



Linn County Temporary Redistricting Commission

Sarah Halbrook, Chair
Ray Dochterman, Vice Chair
Cindy Golding
Dave Machacek
Nate Willems

Jean Oxley Public Service Center
935 Second Street SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Minutes

Linn County Temporary Redistricting Commission Friday, October 6, 2017

Call to Order: The Linn County Temporary Redistricting Commission met in the informal boardroom at the Jean Oxley Linn County Public Service Center on October 6, 2017. Commission Chair Sarah Halbrook called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Ray Dochterman, Cindy Golding, Sarah Halbrook, Dave Machacek and Nate Willems.

Linn County Staff Present: Darrin Gage, Director of Policy & Administration; Gary Jarvis, Assistant County Attorney; Barbara Schmitz, Recording Secretary; Jason Siebrecht, GIS Manager.

Public Comment

Matt Price, the President of the Linn County Farm Bureau, reported to the Commission that the Farm Bureau has not taken a stance in support of or in opposition to any of the redistricting draft plans.

Approval of Minutes

Motion from Golding, seconded by Machacek, to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 14, 2017, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion from Golding, seconded by Willems, to approve the minutes of the public hearing of October 3, 2017, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Commission Member Comments on the October 3, 2017 Public Hearing, for Inclusion in the Temporary County Redistricting Commission's Public Hearing Report

Cindy Golding noted that members of the Commission are serving because the voters of Linn County overwhelmingly approved district representation for the new three-person Board of Supervisors. She continues to feel that Draft Plan #3 provides better representation for rural residents on the budget line items which most impact them – secondary roads and public safety. She very strongly favors Draft Plan #3 and strongly opposes Draft Plan #2.

Dave Machacek endorsed Ms. Golding's views and noted that he believes Draft Plan #2 leaves Linn County with two totally urban districts and only one rural district. He believes that outcome is unfortunate and still supports Draft Plan #3.

Nate Willems stated that all the Commissioners have their own ways of evaluating the maps and believes that they share the same goals, but have arrived at different conclusions on how to achieve them. He noted that Linn County functionally has seven State House districts with only one of them rural, as that is how the population of the County falls. He believes that Draft Plan #2, with its inclusion of a district balanced between Marion and the rural areas of the County, is the best way to give the rural areas strong representation

Ray Dochterman endorsed Mr. Willems' comments and noted his belief that rural areas of the county would never again be ignored as they were 25 years ago. He has every faith that the Board of Supervisors, as a whole, will make certain to meet the needs of the rural areas of the county.

Sarah Halbrook noted that the Commission asked the GIS Department to create four maps that meet Iowa Code requirements. She expressed her support for Draft Plan #2, noting that it mathematically best meets the compactness and population requirements of the Code.

Ms. Golding indicated that there was more public comment during Commission meetings favoring Draft Plan #3. She also noted that Draft Plan #2 gives one Supervisor responsibility for the entirety of the rural area of Linn County and stated her view that it is irresponsible to put that kind of pressure on one Supervisor.

Ms. Golding also clarified comments made at the public hearing regarding the Linn County Farm Bureau's endorsement of a district plan. She noted that the Farm Bureau Board endorsed district representation for the Board of Supervisors (which was known as Plan 3) for the August 1, 2017 election, but did not endorse any of the draft district maps the Commission has been considering.

Adopt Temporary County Redistricting Commission Public Hearing Report

The members of the Commission confirmed that they would like their comments included in the Public Hearing Report. Gary Jarvis noted that the report should be approved at this meeting but also needs to be available to the public before action is taken by the Commission to formally recommend a plan to the Board of Supervisors.

Motion by Willems, seconded by Dochterman, to adopt the Public Hearing Report with the Commissioners' comments. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Darrin Gage informed the Commission that once the Commission formally recommends a plan, the Board of Supervisors must approve an ordinance, which requires three readings. Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, the plan is submitted to the Secretary of State's office for approval. Included in the package sent to the Secretary of State:

- Precinct map of the approved supervisor district plan
- District map of the approved supervisor district plan
- Supervisor district compactness measurements
- Supervisor District Population Certification Worksheet
- Supervisor district descriptions
- Approved Board of Supervisors ordinance describing precinct boundaries

Discussion was held regarding the next meeting date. It was agreed that the next meeting will be Wednesday, October 11, at 9:00 a.m. in the informal boardroom at the Jean Oxley Linn County Public Service Center.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Barbara Schmitz, Recording Secretary

Approved
Sarah Halbrook, Chair