

**MINUTES OF THE
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**

Thursday, June 10, 2011 – 12:00 p.m. – Snow College, Ephraim Campus

Members Present:

Sen. Ralph Okerlund, Senate Chair
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion, House Chair
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Benjamin M. McAdams
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
President Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Gage Froerer
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Don L. Ipson
Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. Todd E. Kiser
Speaker Rebecca D. Lockhart

Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. Christine F. Watkins
Rep. R. Curt Webb

Members Absent:

Sen. Stuart C. Reid
Rep. Francis D. Gibson

Staff Present:

Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst
Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Mr. Art L. Hunsaker, Policy Analyst
Ms. Emily R. Brown, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Kimberly A. Heiner, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Okerlund called the meeting to order at 12:22 p.m. Sen. Reid and Rep. Gibson were excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Barrus moved to approve the June 2, 2011 minutes with the amendment that Rep. Barrus "discussed the Weber County house plan proposed by Rep. Froerer." The current minutes do not include that the plan was proposed by Rep. Froerer. The motion passed unanimously.

Members of the Committee introduced themselves and indicated the areas of the state that they represent.

2. Overview of Redistricting

Mr. Hunsaker gave a presentation on what redistricting is, why it is done, and the redistricting principles that were adopted at the May 4, 2011 meeting.

Mr. Wade gave an overview of the redistricting public website, RedistrictUtah.com. Mr. Wade also demonstrated the online redistricting tool that allows the public to create redistricting plans.

3. Public Comment and Committee Discussion About Redistricting

President Waddoups introduced a Senate plan entitled "Senate 1% Plan" and explained the plans rationale. He responded to questions from the Committee.

Rep. Sumsion presented two House plans, entitled "State House Plan - Sumsion Proposal A" and "Utah House Plan - Sumsion Plan B." Rep. Sumsion said the Committee will need to decide if a new House seat will go into Washington County.

Rep. Sumsion then introduced three of Rep. McIff's House Plans entitled "Utah House Plan -- McIff Option A," "Utah House Plan -- McIff Option B," and "Utah House Plan -- McIff Option C."

Rep. Sumsion said that Rep. McIff was trying to keep county boundaries together within the same House district. Rep. Sumsion responded to questions from the Committee.

Rep. Sumsion then introduced his congressional plan entitled "U.S. Congressional Plan -- Sumsion Plan C."

Mr. Spencer Cox, Sanpete County Commissioner, said that Sanpete County does not currently have an elected official from Sanpete County in the Legislature, and as such, does not feel represented. He asked the Committee to keep Sanpete County together in the same House district. Mr. Cox distributed and discussed a Sanpete County House Plan he created entitled "House Plan - Commissioner Cox."

Ms. Natasha Madsen, Manti City Mayor, said that Sanpete County is divided into three sections and has the second lowest per capita income in the state. She asked the Committee to consider if this division has negatively impacted Sanpete County economically.

Ms. Lori Nay, Gunnison City Mayor, asked the Committee to keep Sanpete County in one district. She also said that while Gunnison Valley is geographically part of Sevier County, Gunnison Valley functions politically with Sanpete County and would like to remain in the same district as Sanpete County.

Chair Okerlund reminded the public that people can submit maps through RedistrictUtah.com.

Mr. David Parrish, Ephraim City Mayor, asked the committee to keep Sanpete County in the same district, as the mayors of Sanpete County are currently unified and working well together.

Mr. Byron Davis, Wales City Mayor, said that Sanpete County should remain in one district. He asked the Committee to keep in mind the concept of one person per vote without dividing counties.

Mr. Steven J. Clark, Sanpete County Republican Chair, said that having Sanpete County in three House districts has created problems. He presented a map he created entitled "House Plan - Mr. Clark." He explained that he balanced the population south of Utah County with each district +/- 1% of the target population. He also discussed and distributed to the Committee a handout called "Sanpete County Redistricting Options."

Mr. Regan Bolli, Ephraim City Manager, supports Commissioner Cox's map and hopes the Committee will consider that map. He also agrees with Ms. Madsen's comments that divided county representation does not help Sanpete County economically. He said that Sanpete County is vital to Utah and wants to remain in the same district.

Ms. Debra Fraser, Sanpete County Democratic Chair, said when she headed up the fair boundaries initiative in Sanpete County that everywhere she went throughout the county she heard from citizens that they wanted someone from Sanpete in the Legislature. She also suggested to the Committee that redistricting lines could start from Sanpete and Sevier Counties since they are the center of the state.

Mr. Kim Picket, Gunnison Citizen, feels they have been represented well by representatives over the years, but would like greater representation for rural areas. He said he appreciates Sen. Waddoups plan for Sanpete. He asked for Congressional plans to have a rural representative.

President Waddoups expressed appreciation to the audience for commenting at the meeting and said the input would help shape the direction of creating plans.

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4. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Watkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Okerlund adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.