

MICRC

04/28/22 10:00 Meeting

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>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I guess I don't know why my video won't work. I went out a couple of times, I don't know what's going on roe thanks for trying, Janice cur it be like this some time.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: You think after two years I would be able to do that.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: It ought to be something simple.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Probably operator error and I don't know what's going on.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I had all of those kind of crazy problems. It was one problem after another.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: When you first started out but I've been doing this forever.

K yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I guess I didn't need to fix my hair.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: It may pop on.

Hey Cynthia.

How are you?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Hello.

I'm good.

It's nice to see everyone.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, it is.

>> Doug, are you on there?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I am.

>> Where is your hat?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: It's over in the other room.

Let me grab it for you.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: You don't have to put it on Doug.

She's just talking.

You're still handsome.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I don't know about that.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: I'll vouch for it vile Cynthia and I sent him a special hat.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Oh --

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for translating us.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Everybody see what his hat says?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: That's neat.

I like that.

That's great.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'm going to take it off here.

I don't want to mess up my hair.

I do appreciate the hat.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: I wonder what our protocol.

Should we wait for like 15 minutes until we decide that we don't have quorum? I should probably look at those minutes or do we have anyone who understands or knows our procedures? Wit theoretically we can start but we didn't do business.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Can we do roll?

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Who are we missing?

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: We've reached out to all of those who aren't here.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Where is Steve?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I always forget to get in the chat.

You all forgive me.

It's not because I'm trying not to chat.

Wit here is my suggestion.

Start and get to Public Comment and go into resident until we have enough people to go and if we still don't have them at that point.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: Setting up here because he has an interview.

Sarah has heard from Rhonda and I heard from Erin and Sarah sent her a different invite to another email address.

Rhonda, Erin, Sue.

Richard I thought was going to be here.

Richard is going to be late.

>> Where is Brittini?

>> EDWARD WOODS III: I send a note to Brittini.

You guys, we're live.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: We are.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: We are.

Can we start without being able to adopt the agenda.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Technically it's not business, though but that's a very valid point.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I didn't think we could meet if we don't have quorum.

Meet as in hold a meeting, I thought.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I don't think we can.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Is Mike on? Can Mike Brady advise?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I thought I saw him on there.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I see him.

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He's muted.

He doesn't like us anymore.

I know we're not in session but Mike, if you're able to help us that would be great.

>> I've been speaking.

I was pulling up the rules and procedure for the Commission.

It is possible under the open meetings act that's not binding on the Commission of course at this point, for public bodies to, you know, meet and to not deliberate or take action and so, you know, that's what some public bodies would go if there's no quorum and they can still do the -- go into Public Comment.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I guess the question is can we adopt the agenda because we do that before Public Comment.

Would that be okay?

>> Technically, it seems like that is an action.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Okay.

>> But I wouldn't sweat that.

If folks wanted to start, out of respect for the people who might be and I don't know if anyone is in the Public Comment but out of respect for the individuals in the public who had signed up, that is something that go permissible under normal operational meetings act and you can adopt the agenda afterwards.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Doesn't matter anymore.

We've got Steve.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Great.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: As Chair of the Commission I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 10:12 a.m. This Zoom webinar is live streamed on YouTube.

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using please visit our social media at redistricting MI.

Our live stream included closed captioning.

Closed captioning and interpreting will be provided for effective participation in this meeting.

Email us at redistricting at Michigan.gov.

People with disabilities needing other specific accommodations should also contact redistricting@Michigan.gov.

This meeting is being recorded and will be available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC, it would have been.

These meetings are being transcribed and the transcripts will be made available and posted on the Michigan.gov/MICRC one site along with Public Comment submissions.

There is a Public Comment port at.

Michigan.gov/MICRC.

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Utilized to post maps and comments which can be viewed by both the Commission and the public.

Questions should be directed toward Edward Woods the third Executive Director for the Commission at WoodsE-3@Michigan.gov or (517) 631-3309.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: Good morning, Commissioners.

Please say present when I call your name.

Because we are all attending today's meeting remotely please also disclose where you are attending from by stating the city, Township, or County you are attending from.

I'll call on Commissioners in alphabetical Cal order starting with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present and I am attending this meeting remotely from Huntington Beach California.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present and attending from Detroit, Michigan.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present and attending from Detroit, Michigan.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: Brittni Kellom.

Rhonda Lange.

Steve Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present and I am attending remotely from Haslet Michigan.

