

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Webinar due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, in compliance with Section 6(10) of Article 4 of Michigan's 1963 Constitution and pursuant to the MICRC Rules of Procedure. Full agenda, presentations, transcripts, and video recordings are available at

www.michigan.gov/micrc

Thursday, February 10, 2022

10:01 AM – 12:22 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Douglas James Clark (*remotely from Macomb County, Michigan*)

Juanita Curry (*remotely from Detroit, Michigan*)

Anthony Eid (*remotely from Detroit, Michigan*)

Brittni Kellom (*joined remotely at 11:11 AM from Wayne County, Michigan*)

Steven Terry Lett (*remotely from Lee County, Florida*)

Cynthia Orton (*remotely from Battle Creek, Michigan*)

MC Rothhorn (*remotely from Lansing, Michigan*)

Rebecca Szetela (*remotely from Wayne County, Michigan*)

Janice Vallette (*remotely from Highland, Michigan*)

Richard Weiss (*remotely from Saginaw Township, Saginaw, Michigan*)

Dustin Joseph Witjes (*remotely from Howell, Michigan*)

ABSENT:

Rhonda Lange

Erin Wagner

OTHERS PRESENT:

Suann Hammersmith, Executive Director

Julianne V. Pastula, General Counsel

Edward Woods III, Communications and Outreach Director

Michigan Department of State ("MDOS") staff

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Commissioner Szetela, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) to order at 10:01 AM.

ROLL CALL

MDOS staff called roll. A quorum was met.

Commissioner Kellom joined the meeting at 11:11 AM.

Commissioner Curry left the meeting at 11:57 AM.

Commissioner Lett left the meeting at 12:00 PM.

Commissioner Orton left the meeting at 12:10 PM and rejoined at 12:15 PM.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Chair, called for a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Rothorn. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT PERTAINING TO AGENDA TOPICS

Commissioner Szetela, Chair, put the motion "to begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of the agenda" which was adopted. Three individuals provided remote public comment: Anthony Scannell, James Gallant, and Chris Andrews.

A full inventory of live and written public comment is available at www.michigan.gov/micrc.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Potential Options for Further Modifications of the Rules of Procedure General Counsel Pastula provided an update on suggested modifications of the Rules of Procedure. The Commission discussed options for modification with MDOS staff.

RECESS

At 10:58 AM, Commissioner Szetela, Chair, put the motion "to recess until 11:10 AM" which was adopted.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Szetela, Chair, called the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 11:11 AM.

PRESENT: Douglas James Clark (*remotely from Macomb County, Michigan*)
Juanita Curry (*remotely from Detroit, Michigan*)
Anthony Eid (*remotely from Detroit, Michigan*)
Brittni Kellom (*Wayne County, Michigan*)
Steven Terry Lett (*remotely from Lee County, Florida*)
Cynthia Orton (*remotely from Battle Creek, Michigan*)
MC Rothhorn (*remotely from Lansing, Michigan*)
Rebecca Szetela (*remotely from Wayne County, Michigan*)
Janice Vallette (*remotely from Highland, Michigan*)
Richard Weiss (*remotely from Saginaw Township, Saginaw, Michigan*)
Dustin Joseph Witjes (*remotely from Howell, Michigan*)

ABSENT: Rhonda Lange
Erin Wagner

b. Budget Executive Director Hammersmith provided an update to the Commission on the Fiscal Year End 2021 Budget and an examination of other independent state commissions' budgets.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Consideration of Closed Session to Discuss Litigation The Commission considered entering a closed session to discuss pending litigation.

MOTION: Amend the motion to hold a closed session on February 24th at 1:00 PM to 11:00 AM. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Rothhorn. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Call to enter closed session on February 24th at 11:00 AM to discuss legal strategy and pending litigation. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Curry.**

Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by roll call. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 11-0.

Voting Yes: Commissioners Clark, Curry, Eid, Kellom, Lett, Orton, Rothhorn, Szetela, Vallette, Weiss, Witjes.

Voting No: None.

b. Consideration of Contract Extensions Director Hammersmith detailed contract extension considerations with the Commission.

1. Federal Compliance Consulting, Resolution 2022.02.02

MOTION: Adopt Resolution 2022.02.02, Extend Federal Compliance Contract for One Year. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

2. Election Data Services, LLC, Resolution 2022.02.03

MOTION: Adopt Resolution 2022.02.03, Extend Election Data Services Contract for One Year. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Curry Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

c. Future Staffing Considerations. Director Hammersmith detailed future staffing considerations with the Commission.

1. Sara Martinez, Executive Assistant, Resolution 2022.02.04

MOTION: Adopt Resolution 2022.02.04, Offer Contract Extension. **Motion by Commissioner Orton. Supported by Commissioner Weiss. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

2. Considerations for managing the responsibilities of the general counsel position

MOTION: Retain Fink Bressack to handle any legal issues that arise once General Counsel Pastula has departed. **Motion by**

**Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Clark.
Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Have Commission staff serve as communication liaison between Fink Bressack and the Commission. **Motion by Commissioner Orton. Supported by Commissioner Rothorn
Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Have Michigan Department of State handle FOIA requests on behalf of the Commission and serve as parliamentarian. **Motion by Commissioner Orton. Supported by Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

3. Edward Woods, III, Communications and Outreach Director

4. Suann Hammersmith, Executive Director

MOTION: Extend Communications and Outreach Director Woods contract for three months at the same rate of pay and hours. Commissioner Lett accepted a friendly amendment by Commissioner Clark to increase Communications and Outreach Director Woods salary by 5%. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Orton. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

MOTION: Extend Executive Director Hammersmith's contract for three months at an amended rate of pay increased by 7%. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Szetela. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MOTION: Replace the pay rate increase for Communications and Outreach Director Woods from 5% to 7%. **Motion by Commissioner Lett. Supported by Commissioner Witjes Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

d. Consideration of an in-person meeting in March Communications and Outreach Director Woods provided information about a proposed in-person meeting and indicated that due to staff contract extensions, the in-person meeting could be held in April. He will request that MDOS schedule the April 14th meeting in Detroit, and the April 28th meeting in Lansing, and then request Commissioners to stay after meetings for video taping.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Szetela, Chair, called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 27th, 2022. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Weiss. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

Communications and Outreach Director Woods provided a report.

MDOS UPDATES

MDOS staff provided a report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners Clark and Witjes provided an announcement. Commissioner Witjes requested future agenda item of increasing Commissioner salaries by 7%.

MOTION: Have EDS fix any issues so mapping software is working correctly on Commissioners' laptops within 30 days. **Motion by Commissioner Clark. Supported by Commissioner Orton. Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION APPROVED.**

Voting No: Anthony Eid

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Adjourn the Meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Witjes. Supported by Commissioner Weiss Commissioner Szetela, Chair, held a vote by show of hands. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 PM.