

**Commission on Reapportionment
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: February 10, 2021 – 4:00 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing(646) 558-8656,
Meeting ID: 956 1062 6098
PRESIDING OFFICER: Commissioner Sarah DeStefano (rotating Chair)
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn Tantillo
PRESENT: Commissioners Donna Lutz, Andy Monk, Regis Obijiski, Kenneth Panza, Travis Rask and Kathleen Waithe
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Ulster County Attorneys Clint Johnson and Kristin Gumear, County Planning Dennis Doyle and Robert Leibowitz; Mike Baden, Supervisor, Town of Rochester.

Chair DeStefano called the meeting to order at 4:04.

Motion No. 1: To approve the minutes of January 28, 2021

Motion By: Commissioner Obijiski
Motion Seconded By: Commissioner Waithe
Discussion: None.
Voting in Favor: Commissioners DeStefano, Lutz, Monk, Obijiski, Panza, Rask and Waithe
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes approved.

Chair DeStefano opened a discussion on how the Commission wanted to interact, gather and share information with the public

Motion No. 2. To establish a county email address “Reapportionment@co.ulster.ny.us as a central email contact for the public to use.

Motion By: Commissioner Monk
Motion Seconded By: Commissioner Obijiski
Discussion: See transcript.

Voting in Favor: Commissioners DeStefano, Lutz, Monk, Obijiski, Panza, Rask and Waithe
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved.

Motion No. 3. To establish subcommittee to examine the existing website of the 2011 Commission [<https://legislature.ulstercountyny.gov/legislature/reapportionment>] and discuss how to create a website for this Commission

Motion By: Commissioner Rask
Motion Seconded By: Commissioner Monk

Discussion: Commissioners Obijiski, Lutz and Waithe will make up this Subcommittee.
See transcript for details.

Voting in Favor: Commissioners DeStefano, Lutz, Monk, Obijiski, Panza, Rask and Waithe
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

New Business

Old Business

The next meeting of the commission is March 10, 2021 at 6:00 and will be Chaired by Commissioner Donna Lutz with Commissioner Andy Monk as Vice Chair.

March agenda topics will include:

- Presentation on vendors by the Department of Planning
- Update by Website Subcommittee
- Press Release

Chair DeStefano asked if there was any other business, hearing none;

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Commissioner Rask
Motion Seconded By: Commissioner Obijiski
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Time: 4:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo
Minutes Approved: March 10, 2021

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Sarah DeStefano

Good, good, everyone. Good to see you today. It is 4:04pm on February 10, 2021. And I would like to call this, I guess, second meeting official meeting of the whole body of the Committee on Reapportionment for Ulster County to order.

Fawn Tantillo

So, your entire committee is here now.

Sarah DeStefano

Great. Hello, everyone. Hi. I pull up our agenda. Okay, so it looks like the first. The first point on our agenda is to approve the minutes from January 28 2021. open the floor for a motion to that for that.

Regis Obijiski

So moved.

Sarah DeStefano

Second?

Kathleen Waithe

Second.

Sarah DeStefano

All in favor of approving the minutes from January 28 2021. All right. Any opposed? Great.

So then the second point of business for the day, as something that we briefly discussed last time was how we want to interact, gather and share information with the public. Notably, the meetings that were suggested with different areas of the county, how we will be going about that, potentially, in this COVID world what places we want to be talking to. And I think at this point, this also includes reduces kind drafting of our website. So I guess I would open the floor to some discussion on locations that, you know, people what parts of the county do people feel strongly? Should you know, have a have a specific meeting? Should we have one meeting for all residents around the county? Or should it be as it were the last 10 years ago, prior when there were specific meetings, for specific towns, etc.

Kenneth Panza

Might be a little premature to make. Pick out locations for meetings. At this point, we may want to start off just by notifying the asking the county legislators and the various political committees, what they think of the current districts and they like them, they dislike them what issues they have. And, you know, start maybe from there. I mean, there may be some areas that have no complaints and others that have complaints. And

Travis Rask

yeah, I agree with you. Yeah,

Kenneth Panza

I agree County, but I think we need to get a feel for what people actually think of the current districts and how they, how they think they're serving them.

Travis Rask

Yeah, I agree with Ken maybe just put out some sort of feeler to say, you know, this, what we're doing this is what's going on. If you have complaints show up to x meeting, and, you know, then we can maybe make a decision that way. What does everyone else think?

Andy Monk

Fawn, I'm curious to know how you guys chose where to do the meetings 10 years ago? Do you remember?

