



Minutes of the Redistricting Commission  
March 29, 2011  
General Administration Building Auditorium

**Commission Members Present:**

Lura Powell, Chair	Slade Gorton
Tim Ceis	Tom Huff
Dean Foster	

**Commission Members Absent:**

None

**Commission Staff Present:**

Bonnie Bunning	Dave Valiant
Nick Pharris	

**Other Attendees:**

Van Anderson	Darcy Nothnagle
Adam Bartz	Steve Pruitt
Miriam Campbell	Kay Ramsey
Mary Johnson-Hall	Don Skillman
Elizabeth Lapter	Kelly Singh
Jill McKinnie	Sharmila K. Swenson
John Milem	Andrew Villaneuve
Ryan Moore	Emily Walter
Libby Nieland	

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The Redistricting Commission met on Tuesday, March 29, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. with Lura Powell presiding as Chair. Chair Powell asked that all meeting attendees introduce themselves.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for the meetings of Friday, January 28, 2011 and Friday, February 25, 2011 were presented by the Chair for approval. Chair Powell offered a point of order that motions do not need to be seconded according to Commission rules. (WAC 417-01-155 (8).)

**Motion:** Commissioner Huff moved to approve the minutes.

**In favor:** Commissioners Ceis, Foster, Gorton, and Huff.

**Against:** None.

**C. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION STAFF**

Chair Powell introduced Nick Pharris and Dave Valiant, data analysts who have been working as the State's liaisons to the Census Bureau for the past three years.

Chair Powell also introduced Bonnie Bunning, the Commission's Executive Director, who joined the Commission in early March. The Commission is working to fill the positions of Outreach Coordinator, Executive Assistant, and Communications Director as soon as possible.

**D. EMERGENCY RULE ADOPTION**

Ms. Bunning outlined changes to WAC Title 417, the set of rules governing Redistricting Commission business. The changes, which update the office contact information and the process for submitting third party plans to the Commission, are immediately needed so that the public can meaningfully participate in the redistricting process. Upon approval, the new rules will become effective for 120 days.

**Motion:** Commissioner Gorton moved to approve the adoption of the emergency rules as set forth in the materials, including authority for the executive director to sign whatever forms are necessary for this purpose.

**In favor:** Commissioners Ceis, Foster, Gorton, and Huff.

**Against:** None.

**E. APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH PERMANENT RULE MAKING**

Commissioner Gorton recommended, and the other Commissioners agreed, to eliminate the requirement to use Robert's Rules of Order, Tenth Edition (WAC 417-01-155 (7)) when the permanent rules are made.

**Motion:** Commissioner Huff moved to authorize the commencement of the adoption of permanent rules as set forth in your materials, including authorizing the executive director to sign whatever forms are necessary for this purpose.

**In favor:** Commissioners Ceis, Foster, Gorton, and Huff.

**Against:** None.

**F. CENSUS DATA UPDATE**

Mr. Pharris gave a report on the progress that he and Mr. Valiant have made updating local district boundaries, correcting mapping discrepancies, and mapping electoral data which serves as the base for analyzing the 2010 Census data, and drawing accurate district boundaries at the Federal, State, and Local levels.

On February 23, 2011 the Census Bureau released the data summary file for Washington State. The Commission has since created maps of Congressional and Legislative deviation from ideal district size, population density, and population growth among the Hispanic and Latino communities. By April 8, 2011, the Commission must deliver Census data to the local jurisdictions, mailing data to all 39 counties and 400 special districts. At present, the Commission is working to format the Census and election data as well as preparing to receive questions from the local municipalities.

### **G. SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Ms. Bunning provided a list of ten proposed locations and a schedule of Commission availability to start the discussion. Commissioner Gorton suggested that the Commission focus on communities that will likely be most affected by new boundaries and listed 18 localities as candidate sites. Commissioner Huff added that all four corners of the State needed a means of representation, and added six new sites and several alternative localities for consideration. Ms. Bunning compiled a list of these recommendations, approximately 22 unique cities, for further consideration.

Commissioner Gorton suggested teleconferences outside of Olympia for more community involvement. Commissioner Ceis advised they keep the physical schedule manageable and supplement it with video conferences and web-based meetings to keep travel and budget expenses down. The Commission agreed to try and keep the meetings regional. Commissioner Huff indicated that the number (16) of the meetings in 2001 was about right, and that the number depends on how well we are able to use the telecommunication system to augment the schedule. Commissioner Ceis clarified that the current list of ten cities was a starting point and they can supplement it as necessary. All Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Ceis would like to see electronic meetings rather than teleconferences and urged the Commission to provide translators for certain locations.

### **H. RETAINING OUTSIDE COUNSEL**

Commissioner Gorton recommended seeking outside counsel. Chair Powell explained that the Attorney General's (AG) office is a resource available to the Commission. Commissioners Foster and Huff clarified there were two outside attorneys hired in 2001 to represent the Democratic and Republican parties' interests, respectively. Commissioner Foster wondered if this was the appropriate time to hire outside counsel and if they have the resources to do so. Commissioner Gorton questioned the AG's ability to handle all of the Commission needs because of potential conflicts of interest. Commissioner Huff agreed and is in favor of considering outside counsel. Commissioner Ceis seconded Commissioner Foster and questioned the timing and budget impacts of this decision. The Commission agreed to table further discussion until after a budget update at the May meeting.

### **I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment was received from Steven Pruitt and John Milem.

### **J. OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Gorton introduced the idea that the Commission set their own deadline for agreeing on a plan, a date well in advance of the legal deadline of January 1, 2012. October 15, 2011 was suggested. Commissioner Gorton said that he was not seeking action or a decision by the Commission at this time. Ms. Bunning offered to present a timeline with dates and an outline of the process at the next meeting. Commissioner Huff agreed that the Commission should try and finish early. Commissioner Foster cautioned he is more concerned about a start date than an end date and that the Commission needs

to focus on setting the public hearing schedule. Commissioner Ceis asked that the public meeting schedule be finalized by the next meeting.

**K. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Washington State Redistricting Commission

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Lura Powell, Chair