Too cold and too much know.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Really? Wow.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present and attending from Battle Creek Michigan.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothorn.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Present and attending from sunny Lansing Michigan.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Attending from Wayne County.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner.

Richard Weiss.

Dustin Witjes.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Present.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: Nine Commissioners are scent we have a quorum.

If you have to step way away, Commissioners we would lose a quorum.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: It is Ms. Reinhardt.

You can view the agenda at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

I would entertain a motion to approve the agenda.

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>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So moved.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Moved by Commissioner Lett.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Second.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Seconded by Commissioner Witjes.

Any question or comment on the motion? Hearing none all in favor raise your hand and say Aye.

Aye [in unison]

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: All opposed say Nay.

The eyes have it and the meeting agenda is adopted.

Without objection, we will begin the public pertaining to the agenda topics pores of our meeting.

Hearing no objection, except I do see a hand.

Janice, is that your hand the vote? Okay.

Hearing no objection we will now proceed with Public Comment.

Thank you for your patience, those who have been waiting.

I will call your name.

Individuals who have signed up and decided they would like to provide live Public Comment you will now be able to do so.

If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom.

>> MR. MARC APREA: To unmute your microphone and speak.

I'm getting feedback.

Anybody else? It looks like it's RESOLVED.

If you're on the phone a host will ask you to speak and press star six to unmute.

I will call you on by your name.

Please note if you experience technical or audio issues and if we do not hear from you for three to five seconds we will move to the next burn to the line and return to you.

Redistricting.gov to receive help troubleshooting for a later meeting.

You'll have two minutes.

First in line is Anthony Skinnell.

>> MR. SKINNELL: Hi.

Good morning.

MICRC.

I'm glad you are able to meet.

That would have been a real bummer.

I'm glad you are able to get it going even if you weren't sure there would be a quorum.

Why change a horse mid-stream and on that note, there's a Commissioner last week who as right as I was getting up to speak, I noticed I was watching the replay, he mouthed oh by as I was getting up to speak.

That's pretty -- I don't know.

I don't even have time for that.

That's ridiculous.

And I'm still waiting to see your explanatory reports and I don't understand how you're going to let your Staff understand how you came to your decisions and read it and approve and maybe that's today or two days or next week.

How are you going to let anyone on your Staff explain your decision making process and that's what the Constitution says and I don't know.

I was trying to watch the appropriations committee the other day and they couldn't get the website together and I couldn't watch the thing.

I would like to know if you can give us an update.

Lessons learned -- my biggest lesson is the software for mapping.

You made the District site available for us and you guys were using some other software and there was no compatibility so there was no ability to examine, recreate public ideas.

So we just had to go on your word the whole time that you were looking at stuff on the Public Comment portal and that you were incorporating it and analyze figure and interpreting it and we never actually saw you do that during the live meeting.

The only map you looked at during a live meeting was mine and not anyone else's and mine wasn't the best.

There was a big problem with your software.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission Mr. Skinnell. Next in line it James Galant.

>> MR. JAMES GALANT: Hello, James Gallant.

Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition.

These are my opinions.

Yes, I'm glad you had somebody to refer to and now that we have Mike Brady is now the Parliamentarian, that's good, we have a lawyer who is a Parliamentarian, I now have the professional code of conduct and ethical standards of an attorney. See, we're supposed to have the Secretary of State here and she is an attorney. We have no secretary today. You see, I think the biggest lesson here learned is that you folks are trying to change the rules.

You have people behind you. You people really understand how it's working because None of this work came from the Commission; okay? You have to make the motion first and then direct your Staff to come up with a policy or a recommendation and you never did that.

They just came up with them, remember.

Everybody just shows up.

Like the prior speaker said, how is your Staff going to explain it now? Because you folks didn't do it. You have to see what they did. See, that's the problems here. We still got problems with the rules. And you don't really know what the rules are. And the

Chair doesn't and the Vice Chair and nobody does. And I see at the Republican convention they did the same thing. There was a problem with voting. And that's because it's not really set. I mean, you folks made side bar agreements that you're going to do something else other than follow the rules and I think that's the biggest problem here that we have is that the rules, you know, in society, and that's the breakdown in our society. And I believe that that is what's increasing the risk of suicide in our communities is the stress that you people go through of having to discuss issues when you don't even know what you're going to vote on next and it changes midstream. And the bullying going on. It's wrong. And I do want to thank you of the clear example of what's wrong with all of this and I will be getting with the Supreme Court and side with them in our case and the controversy is the Rules of Procedure and that you didn't acknowledge and accept the prior iteration, the Commission on legislative apportionment.