Fawn Tantillo

Um, I think they did them generally, in geographic areas. I don't know that they went to every town but I think they like clump the towns together and little like two or three pounds at a time. Remember, we had legislative districts at the time that were multi, multi member districts, and the towns were whole so you could hold a meeting in that district. And unlike catch three towns or something like that,

Sarah DeStefano

I guess to me, it seems like a strange ask to make of the Ulster County legislature if this is supposed to be about their lines. I would think that this inquiry should be more about the voters and less about the voted in personally. That, if we're going to be asking legislators what they think we should be doing with their boundaries, we're bound to get answers that are, you know, I think as anyone would expect, favorable to their legislative, their, you know, electoral possibilities. So to me if I don't I actually don't know how strongly I feel. I'm all for transparency. I don't know how strongly I feel that the charter speaks to having to have public input. But I am far more comfortable with having public input than I am with asking the political parties what we think should we should do about a nonpartisan inquiry in legislative boundaries.

Andy Monk

I think that's an excellent point. I don't think it could hurt for us to ask them for their opinions. But of course, it's ultimately up to us what we do with that information, you know, so like, I think requesting that information, but then being really conscious about the source of the information and how we decide to use it might be like a good good compromise between that because maybe there is some big issue that the legislature is having, that we should be aware of while we're going through this process. But I agree with you, Sarah, that we certainly wouldn't want to, you know, make our decisions based solely on what the elected officials are sort of asking for, because it is obviously about the voters.

Sarah DeStefano

That's a fair point. Andy, thanks. Yeah.

Regis Obijiski

Yeah. And, and I, I agree with, with Andy and definitely with, with Sarah, that, you know, in our first order of priorities, priorities is the... are the are the voters themselves, and that those those to be voted. I also think that somewhere along the line, we need to include town municipal officials, to see how it works, how it works for them, you know, the weather, whether or not because there's there's some, there are some towns that are clustered in threes and fours, some that have, like the city has separate right now, the suffering is distinct. And so it's broken up. Whether whether they feel that there's good communication. So I think that might be another another level to think about. But I think the very first would be the citizens, the people represented, I should say, themselves. So I agree with you, Sarah, on that one. And will you talk, are you thinking about this as as a hearing, because the hearing really hearings formally should occur? As I understand reading the charter after, you know, we would come up with a draft a draft plan?

Sarah DeStefano

I was not, but it does. It sounds like sorry, I don't mean to interrupt. It sounds like 10 years ago, there was a pre public comment on how people felt like their boundaries currently were. Now as Fawn mentioned, they were reducing the number of of districts. So perhaps the public comment was more far more required prior to the drawing process. Right. But my understanding was that that occurred prior to them drawing lines. And we may very well decide that we don't need that. But I we do have a lot of time between now and when we are expecting to get data and I thought

perhaps, if we were to go that route, again, it would be a good time to start getting that public commentary, period rolling.

Regis Obijiski

You know, I think it's probably not a bad idea, because I needed it myself to really understand what it is that we're we're doing, and what happens in redistricting. And that's what I tried to get to in the in the in the FAQs I because it's just a simple way of starting this. So if I were to ask a group of, you know, towns, you know, what do you think of redistricting is a, what does that tell me? refresh me? Because it isn't just simply you know, are arbitrary. We have we have we have criteria that we have to have to follow very closely to ensure that, you know, we do things right, so it's this lined up in the charter and, and also in state and federal law. So there, there there are some strictures that that we have to adhere to. And I think that in a sense that in a sense, they have to come first People need to understand the parameters in which we're operating. And so if someone says, you know, they wanted to separate the districts or have every municipality would be its own district, which would be a kind of neat way to do it, but it doesn't it doesn't follow the rules. So we need to get in a sense, the ground rules. spoken.

Sarah DeStefano

I think that's very fair. So information sharing on top of information gathering.

Regis Obijiski

Yes,, yes. Thank you.

Travis Rask

And I'm assuming we're going to do all of these meetings virtually right. We're not going to actually go to these towns, we'll just invite them to come to meetings.

Sarah DeStefano

I think that's the only way we could really do it these days. Unfortunately.

Travis Rask

No, that's, that's great. Just want to make sure I was clear.

Andy Monk

I agree. Except that I was also thinking the other day, if there's the possibility, that vaccine starts to become widely available by let's say, July or August, when we get the census information. I think we I think we could have a discussion about how we wanted to handle it, I might, I might personally still be uncomfortable having in person meetings. But that is sort of on the horizon. And maybe that's just my optimism kicking in, that's misplaced.

Regis Obijiski

Hold, we really have for Andy all the way till summer of 22, to really get a get a draft out there. So you know, maybe by that time, I hope by then, you know,

Andy Monk
Let's hope so

Travis Rask
Hopefully, we'll have the public comment by that because I'm not going to be taking more public comment in 2022.

