



Minutes of the Redistricting Commission Meeting
December 30, 2011

Hearing Room 4, John A. Cherberg Building, 304 15th Ave, Olympia, Washington
Broadcast and Webcast Live on TVW

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

Genevieve O'Sullivan
Rachel Gay

Nick Pharris
Ryan Wilke

Other Attendees:

Rusty Fallis, Assistant Attorney General
David Anderson, Citizen
Adam Bartz, House Democratic Caucus
Miguel Blanco, Win/Win Network, Pierce
County Hispanic Chamber
Clif Finch
Steven Garrett, House/Senate Democratic
Caucus
Dexter Gordon, Win/Win Network, Black
Collective

John Milem, Vancouver
Ryan Moore, Senate Republican Caucus
Joann Poysky, Citizen
Debra Perry, Mayor of Milton
Lua Pritchard, Win/Win Network
Amy Ruble, House of Representatives
Don Skillman, House Republican Caucus
Bart Taylor, Mayor Pro Tem, Milton
Jim Troyer, Senate Republican Caucus
Emily Walters, Senate Democratic Caucus

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:35: a.m. with Lura Powell presiding as Chair.

Commissioner Ceis asked Mr. Nick Pharris, Commission Staff, if he would be ready this morning to present the comments on technical errors that were received from the auditors and others. Mr. Pharris indicated that he had not had time to compile any comments on the congressional map, but that the comments from the legislative map would be ready.

The Commission then recessed at 11:00 a.m. to reconvene at 11:15 a.m.

2. MATTERS PERTAINING TO REDISTRICTING

Mr. Pharris provided a presentation outlining proposed corrections to the draft legislative plan received from county election officials and certain members of the public for Commission review. The commissioners discussed which recommendations to accept.

In discussing an issue with the City of Milton, questions arose regarding the population of a block in question.

At the Commissioners' request, Debra Perry, Mayor of Milton, clarified the block information on the slide presented by Mr. Pharris. She said there might be one or two residences but the block mostly contains a very large church, the Mission Woods Church with a daycare and a preschool. She also noted that she would prefer to have her entire city together in one block.

Chair Powell read online comments from David Valiant of Pierce County Elections, relevant to the discussion: Mr. Valiant clarified that the two houses were not affiliated with the church.

The Commission discussed an area of Puyallup with an annexation due to become official on the first of January 2012. Commissioner Ceis asked staff to find the number of people in the annexation in Puyallup. He stated that 72 people would cause a deviation problem.

Commissioner Huff asked for revised variances for each district if all of the proposed county changes were accepted.

Chair Powell read an online comment relevant to the discussion from the following county official: Dave Valiant, Pierce County Elections (Online)—The Puyallup annexation is composed of 20 parcels and currently contains six residences but will be redeveloped in the future. It is zoned medium to high density residential. Commissioner Foster asked when the annexation is. Mr. Pharris replied with January 1, 2012.

Mary Johnson Hall, Pierce County, (Online) asked if it would be possible to add something to the plan that would allow correction of the census block line in the Milton-Edgewood area.

The commission discussed the possibility of adding a description of the actual city limits to the plan, as opposed to using the Census Bureau data which is known to be wrong,

Commissioner Ceis asked how the Commission would like to deal with boundary changes. Commissioner Ceis asked if the commissioners could delegate the suggestions and have a consent package brought back as a whole. Commissioner Gorton suggested doing the ones with minimal population shifts now. Commissioner Ceis suggested Mr. Pharris and caucus staffs come up with a consent package. All Commissioners agreed.

Chair Powell asked how the commissioners would like to proceed. Commissioner Ceis said they are still stuck on the eastern Washington legislative proposal.

Commissioner Huff agreed and proposed looking at Commissioner Foster's Draft Legislative Plan 1228a for Eastern Washington, which was provided to him on December 28 prior to the breakdown of negotiations. He noted that only he and Commissioner Foster had seen that

map, which focused on a 15th legislative district, which had higher populations of Hispanic population and people of color. Commissioner Huff moved that the Commission accept Commissioner Foster's Draft Legislative Plan 1228a for Eastern Washington.

Commissioner Foster said he put a map on the table December 28, but it was not that map. He further explained that he and Commissioner Huff had discussed many maps, and his map of December 28th (December 28 Eastern Washington Foster Proposal) was the map now on the table. Commissioner Foster said he would be happy to amend Commissioner Huff's motion to accept his own map, or vote "no" on Commissioner Huff's motion

Commissioner Huff noted that Commissioner Foster's new map (December 28 Eastern Washington Foster Proposal) was much different from his previous version, and that the new map doesn't reflect the population that is there today, so he could not accept Commissioner Foster's amendment.

Chair Powell asked whether the Commission could make a motion at this time on a proposal and it was determined that such a motion would be in order.

