



Minutes of the Redistricting Commission  
May 10, 2011

Hearing Room 3, John A. Cherberg Building, 304 15<sup>th</sup> Ave, Olympia, Washington

**Commission Members Present:**

Lura Powell, Chair  
Tim Ceis  
Dean Foster

Slade Gorton  
Tom Huff

**Commission Members Absent:**

None

**Commission Staff Present:**

Bonnie Bunning  
Heather Boe  
Cathy Cochran

Genevieve O'Sullivan  
Nick Pharris  
Dave Valiant

**Other Attendees:**

Adam Bartz, *House Democratic Caucus*  
Anna Boone, *Congressman Dicks' Office*  
Clif Finch, *Aeguis*  
Steven Garrett, *House and Senate Democratic Caucus'*  
John Hughes, *Secretary of State*  
Mary Johnson-Hall, *Pierce County Elections*  
Doug Levy, *Outcomes by Levy*  
Clark Mather, *Congressman Dicks' Office*  
Jill McKinnie, *Congressman Larsen's Office*

John Milem, *Citizen*  
Darcy Nothnagle, *Congressman McDermott's Office*  
Kay Ramsey, *Secretary of State*  
Kelly Singh, *Senate Republican Caucus*  
Don Skillman, *House Republican Caucus*  
K-Y Su, *House Republican Caucus*  
Sharmila K. Swenson, *Congressman Inslee's Office*  
Emily Walter, *Senate Democratic Caucus*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. with Lura Powell presiding as Chair.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for the March 29, 2011 were presented by the Chair for approval. Chair Powell noted that in the future, the name of the person who made the motion would be listed as either in favor or against.

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

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

**Against:** None.

### 3. COMMISSION UPDATE

#### a. Introduction of new staff

Executive Director Bunning, shared biographies and introduced new and existing staff—Heather Boe, executive assistant; Cathy Cochran, communications director; Genevieve O’Sullivan, public outreach coordinator; Nick Pharris, GIS data analyst; and Dave Valiant, GIS data analyst.

#### b. Community forums

Ms. Bunning reviewed the agenda for the 17 public forums to be held throughout the state. The forums will begin with a pre-forum open house followed by a brief presentation and then public comment. A news release on the first six forums that have been scheduled has been issued starting in Aberdeen on May 17 and followed by Olympia on May 18.

#### c. Budget 2011/2012

Ms. Bunning reviewed the budget status for fiscal year 2011. The total budget is \$1,045,000, split almost equally between the legislative and commission staff. The fiscal year 2012 budget has not passed the Legislature yet. However, the proposed budget projects to have funds available should the commission decide on private outside counsel, and a budget for printing a new map next spring. This proposed budget also allows for more meetings and travel at various stages in the fiscal year 2012.

Chair Powell noted that the 2011 budget had been approved by the Legislature, as divided into general categories. Hiring of any external counsel would not be in the 2011 budget, but would be budgeted in the next fiscal year, 2012. She said it would be helpful to have a target for those that think they might want to have outside counsel. Commissioner Foster raised a question of what the uses of outside counsel would be. Chair Powell said the Commission will need to have further discussion at a future Commission meeting.

Chair Powell asked if the Commission needed to approve the 2011 budget. Mr. Fallis said and Ms. Bunning concurred that since the fiscal year was nearly over, there would be no need for further approval.

Ms. Bunning noted that the 2011 budget status is based on actual and projected expenditures through May 31, 2011 including what we expect to spend on the public forums and travel in the month of June. At this point, it looks like there is sufficient funding in the 2011 budget to do what is planned and 2011 resources will be sufficient to carry out Commission business through the end of the biennium.

Ms. Bunning reported that the 2012 budget shown in the PowerPoint slide is the amount originally proposed to the Legislature reapportioned to accommodate future commission plans. As there is no final budget number yet, these allocations are proposals.

Chair Powell proposed that the Commission approve the 2012 budget at a future meeting, once passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

#### 4. FINALIZE SCHEDULE OF COMMUNITY FORUMS

Ms. Bunning described the site selection criteria used to determine locations for the public forums. These included:

- the cities that were identified by the commissioners at the March 29 meeting
- areas of highly over or under represented districts
- locations with a reasonable drive time for attendees
- locations with the technological capacity for the webcast and broadcast
- availability of a suitable venue.

Six of the venues have been secured so far. For the locations on the original list, a radius from 10-60 miles was drawn based on travel time as a check for gaps or locations the commissioners wished to add or change. The first six venues are solidified but the rest are not yet locked into a specific venue. There are three dates in mid-July that are being held for potential changes or additions.

Discussion was held on which cities would host a live public forum and which cities could be covered via Webcast. There was a brief discussion about holding a regular Commission meeting in eastern Washington. Chair Powell reviewed the schedule indicating that for the last three dates, July 13, 14, and 15, the Commission will do a second tour in eastern Washington incorporating Walla Walla, Moses Lake, and Spokane. Spokane's original date would be dropped and the location on May 26 will change from Mount Vernon to Bellingham and the Webcast will be advertised in Mount Vernon and surrounding areas. Staff was asked to look at the Des Moines, Federal Way, Auburn potential locations and see if we can do some consolidation there but maintain Maple Valley. The Commissioners agreed on the changes.

#### 5. REDISTRICTING TIMELINE—DISCUSSION DEADLINE FOR THIRD PARTY PLANS

Chair Powell introduced a discussion of the commission timeline which includes Commission meetings, rule-making, and plan adoption. The timeline for items leading to completion of consensus congressional and legislative plans was discussed in detail.

Following the discussion, Chair Powell summarized the timeline as follows:

- Complete public meetings in mid-July.
- Third party plans due on August 15.
- Voting commissioners will present draft plans on September 13.
- There will be a two week comment period from September 13 through September 30.
- The Commission will set a goal of November 1 for completing consensus congressional and legislative plans to allow for public review before the statutory deadline of January 1

The Commission agreed with Chair Powell's summation.

#### 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was received from John Milem.

#### 7. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.