

OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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REAPPORTIONMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE

Angela Powell, Chairperson

David Woodward
Vice Chairperson
Marcia Gershenson

Michael Spisz
Eileen Kowall

September 15, 2021

Commissioner Powell called the meeting of the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee to order at 1:48 p.m. in Committee Room A of the Commissioners' Auditorium Wing, County Service Center in Pontiac, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Angela Powell, David Woodward, Marcia Gershenson, Michael Spisz, Eileen Kowall

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE:

None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Gershenson moved approval of the minutes from June 29, 2021, as presented. Seconded by Woodward.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Gershenson moved approval of the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Woodward.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. LEGAL PROCESS – CORPORATION COUNSEL

A discussion was held regarding the legal process and the deadline date for submission of the Reapportionment Plan. There were questions about the proper date to follow for receipt of the census data because the data was released twice, once in the legacy format, which has been used in prior years for counties to create their apportionment plans and then the same data was released again in a new, updated format, which created confusion about when the 60-day deadline begins.

Nicole Tabin, Senior Assistant, Corporation Counsel, recommended that the Board of Commissioners (BOC) use October 11, 2021, as the deadline for submitting the Plan, as approved by the BOC (Apportionment Commission). Ms. Tabin explained that if a court determines that they did not meet the correct deadline, then by law the County would be required to allow voters the opportunity to submit their own proposed plans, and the County would be required at that time to pick from a voter-supplied plan.

If it is not possible to meet the October 11th deadline date, Ms. Tabin suggested that the County could petition the Court of Appeals to request an extension of the deadline, which could be decided for good cause. This would be decided by three judges, and Ms. Tabin did not recommend that option unless they cannot meet the October 11th deadline. Ms. Tabin further explained that once a plan is approved and filed with the State via the Clerk's Office, there is a 30-day window in which citizens could challenge the plan.

Pursuant to MCL 46.403, the County Clerk is required to convene the Apportionment Commission, and the Apportionment Commission approves the Rules of Procedure to develop the plan. Once a plan is developed for consideration, they can debate, amend, etc. The plan could be approved and filed the same day. The Clerk's Office would need at least 2 days to verify the accuracy of the data in the plan.

Commissioner Woodward suggested that the plan should be submitted to the Clerk's Office by October 6th to provide enough time for the Clerk's Office to review and to have Clerk-approved maps for consideration before Friday, October 8th. Once the Clerk confirms the plan is accurate, then the BOC could file the plan with the Secretary of State. Ms. Tabin stated that the BOC must approve one (1) plan to be filed by October 11th.

A draft of the Rules of Procedure, which was taken from previous rules and statutes, was reviewed by the Ad Hoc Committee, and revisions and edits were made. The revised version will be presented at the next meeting for additional review.

2. TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

A discussion was held regarding the type of software that the Board of Commissioners should use to develop the Apportionment Plan. Ron Crank, Plat and Boundary Review Specialist, Clerk/Register of Deeds, recommended Esri. Committee members mentioned that they have been having difficulty accessing Esri. Commissioner Spisz recommended a videoconference with Susan Moore and Ron Crank for additional training with the Ad Hoc Committee members. Susan Moore offered to set up some training dates with the committee members.

Spisz moved to approve the use of Esri software for developing the Reapportionment Plan.
Seconded by Woodward.

Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

3. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

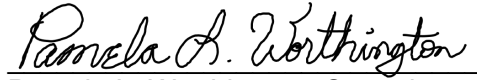
Chairperson Powell indicated that the Committee should meet weekly up until the October 11, 2021, deadline date. Committee members discussed the next meeting. The next meeting was tentatively set for Monday, September 20, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.

4. OPEN DISCUSSION

Commissioner Spisz inquired about whether a number of districts has been considered at this time. Ms. Tabin had confirmed that the statutory guidelines are for a minimum of 5 districts and a maximum of 21 districts.

OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.



Pamela L. Worthington, Committee Coordinator

Megan C. Sellers, Operations Supervisor

NOTE: The foregoing minutes are subject to Committee approval.