Robert Leibowitz
If I may, I can tell you how we did it last time. Okay, so at every meeting like this, we allowed for public comment, that the meeting, we also there's also the requirement, I'll put this in the chat to everybody. This is the charter language. So the you have to hold basically on the charter says hold one meeting. Honor prior to may 20, of next year of next draft map so that that's the only requirement that you have to have one public hearing. You can have as many as you like, but you have to have one by that date. Yeah. And what we did was we did do a regional approach last time we they went physically to towns, Obviously right now, you can't do that. So you can invite you can advertise invite public comment, as much as you like over zoom right now, regionally, or whatnot, or, or more specifically, or more broadly.

Andy Monk
So Robert, they had like a time for public comment at a at every meeting last 10 years ago? Or most?

Robert Leibowitz
I think most I don't know that they always did it. But there was always members of the public at these meetings. You were there taking notes or making comments. I believe people were were open to interject. So there are people, certainly people at present. I know there are a couple of people on this call right now, who were at most of those meetings Fawn and I seek Mike Baden, who's now the supervisor town of Rochester is here. He was at both of those meetings as well.

Clinton Johnson
And guys, my suggestion would be if you are going to take public comments would be if you're not going to do it every meeting, you would perhaps just do it where you put it on your agenda. But what particular agenda you can take public comment.

Travis Rask
Exactly. I agree. Thank you, Clinton,

Clinton Johnson
No worries.

Sarah DeStefano
Well, perhaps we just proceed in that way and not have it be specific to know like a soccer team meeting one day and a marbuero. Meeting the next month. And just have an open an open house policy at the beginning of our meetings for the next few meetings.

Travis Rask

Yeah, I mean, I mean, we have a big county to work with. So I definitely don't see issue, even from my, you know, from my standpoint of breaking out the districts in a certain way to at certain meetings, you know, if we don't necessarily go into the meeting and say, let's talk about all 23 districts, let's just say we can go into this meeting, let's talk about these, these five are three or five districts, and you know, pinpoint it that way. And then like I said, I feel like then we can invite those those townships to come in and say this is the districts that we're working on you more than welcome for public comment. And, you know, because again, it kind of just gets rid of that, that back and forth. I mean, I'm always open for new ideas and new comments and you know, things like that, but at the same time, we have to keep progressing forward. So if we say, okay, we're doing Saugerties tonight, and then Saugerties looks great, and, you know, five weeks from now, another Saugerties resident comes in and says, "Well, we don't like it." Not that I'm not saying we can't be open to going back to Saugerties. But there's a reason why we're, you know, structuring it in a certain way. So that way, it keeps us on a path, if everyone's okay with that. And that's just that's a suggestion of mine.

Regis Obijiski

Another another way to seek input. And I think this was Dennis's idea at the last meeting, to have an email, a general email to to, to the commission, that would be accessible to the commission somehow or other that would be up to is I guess, but some, some way electronically to, to get feedback on a, on a regular basis. And that can serve as a kind of a commentary. You know, as part of part of our agenda. This is what we received, these are the, these are the themes that were brought up by, by by people, you know, over the course of the past the past month. So this could be this could be ongoing. So if we had if we had a webpage and something that went out to the, to the public to identify who it is, that we are, what we're what we're doing and what we're available to hear. People would could could email us that'd be that's that would be they could do that anytime day or night.

Fawn Tantillo

We could certainly put out a press release. And you know, and invite people if they have concerns about the their county election districts. One of the issues you're going to find is that people will initially come to you and they have issues because we're in. They don't like that we have for Assemblyman or for state senators, because they don't understand what your redistricting that's an educational thing that we'd have to make clear in the press release. And then you could just put the email and if people have, you know, any comments or concerns, Socrates, for instance, has cut his part has led to three different legislators represented from parts of Socrates, new, Paltz is like a donut with one legislator, the only district that's completely surrounded by another district. I think Shannon was cut into three different districts. So those areas might have, you might see more comments from those areas than areas where you have several towns grouped together in one district.

Kenneth Panza

I think the idea of sending out a press release, so then having a website where people could submit comments and emails. Sounds like a very feasible thing to do.

Fawn Tantillo

But if you can see what you want the email address to be, I saw one of the things they were talking about, like you Our motto, being drawing the lines, it could be drawingthelines@co.ulster.ny.us. If you want that to be the email address, the emails would come to me, and then I could certainly forward them to all you, you know, through the county. I don't think they'd be comfortable. The county would be comfortable with someone off site managing this county email address, but

Kenneth Panza

I see no reason not to use the county facilities for this. Since they're already there.

Fawn Tantillo

Absolutely. And if you just tell us what you want it to be called? Yes, we can have that set up probably, you know, the next day or two?

Kenneth Panza

And then how are we going to answer the questions that come in?