They had rules. I just talked to the Clerks of the house office yesterday about your hearing that you had, and good thing they didn't just write you a check, and there's going to be more hearings and we need to get with them.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission, Mr. Gallant. Next in line is Sonia Patrick.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you, Ms. Reinhardt.

All comments are provided to the Commission before each meeting.

Commissioners regularly review the Public Comment portal.

We appreciate environmentalism who offers Public Comment in whatever way you choose and invite you to keep sharing your thoughts, especially if you would like to share ways the MICRC procedures are good or could be more effective.

I would like to hand it over to my Vice Chair Commissioner Witjes to facilitate the rest of the meeting.

Is that okay?

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Sure.

Why not.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Let me get my bearings straight.

Next on our agenda is Unfinished Business 5A response to public records requests and procedures and guidelines and without objection I would ask Executive Director Woods.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: I would like to note that Commissioner Wagner has joined the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Permission to state where she is attending from.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I am attending remotely from Charlotte Michigan.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

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>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: You're welcome distinct hearing no objection please proceed Mr. Woods.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: Thank you Vice Chair Witjes.
If everyone can see my screen nod your head.

Great.

Our item for today Unfinished Business came from Commissioner Szetela with regards to the public records request.

The Notice of Change was April 14th, 2022, and today we are presenting it for approval. If you go to the document Section K Appeals of Fees and Disclosure Determination -- this is more a change to Change "her" to "their" in line 2.

And then as Section L Posting of Records.

Once the requester obtains their public record, the MICRC public record coordinator will facilitate posting that the public record be on the MICRC website.

Approve Resolution 2022.03.15.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: I'll move that.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Second.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Motion made by Commissioner Rothorn and seconded by Commissioner Szetela.

Any debate or discussion on the motion? Both on.

I have sirens going by.

Give me one second.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Richard just joined.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Weiss I'm noting you joined 10:25.

Could you let uh-us know where you're joining from?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Township of Saginaw Michigan.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Seeing no further discussion let's vote on the possession.

All in favor place please raise your hand and say Aye.

>> Aye.

Aye [in unison]

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Sorry.

The eyes have it and the motion approved.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Do you want to count the Nays?

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I was I muted? I'm sorry.

All opposed raise your hand and say Nay.

Okay.

Motion carries.

Eyes have it.

Next on our agenda is Unfinished Business agenda 5B.

Without objection I will ask Executive Director woods to present this particular item.

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Seeing no objection, please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: Thank you.

Are you able to see my screen? Perfect.

Resolution 2022.03.14 proposed amendments to the rules of reviewer Notice of Change took place on April 14, 2022.

Approval April 18.

Crossing out Section 5.4 which states Cancellation of Meetings if any meeting or public hearing of the Commission must be canceled, a notice of cancellation shall be posted on the website.

Recommended change: Cancellation of Meetings the Commission may cancel a meeting or public hearing by majority vote of the Commission during a meeting or by Chairperson Vice Chairperson or Executive Director.

The action is to recommend approval for Resolution 2022.03.16.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Okay.

Any other succession? Commissioner Szetela.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I make a motion to adopt 2022.03.16 Rules of Procedure with respect to Cancellation of Meetings.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I second that.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Motion made by Commissioner Szetela and seconded by Commissioner.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Ton.

All in favor raise your hand and say Aye.

Aye [in unison]

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: All opposed raise your hand and say Nay.

Eyes have it unanimously.

Motion carries.

We'll move onto New Business.

Next on the agenda is the New Business agenda item 6A.

Without objection I will ask Executive Director woods to present at this time.

Hearing no objections, please proceed.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: Thank you.

Are you able to see my screen? Thank you.

The Constitution states the Commission shall have legal standing to prosecute an action regarding the quays of resources provided for the operation of the Commission and to defend any action regarding an adopted plan the Commission shall inform the legislature of the Commission determines that funds or are resources provided for operation of the Commission are not adequate.

The legislature should provide as -- you know our process was a letter was sent March 24th via email to notify the legislature of our funding shortage of about 1.1 million in the

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email and we were contacted by Davis Gram who is the policy advisor for the subcommittee and testimony was scheduled for April 26th.

We provided an email to the subcommittee Members to see if they had we questions or feedback and if they wanted a meeting.

No one took us up to that offer.

MC Rothorn and I presented on April 26th, an email followed occupy with Dr.

Handley's report and the mapping and procedures and we're staying in contact with Davis gram who is the point person for this Commission.

