization, demographic, competitive data, and other deliverables.
- B. Updates on mapping software outreach and status
- C. Practical logistics for first deliberative meeting on revised Grid Map, direction to Commissioners as plan of action.

Mark Flahan from Timmons demonstrated how to import different data sources, make groups, and how to build a single district in the mapping program. Timmons is working on the ability to click on a map and look at all the specific demographic data. PDF maps are available on the HUB for the public who would prefer to submit a hand drawn map. Flahan also demonstrated how to look at competitive and demographic data within a map.

Doug Johnson from NDC Research updated the Commission that they are still working on getting the Polarization report completed.

Practical Logistics and advice was provided by Johnson and Flahan. Timmons/NDC advised making large scale changes first, then go through the Community of Interest information, look at the Socio-economic data, and finally take into consideration what has been presented at the Grid Map meetings to date.

The Commission decided that Public Comments will be accepted electronically during the

mapping meetings, and the meetings will also be open to the public.

VI. Executive Director's Report and discussion thereof. *(1:46:01 YouTube)*

- A. Update on Outreach strategy plan
- B. Grid Map Public Sessions update
- C. Status of IT Migration
- D. Status of Public Record Responses
- E. Post-Draft Map Public Sessions Planning
- F. Status of Budget Expenditures

Community Outreach Director Alex Pena advised that the team's outreach efforts have been reaching out to groups, cities, towns, counties and councils and providing them with mapping resources, meeting dates and materials. A list of outreach contacts will be provided to the Commissioners. Pena states that public meetings are continually being promoted on social media. Pena has created a LinkTree site which includes all the IRC resources in one spot.

Executive Director Schmitt spoke about the progress of the migration, which is underway and is expected to be completed in the next three weeks.

Deputy Director Lori Van Haren advised that the Public Records Request responses should be posted by this Friday, or if the request is anticipated to take longer, she will correspond with the requestor as to how long it will take to produce the information.

In preparation for the Draft Map Public sessions, Van Haren proposed several meeting ideas. The Commission could possibly hold two or three telephone town halls during the public meeting sessions, or for those areas that are still under COVID restrictions, the Commission could hold Open Houses to collect data, or hold informational sessions held in an outdoor setting.

Schmitt advises that the updated budget expenditures report should be completed by next week.

VII. Legal Update *(2:02:21 YouTube)*

- A. Discussion of competitiveness factor under the Arizona Constitution and interaction with other constitutional factors.

Vice-Chair Watchman motioned to go into Executive Session to receive legal advice on Competitiveness, and Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

Upon return from Executive Session, Chair Neuberg advised that the legal team provided a legal refresher relating to the redistricting constitutional requirements.

VIII. Discussion and possible action on how to further maximize the Commissioner's time during the Grid Map period.

This item was discussed in agenda item 5C.

IX. Discussion of future agenda item requests. [\(2:36:08 YouTube\)](#)

A Latino academic is tentatively scheduled to present at the Oct. 12th business meeting.

X. Announcements. [\(2:37:39 YouTube\)](#)

The last of the public Grid Map hearings are to take place, with satellite locations throughout the state, and the first Grid Map Drawing meeting will be held next week.

XI. Next Meeting Date. [\(2:38:33 YouTube\)](#)

The next meeting will be a Grid Map Drawing Meeting on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 12:00pm.

XII. Closing of the Public Comments. [\(2:39:45 YouTube\)](#)

Public Comments were closed at 10:36am.

XIII. Adjournment. [\(3:38:04 YouTube\)](#)

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner York, and Vice-Chair Watchman seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41am.

Minutes taken by Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant 9/28/21