Fawn Tantillo

Well, they wouldn't. They would come to me, and then I could forward them to you, you know, as in as a group, you may want to answer them. And I mean, some of them may be simple, like, how do I listen to the deliberation? And And certainly, I could answer simple questions like that. But if they have a, certainly a policy question, or something that could go to you, I would forward everything to you, as you know, as a group with my answers.

Kenneth Panza

We don't have to answer the questions.

Regis Obijiski

Ken, what did you say? Repeat yourself, please?

Kenneth Panza

We don't have to answer the questions. Right. Expecting a lot that we can use for our own deliberation. There's no requirement to respond.

Right. But would they understand that?

Fawn Tantillo

Well, we could we could make just like when you write to your state senator, you get a form reply. Thank you for your letter, we will, you know, the commission will review it. Your your comments?

Regis Obijiski

Well, one of the things we could do with the with the agenda items is, is have a general response to two emails. And in the course of the month, we would, we could set it up in certain themes, you know, these are the following questions things and and we could prepare, prepare a response and, and have that as part of the meeting. That depending on how many emails we get, that may be quite a bit of work, though. I'm saying really just to sort them, sort them into into into certain areas and you know, we don't we don't have to answer 100.

Sarah DeStefano

Or perhaps we could just take the emails and rather than answer them by email, we could just invite the people who asked them to come to our next meeting. And then we could discuss it. So I think that if we don't have access to the email system directly this may get quickly be a very timely processing, email crafting.

Andy Monk

Good. It sounds like we're all in agreement that we should create an email address for the commission. Right? We want communication. Yeah. So I liked fond suggestion of drawing the lines. I also like Regis, didn't you suggest reapportionment or something like that in your document that you sent along?

Regis Obijiski

Yeah, I did. I had because it seemed It seems to me that the county addresses were four letters, your your first your first initial and your end the first three of your have your name. And so I put "REEF" reapportionment. That's, that's what I suggested only and only because I was just following the way emails are seem to be set up for the county.

Fawn Tantillo

The legislators emails are now all their first name dot last name, or they are the full names, the ones that use but this year, right, the most county employees are just our first initial and the first three of our last is anything. Yeah.

Regis Obijiski

So I mean, I'm okay with I'm okay with that. It's up to the group. The the drawing the lines if you want.

Andy Monk

"Drawing the line" sounds good. And "reapportionment" sounds good to me as well. "reef" is a little ominous. So I think maybe

Regis Obijiski

It is.

Sarah DeStefano

I think I'm a little bit partial "reapportionment". Just because if someone's familiar with the name of the committee, it's maybe a little bit easier to find the contact. Then, knowing that it's, you know, drawing the lines, but I'm not. I'm not sure.

Travis Rask

I agree. Like you said a Google search "reapportionment" is going to come up. "Drawing the lines" maybe. maybe a little bit further, more difficult

Kenneth Panza

There's another, .I'm sorry. There's another company "drawing the lines" that I had that I had noticed when I went through the software. And but it was somebody in in Pennsylvania. And I didn't know if that went up in Google if they would get him or or us.

Travis Rask

Yeah, yeah.

Andy Monk

Yeah, I think in that case, since reapportionment is sort of what we're doing, I'll make a motion now to create an email address for the committee. That's "reapportionment@" whatever the rest of it has to be actually don't remember.

Fawn Tantillo

"Co.ulster.ny.us"

Andy Monk

That's the one.

Regis Obijiski

I would go along with that, for sure.

Sarah DeStefano

All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Sarah DeStefano

Any opposed? My Robert's Rules of Order skills are getting better, but still a little rusty. My apologies, everyone. Great. So I guess it also lends itself to talking about Regis's website, copy, which thank you again, Regis for putting that together. I thought it was very informative. I guess it just opens up to discussion. Does anyone have any feelings about things to tweak or edit or I think also, it opens up the possibility that we could have like a subcommittee to discuss with perhaps Regis leading the that effort if you were so inclined, or people here were so inclined. But perhaps

we just want to accept them as is, too. So does anyone have any feelings about the website copy as presented or otherwise?

Kenneth Panza

Well, the County sort of has a standard format website, you know, if you go to a department or committee or whatever, it all kind of follows the same template. And you know, maybe we ought to consider fitting into one of those standard county templates for the website.

Fawn Tantillo

I would bow to Dennis who has been talking to our IT folks about how the website could be set up but I don't think anything you had in your list would not be like headshots with your with personal information. wouldn't be a problem as long as you all have headshots.

Regis Obijiski

How does it How does everyone feel about having a headshot?

Sarah DeStefano

I personally have to get one. But I feel

Kenneth Panza

We could take one right off right here.

Dennis Doyle

Has anybody had an opportunity to look at the final report that the Commission did in the 2010? reapportionment there's a, there's a pretty decent layout of the commissioners in that report and a brief bio on him, etc, etc. So that would be something that you can look at that would say, you know, to set it up on a webpage, would help. My other my other senses is never asked a planner, what he thinks of the website that the county has, because my sense is, is we should throw it out and start over. that's beside the point. It's from

Robert Leibowitz

Dennis, I knew you were gonna say that.

