

Minutes
Linn County Temporary Redistricting Commission
Friday, January 28, 2022
12:00 p.m.

Call to Order: The Linn County Temporary Redistricting Commission met in the Informal Board Room at the Jean Oxley Linn County Public Service Center on January 28, 2022. Vice Chair Ralph Russell called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Members Present: Cindy Golding, Sarah Halbrook, Linda Langston (by phone), Ralph Russell, and Nate Willems

Others Present: Brent Oleson, Deputy Director of Policy and Administration; Eric Loecher, Auditor's Office

Update on Reprecincting Process

Mr. Loecher updated the Commission on the process thus far; he reported that the reprecincting plan was submitted to the Secretary of State on January 12 and approved on January 20. The Cedar Rapids, Marion, Hiawatha, and Mount Vernon plans were also approved. The redistricting plan was received from the Legislative Services Agency on January 25.

Mr. Oleson advised the Commission members that according to the statute the next step is to hold a public hearing, at which the public can present alternative redistricting plans; the Commission is then required to issue a report on the public hearing. However, also according to Iowa Code, the Commission is obligated to review the LSA plan and approve or reject that plan; if rejected, a written report setting forth the reason(s) for the rejection must be submitted. These requirements appear to conflict with the section noting the ability of the public to submit a plan to the Commission.

At this point, however, all that is required is that the Commission set the date for the public hearing. Oleson noted that a representative from the County Attorney's office would be present for the public hearing and the meeting of the Commission to follow. Loecher informed the Commission that he would post the link to the approved reprecincting plan on the County's website.

Legislative Services Agency Proposed Plan

Ms. Langston noted that the plan follows the river, and past commissions have preferred to de-emphasize Cedar Rapids' east/west split. However, it appears to meet all the criteria. Ms. Golding advised that she liked the urban/rural mix in two of the three Supervisor districts rather than the entire rural area being its own district.

Set Public Hearing Date

Motion by Langston, seconded by Golding, to set a public hearing on the proposed redistricting plan for Tuesday, February 8, at 4:00 p.m.; motion passed unanimously.

Set Date for Future Meeting

The Commission discussed whether the future meeting could immediately follow the February 8 public hearing. Mr. Oleson suggested setting the future meeting on a subsequent day and it

could be canceled if the Commission were able to successfully vote on the LSA plan following the public hearing.

Motion by Golding, seconded by Willems, to set the next regular meeting date for Wednesday, February 9, at 12:00 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.