MINUTES LOG
November 1, 2019
Room 137, Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides a notation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video record of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT
SHEILA STEARNS, Presiding Officer
JEFF ESSMANN
JOE LAMSON
DAN STUSEK
KENDRA MILLER

COMMISSION MEMBERS excused

STAFF PRESENT
RACHEL WEISS, Research Analyst
JOE KOLMAN, Research Analyst
GINGER ALDRICH, Attorney
LAURA SHERLEY, Secretary

VISITORS’ LIST (Attachment 1)

AGENDA (Attachment 2)
COMMITTEE ACTION
The commission adopted operating procedures and voted to allow proxy votes.

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS, and ROLL CALL
10:02:14 Commissioner Stearns called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and reviewed the agenda and meeting procedures. The secretary took roll (Attachment 3).

UPDATE ON FEDERAL CENSUS AND STATE OUTREACH
10:07:36 Mary Craigle, Bureau Chief, Research and Information Services, Montana Department of Commerce
10:09:20 Vicki McIntire, Deputy Regional Director (Denver Region), U.S. Census Bureau
10:10:18 Emilie Saunders, Communications Director, Montanan Department of Commerce
10:10:35 Erin Fashoway, GIS Coordinator, Montana State Library
10:11:38 Panel presentation (Exhibit 1)

Commission questions
10:13:15 Commissioner Stearns asked what the expected number of individuals is to have self-responded by May 2020.

10:15:07 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

Commission questions
10:30:01 Commissioner Essmann asked if the department reached out to senior citizens centers to advertise 2020 census jobs.
10:32:35 Commissioner Lamson asked how seasonal residents participate in the census.

10:35:40 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

Commission questions
10:38:03 Commissioner Essmann asked how seasonal vacancies can be reported.
10:40:25 Commissioner Miller asked if the real-time response website is live.
10:42:09 Commissioner Stusek asked where interested persons should apply for census jobs.

10:43:40 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

Commission questions
10:47:09 Commissioner Stearns asked if the presentation will be available after the meeting.
10:49:32 Commissioner Lamson asked if there are an appropriate amount of resources to carry out the 2020 census.

10:50:33 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

Commission questions
10:51:25 Commissioner Essmann asked if county precincts have been properly mapped out.
10:52:30 Commissioner Stearns asked for clarification on boundary lines.
10:55:43 Commissioner Essmann commented on the list-based property tax system.

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10:57:39 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

**Commission questions**

10:58:41 Commissioner Stusek asked when the commission will receive new apportionment data.

11:00:01 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

**Commission questions**

11:03:48 Commissioner Lamson asked the panel to comment on the security measures used to protect personal census information.

11:07:13 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

**Commission questions**

11:18:09 Commissioner Stearns asked if the state had a significant undercount in the last census compared to other states.

11:20:05 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

**Commission questions**

11:29:11 Commissioner Essmann asked how the census intends to count in tribal counties.

11:35:07 Commissioner Miller asked if address canvassing will it continue through April 1st considering new construction.

**BREAK** (Reconvened at 11:56 a.m.)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MAPPING PROCESS**

12:00:01 Dr. Michael McDonald, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Florida ([Exhibit 2](#))

**Commission questions**

12:24:48 Commissioner Stusek asked Mr. McDonald to comment on mandatory public participation in commission meetings.

12:29:21 Commissioner Miller asked how district lines are adjusted in the District Builder application.

12:31:34 Commissioner Miller asked if the application considers travel times across districts.

12:34:17 Commissioner Lamson asked if anyone can use District Builder.

12:37:32 Commissioner Essmann asked how other commissions are using District Builder establish districting criteria.

12:41:08 Commissioner Essmann asked Mr. McDonald to discuss the value of public comments on specific regions rather than the entire state.

12:45:00 Commissioner Essmann asked if District Builder was presented and used at the NCSL June 20-23, 2019, Redistricting Seminar.

12:47:29 Commissioner Stusek asked Mr. McDonald to compare Maptitude and District Builder.
LUNCH (Reconvened at 1:27 p.m.)

ADMINISTRATIVE TOPICS
13:28:00 Ms. Weiss reviewed the meeting packet (Exhibit 3).

Columbus redistricting seminar recap
13:30:50 Commissioner Stusek (Exhibit 4)

Update on redistricting software selection process
13:34:37 Mr. Kolman

Commission questions/discussion
13:39:52 Commissioner Stearns asked which mapping program the commission had chosen.
13:41:03 Commissioner Essmann asked if the commissioners will receive individual NCSL logins.
13:41:37 Commissioner Essmann commented on the districting software the commission will use.
13:45:37 Commissioner Miller asked Mr. Kolman to comment on the different districting softwares and if there is an add-on cost for public to submit maps on Maptitude.
13:49:00 Commissioner Essmann commented on the features of various software and testing the districting applications.
13:49:40 Commissioner Stearns asked staff to review the districting software and give suggestions to the commissioners.
13:52:51 Commissioner Lamson commented on the different districting programs available and what software the 2010 commission used.
13:55:45 Commissioner Stearns asked when the staff plans to choose a districting software.
13:57:34 Commission discussion on congressional districts data.

Update on commission budget and calendars, meeting and hearing scheduling, prospective timelines
14:03:33 Ms. Weiss
14:05:26 Commissioner Stearns (Exhibit 5)

Commission questions/discussion
14:11:33 Commissioner Miller asked Ms. Weiss to comment on the costs of public meetings hosted in Helena versus meetings held out of Helena.
14:12:58 Commission discussion on commission public hearings and meeting dates.

Draft commission operating procedures
14:41:00 Ms. Weiss (Exhibit 6)
14:45:40 Ms. Aldrich
Commission discussion
14:46:10 Commissioner Stearns asked the commission to discuss the draft operating procedures.
14:46:54 Commissioner Lamson asked for clarification on proxy votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

COMMISSION WORK SESSION

MOTION
14:48:24 Commissioner Essmann moved to allow proxy votes.

DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION
14:48:44 Commissioner Lamson
14:50:23 Commissioner Essmann
14:52:12 Commissioner Stearns

VOTE
14:52:19 The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.
14:52:45 Commissioner Stearns asked Ms. Aldrich to clarify proxy vote procedures.
14:53:47 Commissioner Stearns adopted voting action options without an objection.
14:54:13 Commissioner Lamson asked if public testimony by phone will be allowed.
14:57:07 Commissioner Stearns discussion on public testimony.

MOTION
14:59:27 Commissioner Miller moved to adopt the commission operating procedures.

VOTE
14:59:39 The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS
15:00:31 Commission discussion on future agenda items and meeting dates.
15:08:12 Commissioner Essmann asked that districting criteria discussion be added as an agenda item in future meetings.
15:10:12 Commission discussion on the commission calendar and seminar dates.
15:13:04 Commission discussion on districting software.

ADJOURNMENT
15:13:37 Commissioner Stearns adjourned the meeting at 3:13 p.m.