Dennis Doyle

It's from the , I have a continuing battle with my IS department about the status of our website. So I mean, if you want to break new ground, please feel free to do that.

Andy Monk

That report is available. I would love to see it, but I haven't had a chance to look at it yet.

Dennis Doyle

I can send you the link.

Andy Monk

Thank you.

Dennis Doyle
I'll put it in the chat.

Travis Rask
Thank you, Dennis. Thank you.

Robert Leibowitz
Yeah, right now the the county still has a legislative reapportionment districting. Committee web page on there. So I mean, all you have to do is just update put a new content if you want. It's easy enough to do it that way. It needs more direct linking. It's kind of buried, but still very much there.

Regis Obijiski
What is it under a I think was under?

Dennis Doyle
I'll send the link

Travis Rask
Under the legislature reapportionment.

Robert Leibowitz
Yeah.

Travis Rask
Okay. Final Report is the second second link down. But it also says not found sorry, the page you're looking for is not available.

Dennis Doyle
I'll send you the link that it is available on.

Okay. Thank you.

Sarah DeStefano
All right. Now that I clicked it, I have lost my zoom.

Fawn Tantillo
We can ee you.

Sarah DeStefano
I know you're still there because I can hear it.

Kenneth Panza

It says the documents not available.

Travis Rask
Right. Yeah.

Kenneth Panza
So the links there, but the documents not? If you just send another link, that'll actually get you to it.

Robert Leibowitz
It'll link opened up. The document opened up for me.

Travis Rask
Yeah. Okay. Second one, just open. Yeah.

Fawn Tantillo
And Sarah, when you have a chance can you make me Host again, I thought I could make your co host.

Sarah DeStefano
Oh, yes. I can't find my zoom screen at the moment, though. So hold on a second. All right, you disconnect from a few things. Something tells me my memory is opening up a window confused my computer.

No available windows.

Travis Rask
Zoom goes out. It's not not only Google Chrome or something like that. It like comes out. It's like a video? I don't know.

Sarah DeStefano
Yeah, it's his own app. But I should if I say show all windows, you should all pop up and it says nothing's available. So go figure.

Travis Rask
We can see you.

Sarah DeStefano
Okay, I actually think I might quit and then Fawn and that will probably kick it back to you anyway. And then I log right back on.

Andy Monk
Do you happen to see a little camera? on your bottom of your screen?

Sarah DeStefano

Yes, I do. But when I say show a Windows, it tells me there are no windows. There's something wrong with the program currently.

Fawn Tantillo

So if because I've made Sarah the host, if she logs off, and we all get logged off. Just come back in again.

Andy Monk

And I just one thing to try quickly, Sarah, is that if the zoom meeting was in full screen, when you clicked on the link, it takes you away from the meeting in a way that is very difficult to find again, are you in a Mac or a PC?

Sarah DeStefano

On a Mac?

Andy Monk

Okay, so if you just in your taskbar finder bar, if you just find the zoom icon and click on it, just like single click, it may bring you back to the full screen of the meeting.

Sarah DeStefano

It does not okay, sorry, unfortunately. Oh, I had to click the applications. Okay, now I'm back. Hello. I'm sorry. I had to click a second application link. So anyway, here I am. It's a great I'm not usually That was computers either. Okay, so um,

Regis Obijiski

Well, Sarah, going back to what you suggested, maybe having just a little, little committee to to follow up on on some of these suggestions and link into the 2010, reapportionment and putting you all live together, I would I would serve on this ad hoc committee. And if I can have one or two people to join me, I'd appreciate it.

Sarah DeStefano

I think that might be the easiest way to go about doing this, just so that we're not all in the crafting editing process on these meetings, and then whatever that committee comes up with, can be presented and we can all approve of it then. But I think that might be the most efficient way. I am assuming we have to move to make such a subcommittee. Is that right?

Regis Obijiski

That would be correct.

Sarah DeStefano

Okay. So entertaining a motion to create such a committee?

Travis Rask

So moved.

Sarah DeStefano
Second?

Andy Monk
Second.

Sarah DeStefano
All in favor?

Fawn Tantillo
I'm sorry, who seconded was it Andy?

Andy Monk
it was me.

Sarah DeStefano
All in favor?

Committee Members
Aye. Aye. Aye.

Clinton Johnson
And did you guys specify what that subcommittees is specifically for?

Travis Rask
For the Go ahead, Regis?

