



INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Minutes – October 14, 2021

Regular Members:				Alternate Members:	
	Jennifer Waggoner (District 1)	X	James Torrey (District 4)	X	1.Laura Fenimore (District 4)
X	Alan Laisure (District 1)	X	Stefan Ostrach (District 4)	X	2.Ellen McKean (District 5)
X	LaRece Rivera (District 1)	X	Linda Hamilton (District 4)		
X	Natalie Fisher (District 2)	X	Madison Newell (District 4)		
X	George Grier (District 2)	X	Tony Corcoran (District 5)		
X	Morgan Munro (District 3)	X	Ashley Pelton (District 5)		
X	Natalie Dybens (District 3)	X	Kevin Cronin (District 5)		
	Vincent Murphy (District 3)	13	Total Regular Members	2	Total Alternates as Regular

Staff:

X	Judy Williams, IRC Liaison		Cheryl Betschart, County Clerk		Steve Dingle, County Counsel
	Laura Holtgrieve, Minutes		Kyle Overstake, LCOG GIS		Bob Denouden, LCOG GIS

1. Call to Order:

Chair Munro called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. Introductions and Credentialing:

Vice Chair Dybens led introductions. Alternate Members Fenimore and McKean will be voting members during tonight’s meeting.

3. Public comment:

There were two public comment statements with the following requests:

- What is the deviation for the map populations?
- Seems awkward to include Harlow Road and Springfield together rather than expand population to where the Mckenzie and Willamette rivers meet.
- Include written rationale/explanations with every map since the public doesn’t have access to the overlay maps.
- Can you overlay maps to see where the differences are?

4. Approval of Draft Minutes:

Chair Munro asked if there was any discussion or adjustments on the draft committee minutes from October 11, 2021. Member Grier requested that the minutes be corrected: Under item number 8, Member Grier’s comment should read, “...was 99% in Laural Hill (not Lauralwood).” Member Torrey moved and Member Corcoran seconded the amended minutes. The edited minutes were unanimously approved among voters present.

5. Staff Updates:

- Ms. Betschart reported that population growth will be addressed when precinct lines are redrawn. The County Clerk, City of Eugene, and City of Springfield are reviewing urban growth boundaries to determine what impact it will have on the work they are doing. The

City of Eugene doesn't expect to have any anticipated line adjustments. The City of Springfield hasn't made a decision yet.

- On Oct. 18, 2021, Ms. Betschart will share a map with the committee that explains the impact of the lines and the importance of what happens when you separate a precinct line or commissioner line from a representative line and why that matters to the County Clerk's office. The committee will be updated on any map lines that might be a concern to the County Clerk's office.
- The County Clerk's office received information from State Elections Director. There was a challenge to the Legislatively Adopted Congressional redistricting plan. A panel of 5 retired judges will oversee the process. The panel must adjudicate any challenges to the plan by November 24, 2021. If appealed the Oregon Supreme Court must decide whether to approve the legislatively adopted plan by January 3, 2022. If changes to the plan are required, the Oregon Supreme Court must approve a final plan by February 7, 2022.
 - Member Ostrach stated that future population growth isn't something the committee should be focusing on because the County Clerk is responsible for that. Ms. Betschart read the directive which clearly states that factoring future population growth is something the County Clerk's office does. Chair Munro stated that it is yet to be determined if the committee should be considering future population growth as well.
 - Member Corcoran asked Ms. Betschart if the committee's work is on hold due to the court filing. Ms. Betschart's recommendation is for the committee to continue the work they are doing with the caveat that they may need to revisit the maps in January.
 - Member Torrey asked if a challenge has been made to the house and senate districts. Ms. Betschart replied, not at this time.
 - Member Cronin shared that he doesn't think the committee needs to consider future population growths and that they should keep in mind not to draw the precincts too small.
 - Member Grier stated that the court challenge would only impact the committee's work if the committee adopted a map that changed legislative districts. Ms. Betschart agreed.
- Ms. Williams reviewed where to find the maps on the county website - [Redistricting Maps](#)
- Mr. Overstake showed the committee how they can compare maps and noted that you can only compare one map at a time. He'll create instructions to share with the group.
 - Member Torrey stated that it would be helpful for the public if an overlay or underlay was created that showed current district boundaries that could be placed on top of the maps (and rationales) the committee created.

6. Reaction to Maps:

Member Cronin shared that he wants the process to be as transparent and accessible to the public as possible because during the last redistricting process a lot of public trust was lost.

Member Ostrach reported that there are currently 13 maps, and some members have submitted several maps. He suggested reducing the number of maps so the committee can narrow their focus.

Member Laisure asked for clarification – is the variance 1% over and/or 1% under? Chair Munro replied, yes.

Chair Munro requested the committee to email Ms. Williams and advise which maps you want to keep and/or withdraw.

In response to one of the public comments, Member Dybens stated that maps may have been updated with rationale after they were originally posted and to go back into the system and check again.

Member Ostrach asked for clarification to Member Cronin’s comment about River Road and Bethel. Do they both have to be in the same district or undivided and in two different districts? Member Cronin replied that all of Bethel needs to be in one district and River Road/Santa Clara should be in a district together.

Ms. Pelton replied to the public testimony. Proposed districts will look similar to existing districts. Springfield district will look the same because it has the same area in it. District 5 will be rural east, district 1 will be rural west. Four of the districts have to have some part of Eugene in it.

7. Review New Maps:

The committee reviewed and discussed Member Grier’s map. Member Corcoran reminded the committee that Commissioners want the committee to add pros and cons to the map summary.

Chair Munro requested the committee to let Ms. Williams know in the next 24 hours if you don’t want your contact information shared with the committee and the alternates.

Ms. Pelton reported that her map includes an alternate option for Springfield: East of Interstate 5 and down the Willamette highway.

The committee then reviewed Member Newell’s map. Member Corcoran is intrigued by the map and asked whether the committee is constrained by the Lane County Charter which focuses on a SE and NE district (not a South Lane District). Having a South district that includes Creswell and Cottage Grove seems beyond the Charter’s scope. The Charter may need to be revised to define districts differently.

Member Cronin agrees that the Lane County Charter needs to be updated because in some ways people are over represented.

Chair Munro stated that the committee will honor the Lane County Charter as it stands. However, the committee can share their ideas about revisions, if they wish.

Member Cronin wants to see a map that is entirely rural and a second map all city, if someone wants to draw that. Chair Munro stated that she tried creating one but wasn’t successful, due to the population variances.

8. Criteria to Solicit for Public Comment:

Chair Munro asked for outreach ideas to provide to the Public Information Officer to ensure the committee is getting word out to regions we want to hear from.

- Contact Register Guard and Eugene Weekly
- KVAL, KLCC radio news stations.
- City of Coburg
- Harlow Road
- ASUO campus reps
- Reach out to rural communities in West and East Lane via the granges

9. Items for Next Agenda

- County Clerk Updates
- Review new maps
- Identify maps being retired (Judy will create a list)
- Identify neighborhoods maps and discuss which ones the committee doesn't want to split
- Next steps

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.