Commissioner Huff said that the December 28 Eastern Washington Foster Proposal changes everything they had talked about, and that the Draft Legislative Plan 1228a for Eastern Washington had everything they had put in place up to December 27, 2011 without the 14th and 15th districts.

Commissioner Foster said that he believed that the latest offer Commissioner Huff gave him was unacceptable. He said he chose to recommend that the full Commission consider it because they were at an impasse.

Commissioner Huff said that they had used the same process in Eastern Washington as they had in Western Washington, but now all of a sudden at the end of the process Commissioner Foster had changed the game rules. Commissioner Huff said that Commissioner Foster's two recent maps were entirely different, while his own maps were very similar with the exception of the latest one which had admittedly ugly looking 14th and 15th districts. He said that Commissioner Foster's most recent plan was not what they had been talking about for many weeks. Commissioner Huff expressed frustration that the process had been going on since January 1, 2011, that it had cost millions of dollars, and was now "fossilized on the railroad tracks" because they couldn't come to agreement over one area of the state.

Commissioner Foster said the Commission should honor Commissioner Huff's motion, that there would be other motions, and they should take a vote.

Motion: Commissioner Huff moved to approve draft legislative plan 1228a.

In favor: Commissioners Gorton, and Huff.

Against: Commissioners Ceis, Foster,

Chair Powell stated that since there was a tie vote, that the motion is defeated.

Commissioner Ceis introduced a proposal (Ceis-December 30 Eastern Washington) that he said had the same 15th district that was proposed by Commissioner Foster on December 28, 2011. He noted that his proposal provides a district with very compact and contiguous boundaries that also respect communities of interest, economically, geographically, ethnically and racially.

Commissioner Ceis then introduced a new proposal for the Spokane area that he revised based on significant feedback from the public, as well as comments from Commissioner Gorton on the community of interest, particularly agricultural, that lies south of Cheney, and that desires to be placed in the 9th district. Commissioner Ceis noted also the desire of the cities of Airway Heights, Cheney, and Medical Lake to be in a single district, the 6th district because of their close working relationship on common issues, and the value for them in having a single legislator helping them work on their agenda.

Commissioner Ceis noted that his proposal also had the advantage of keeping the urban and rural areas around Spokane separate, with the rural areas in the 7th and 9th districts, as people had required. He offered the proposal in the hope of furthering the discussion toward a compromise.

Commissioner Huff proposed a recess until 2 p.m.

The Commission briefly recessed then reconvened at 12:34 p.m. to hear public comment.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Debra Perry, Mayor of Milton

Bart Taylor, Mayor Pro Tem, Milton

A transcript of the public testimony will be published on the Commission's website at <http://www.redistricting.wa.gov/forums.asp> and can be viewed as a webcast at http://tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvoplayer&eventID=2011120096.

The Commission recessed at 12:37 p.m. to reconvene at 2 p.m. The recess was extended until 3 p.m.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (CONTINUED)

Dan Palmeri (Online)

Rebecca Ableman(Online)

Miguel Blanco

Lua Pritchard

Dexter Gordon

Shane Thorson (Online)

Jonathan Fox (Online)

Sue Lani Madsen (Online)

Linda Atkins (Online)

Amanda Taub, Douglas County (Online)

Elliot Fabric, 6th LD (Online)

Matt Watkins, Pasco Mayor (Online)

Mariah (Online)

MaryAnn (Online)

5. MATTERS PERTAINING TO REDISTRICTING (CONTINUED)

Mr. Nick Pharris reviewed the county auditor recommendations and recommendations from John Milem. The commissioners discussed which recommendations to accept.

The Commission recessed until 4:30 p.m. and reconvened at 5:12 p.m.

Commissioner Foster said he would like to discuss the reconciliation between King County and Pierce County on the draft legislative plan, as they had not had Commission discussion about that issue. He suggested a discussion about the 31st district. Commissioner Huff agreed that they need to discuss the 25th, 30th, and 31st possibly first thing in the morning.

Commissioner Gorton suggested the commission work on it when they are fresh and when they solve the big problem.

Commissioner Ceis asked if Mr. Pharris had a chance to find out which caucus staff will be working with him to redraw the boundary line adjustments recommended by auditors and approved by the commission. Appropriate staff were assigned to work with Mr. Pharris.

The Commission thanked John Milem for his work.

Chair Powell suggested moving the Sunday meeting start time to 10:30 a.m. The commissioners concurred.

Commissioner Foster asked if Mr. Pharris could get the auditor comments compiled for the congressional plan by tomorrow morning. Mr. Pharris said it would be difficult with the changes he had to make on the legislative plans as well.

The commissioners asked if John Milem had a chance to do his technical check on the congressional plan. John Milem came forward to speak on his findings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.