Regis Obijiski
Yeah, I'm just gonna say I think, I think what, what Sarah suggested was, let's look at what's there. And now we have the links to what's what, what is there from from 20 to 2010? And to perhaps shape what some of the ideas that we have right now into that form or not, but let they let this little committee do its thing. And get back to everybody before the next meeting.

Fawn Tantillo
So you're going to have a subcommittee to examine the existing webpage and consider options for a new web for a web page for the current committee

Regis Obijiski
Better said yes.

Fawn Tantillo
And who's on the committee besides Regis?

Donna Lutz

I can. I can try. I can. I have no problem trying? I'm not great. I'm not great. with computers, but I'd be happy to.

Kathleen Waithe

Yeah, right. So will I. I'm not that great with computers. But I'll be happy to cry as well.

Regis Obijiski

Okay, Kathy? That's great.

Fawn Tantillo

Thank you. And sometimes it's good to have folks that aren't good. So when, when folks of my generation go on that, you know, that aren't good. You'll have already gotten through the glitches.

Regis Obijiski

Okay.

Travis Rask

Well, thank you, everyone for volunteering. Thank you, Regis, Kathy, Donna. Appreciate that.

Sarah DeStefano

I'm assuming we don't need to vote them into the subcommittee. We just accept that as it's okay. Great. Thank you. Yes, absolutely. And then I think that that was really the only order of business today that I had listed. But it's

Kenneth Panza

I have a request for Rob.

Robert Leibowitz

Sure.

Kenneth Panza

I'd like a map of the existing districts, maybe a PDF file, like something 18 X 24, something like a printout that I could read.

Robert Leibowitz

So you want an 18 by 24 version of it, or something that's a or for most people at home eight by 11.

Travis Rask

I want something I can put right here, Rob. I want right back.

Robert Leibowitz

I certainly didn't build a making poster size last time for everybody..

Travis Rask

I'm gonna make one for myself. I'll tell you that. So I'm not kidding.

Fawn Tantillo

There is a map on there is a map county webpage. And and you know, it has each of the districts and then you can just blow up that district. But it is on the county's on the legislators webpage. If you look down the slide for legislative districts, there is a map there. But you may want a bigger with it and paper that you could

Kenneth Panza

I want something I can print out like 18 by 24. So that's just a PDF file. I mean, it's sure something Rob could do with listing of the existing districts with their 2010 census counts.

Robert Leibowitz

Sure, I can send you what I put out last time,

Kenneth Panza

One of the first things we will be doing is looking at the new census data and comparing it to the old census.

Travis Rask

I think you hit it right on the nose Ken. Yep, I agree.

Kenneth Panza

And I'd like to get a copy of the old census data, not the date. I mean, the the the the counts within the district.

Regis Obijiski

That's on a website, isn't it?

Sarah DeStefano

I think Rob may have sent it to us previous in the previous meeting, because I remember seeing some sort of Excel,

Kenneth Panza

I'd like to get a copy of it, preferably in an Excel file. If that's possible, not go to the website. That's not an answer I want to hear.

Sarah DeStefano

I think you may have received it from Robert, the via email in an Excel spreadsheet prior to the prior meeting, though, but I'm sure he doesn't mind sending it again.

Robert Leibowitz

I'll give you I'll give you all the data you need. I'll give you all the breakdown, I have it all breakdown by demographics. And I can also send you the map too. So you can just see

Travis Rask

I would like it as well, Robert, if you could

Kenneth Panza

24 counts.

Travis Rask

Thank you. Thank you.

Dennis Doyle

So the interesting thing about I mean, I know Ken doesn't like to go to websites. And I apologize for directing you back there. But one of the reasons to go to the website is is you're looking at a county wide map, but they're on that website, there's also the individual districts maps. And when you pull up the individual districts, you get much more you get a level of detail that you wouldn't see on a county wide map, you get all the major roads, you get where the boundaries are relationship to those roads. Now, it doesn't matter for a lot of districts in the mountains. But as you move into the more urbanized areas, understanding what the commission was doing, relative to why they broke things up in certain ways, it may be helpful to look at those detailed maps.

Travis Rask

Definitely, definitely.

Robert Leibowitz

By the way on, going back to that webpage, you can see the schedule of all the places they visited last time is actually there. So you can see how they broke it down last time.

Sarah DeStefano

Any other new business? Anyone? Any other questions?

Kenneth Panza

And just make like an observation. I was on the Census Bureau website. And they have a lot of webinars, one of which explains the census blocks. And it looked like something it'd be interesting to, to spend an hour or two going through. I haven't done that yet. But there's a lot of good information out there.

Dennis Doyle

But we can certainly give you a primer on the census materials. Rob, as you know, we're a census data affiliate here. So in Rosmond, gone to all the census meetings, we've been involved in the 2010 census that Well, we've been involved in the 2020 census pretty significantly. And and so if you need a primer on the various the various things that the census does, and particularly the census geographies, it's, maybe we can do that for you, without sending you to a to a web to a web page.

Kenneth Panza

I appreciate that. And I'll certainly do that. But I, you know, I, I saw that webinar. And so that looks like a good entry point. And maybe we'll start there. But I'm sure we'll have plenty of time to talk about census data over the next two years.

Sarah DeStefano

Is it on a particular day, Ken? Or is it just a webinar that is on demand?

Kenneth Panza

Is it What?

Sarah DeStefano

Is it a webinar that you can access at any time and watch? Or is it being offered on a specific day and time?

Kenneth Panza

Not? Well, this was you know, these are recorded webinars are already there. They were given, I suppose, originally broadcast, you can ask questions, but you know, they, they put them up on the on the website, so you can access them anytime. Where you can force, you know, fast forward through the parts you don't like,

Travis Rask

Exactly.

Robert Leibowitz

I mean, the whole process of going through all the map levels, I can do it on, you know, I can bring it to our counties level and show you go macro scale gold rated micro scale, and that would might help you understand more, and it doing to explain this takes about five minutes. So we don't need to spend two hours talking about what levels of data are there out there. It's about 5 - 10 minutes.

Kenneth Panza

Great.

Andy Monk

Thank you, Robert. And we are not expecting census data until sometime in July. Is that correct?

Robert Leibowitz

Correct.

Andy Monk

Okay.

Fawn Tantillo

So the next question is do you want to have a monthly meeting between now and July?

Travis Rask

I believe me right now I can't make next month at this time. I know I know for a fact I won't be able to make at this time next month,

Fawn Tantillo

It will be six o'clock next month and going forward can be six o'clock next month. Yeah, this is the only one that had to be four o'clock.

Travis Rask

Oh, okay. Okay, then I'm available. I'm available.

Fawn Tantillo

I locked into to that time for the rest of the year unless, says something glaring from the legislature pops up.

Kathleen Waithe

But is that necessary? Other than the discussion about the website? Is it necessary to meet every month? If we don't have the census information?

Sarah DeStefano

I agree. I don't know that it is. But I do believe that Dennis was expecting some information on the different systems that we would be using.

Kathleen Waithe

Oh, great.

Sarah DeStefano

For March at least, right?

Kathleen Waithe

I forgot about that.

Kenneth Panza

We're free to gear up our information gathering, you know, through the website, and emails and things like that. I mean, that's that's work that can be done before the census comes in.

Sarah DeStefano

Absolutely.

Fawn Tantillo

Right. And other than the website information...

Sarah DeStefano

I think at the very least, it would be helpful to have our March meeting if it looks like that will be when we have, you know, the vendor, present, cetera, whatever that is going to be good. I don't disagree that perhaps we don't need it every single month, if you know, what we're doing is a public comment. Maybe it could be every other month until July. So we chat about when we get the website, copy more set next time as well.

Andy Monk

So let's keep March and then decide maybe in March, if we should have another meeting in April, I'm going to look at the documents of like, the website that exists already, even though I'm not on that subcommittee, as well as the report and try to look at the districts a little bit more. Because I think going back and seeing what's already in existence will be really helpful for us to determine what next steps we might need to take. And I think this is a nice period of time where we've got some time to think about it and gather information in a really calm way. Because we're like, we're super not under the gun. So I think that would be good.

Sarah DeStefano

I agree.

Andy Monk

Fawn. Is there anything else that that you guys wished you had had more time to do last time? Because we've got the time now. So, like, Is there any other prep work that we could be doing?

Fawn Tantillo

Great question. Yeah. I mean, like, I wasn't, I was one of the people sitting in the audience the last time if they were making these decisions, I think Rob and Dennis probably have more insights into what was happening behind the scenes, but they were on a much, much tighter timeline than you are.

Robert Leibowitz

Right. I mean, last time, what ended up happening was many master produced by people in the committee. And then ultimately, we sat down, we went, literally block by block with me making a map heads up while we watched it. What we can do this time is we can still do that, but we can focus on it depends, what you need to have to figure out is how you want to do it, whether you're going to have one person, say a computer gonna say, hey, let's look at that scenario, or look at that scenario. Or if you're gonna have pre prepared scenarios, and then post them for Commons or for your own feedback, and have, you know, me or whoever, focus on those scenarios. So it's a lot of back and forth. I mean, what we do have time for is more focused, looking at the map and tweaking it, there's a lot more tweaking time he didn't, we're not under the gun. We did that in one day.

Fawn Tantillo

A long day.

Robert Leibowitz

That's how under the gun we were last time we have over a year this time. So we do have that

Kenneth Panza

One of the challenges, I mean, we're not starting with multi member districts and trying to make single member districts we're kind of starting with a, you know, solution already.

Robert Leibowitz

Right? I mean, the population numbers right now might be plus minus 300, more than they were last year. So they might be more significant changes than we think. But you at least have the building blocks which you can work from, you know,

Kenneth Panza

Yeah, we have a starting point where we can also

Travis Rask

Go ahead, Dennis, sorry, I'm sorry. I

Dennis Doyle

Yes, you do have building blocks, and there's certainly a tendency to use those. But you can also treat this like a zero based budgeting approach, which says justify everything. So you can go back and basically say, these districts are what we're here in the past, we're gonna justify it from the start, in terms of whether we want to go that route or a different route. I mean, you can do that. And there's certainly the technologies out there to do that rather, rather rather rapidly as well. So I wouldn't, I mean, it's, it's, there's a tendency to say we can treat this but there's also, you know, given the you what you may hear from the public is, is that, why don't we just start over and see what comes out, I actually made leads to the same location, but it's the same the same basic principles, but it also may lead you in a different direction as well.

Robert Leibowitz

I think you should look at as many scenarios as possible. We were more We had to focus on very few. So I would open it up, really look at it from the ground up.

Travis Rask

Kind of like what we just did about getting the data and comparing it and seeing what, you know, see what it looks like. And then like you said, we can we can move from there. But I definitely want to compare last one to this one for sure.

Fawn Tantillo

And I don't think the district's I mean, Andy, who's who's probably the best expert what gerrymandering looks like, artistically, when you when you look at the districts, I don't think there was a lot of gerrymandering,

Andy Monk

Oh, no, these districts are a dream, Fawn. They look, I haven't actually looked at the population numbers, but the straight lines, and the no like weird little arm reaching over to the name, like a real dream, real treat.

Sarah DeStefano

I don't know if anyone remembers our old congressional district from my childhood, but that was all over the place like that.

Andy Monk

That was insane.

Sarah DeStefano

My sister went away three and a half hours to school three and a half hours away from home and she was still in the school in the congressional district.

Andy Monk

She was in that one little octopus arm.

Sarah DeStefano

Oh, yeah, it was like the little tip of the octopus arm, like the finger. But no, hopefully we will not be doing that in this Committee

Andy Monk

No. Lets not to that.

Sarah DeStefano

Okay, any new business, any other new business? Or any other questions. which then leads us to old business.

Fawn Tantillo

Just one, I'm not sure where to throw this in, I don't want you to adjourn yet. I just want to clarify that the next meeting, Donna is going to be our our rotating chair. Andy is going to be our Vice Chair for that. And then the agenda item I have really is just getting the vendor presentation from Dennis. And then maybe any feedback from our folks working on the website. And by then I'll have the email set up and we can see if you know any email.

Sarah DeStefano

Great, thank you fine. Yeah, that's that's definitely how I envision our next meetings agenda after our discussion today.

Andy Monk

How did you guys publish the information about the email address and the website the last time is there? Like how do we want to be doing publicity about our efforts?

Fawn Tantillo

We, I mean, with calendar was noticed, like it is now we put notices out the public there, there is a segment of the public like Michael and myself and other people who are like junkies for this and we follow it. I'm sure some of you would follow would fall into that category. I know when they went out to two different places, they announced it and it was in the press. Like I say if we can set up an email address, and if you want to, if we want to seek comments on the current district, so we could put out a press release,

Andy Monk

release. Okay, perfect, good

Fawn Tantillo

asked or something like that.

Dennis Doyle

We want to put that on the agenda for the next meeting is to finalize the press release. to sendout..

Travis Rask

Yeah, I agree.

Andy Monk

Is there an example of a previous press release that we could start from and modify to bring up to the current date?

Fawn Tantillo

Probably not. But I do press releases, where we're seeking information from the public all the time, so I'll I'll draw something up. And then we'll, you know, we'll go from there.

Kenneth Panza

Thank you Fawn.

Get off the website and my email address and start getting input from the public.

Fawn Tantillo

And you may get some more. I know, there's one particular school teacher who teaches political science very close to my heart. My daughter, who has already asked her students, you know, some of them too, might be interested in this to follow along. So, you know, we make it you know, the more things like that it's an interesting year. I think a lot of people with the last couple of election cycles have gotten very tweaked, you know, into, like, learning about this and how it happens. And so we might get, you know, some, some more people following us that because of that.

Sarah DeStefano

All right. Great. Any other further business to discuss? Fawn,. Do I need a motion to adjourn or can I just adjourn?

Fawn Tantillo

You need to call for a motion to adjourn.

Sarah DeStefano

Okay. Can I entertain a motion to adjourn.

Travis Rask

I'll make a motion.

Sarah DeStefano

Can I get a second?

Regis Obijiski

Second?

Sarah DeStefano

Okay. And then I'm all in favor.

Committee Members

Aye.