What I do want to do is get guidance and direction from the Commission as it relates to next steps.

Another thing that we did do and I would also need to note is we did meet with the state budget office prior to the meeting in terms of preparation and also would like to thank the Commissioners that provided feedback, consultation, tips, and wit and wisdom in terms of presenting before the house committee.

It was appreciated and want to give a round of applause to our Chairperson who is cool on the other side of a pillow in the words of [indiscernible] Scott of ESPN and thank him as well for being there and want to make sure I'm clear on the direction the Commission wants me to follow at this point.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: My question is when will we know when it's approved or not? I suppose.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: Mr. Gram didn't give us or outline the process. It might go through supplemental and they don't know if they're going to call us back in the Detroit news Article.

They might have more questions.

We did provide the information that was requested by as of right now we haven't heard anything with regards to that at this point. My question would be should we alert our legal counsel with regards it our budget short fall so they're aware? What does the Commission want to direct me to do in terms of moving forward.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to step on your toes there.

I guess we don't have a choice, right? It's constitutionally mandated they provide us funding? So isn't the whole thing is they can call us back and being a waste of time?

>> EDWARD WOODS III: They can call us back and I think the Constitution is clear and I know Mr. Brady is here and our legal counsel and I don't know what they will do to be Hon. with you, Vice Chair Witjes.

That is an option.

I want to say some we formally alert our legal counsel toll situation and what steps should we take as a Commission in an open and transparent manner so I'm not getting ahead of myself but following directions and I wanted to have a discussion as to how the Commission would like me to proceed.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: It's difficult for us because we don't know how long it's going to last and what the exact costs are.

What I would recommend is gathering all of the unknown invoices at this point in time. What the costs are on those.

And then from that, that gives us an idea of what potential, what previous legal costs were and from there we can extrapolate what an average monthly cost has been for us. And that average monthly cost I think would be our best projection forward on what we can expect as legal cost.

I would suggest that that be one approach.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: I'm just second that.

I'll second what Doug just said because I think we need to understand our cash flow at this point.

We don't know when we're going to run out but that seems to be the greatest danger in not knowing.

Yeah, how Director Woods can prioritize the bills that we have.

Which ones do we pay and which ones don't we pay.

That seems like what the uncertainty is and having what Commissioner Clark suggested makes a lot of sense to me.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: My only concern is that is the subcommittee going to purposely delay our funding? That's just my concern.

Are they going to continue to call us back? Are they going to continue to ask for things before they, in my opinion, vote to do what they're constitutionally mandated to do which is fund the MICRC that's my opinion.

Commissioner Clark and Commissioner Szetela.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think another item we have to be aware of is what the legislature schedule is going to be for the summer.

Particularly with elections coming up, I'm sure they're going to be in their home areas campaigning and so forth.

I think we've got limited access to them at certain point inside time and the quicker we can get estimates to them and even a proposal of what we think we need, I think we're better off.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I was going to second what Commissioner Clark was saying is they're doing their due diligence and I think the more cooperative we are and the more responsive we are, the quicker it will allow them to make decisions and if they ask for additional information we respond and good faith and allow them to handle

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their job and prompt cooperation is the way to go here and if they call us back for more questions then we go back for more questions.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I agree.

Any other thoughts, ideas? All right.

Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Anthony has got his hand up.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I'm sorry? Anthony? I'm sorry.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: It's not advice on what to do next but I just wanted to take a moment to thank Edward and MC for going and doing this in such a professional fashion.

A lot of us watched it and I thought that, you know, there were some unfair questions but y'all held your own and we're very respectful and you did a great job on our behalf. So thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I was honored to watch you two do your work.

It was absolutely fantastic in my eyes.

You guys did great.

So I second what Anthony says.

Any other -- Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yeah, so one quick comment.

I know Anthony Skinnell made a comment about the live stream for that particular appropriations committee not being viewable and they did fix it.

The first hour, I believe, is when they were having problems but when the MICRC was on the link was fixed and if you look at the tape out there on the website and go about an hour in you will be able to watch the hearing at that point and the video was clear and the problem was fixed.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: All right.

Seeing no further discussion, we'll move onto our next agenda item.

6B office of the auditor general.

Executive Director Woods to present this item.

Hearing no objection, please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: Thank you, Commissioner Witjes.

Office of Auditor General.

What we have is we did meet with them.

I met with them.

I'm sorry.

Let me get my video straight.

We have orientation meeting set up next week with regard to the audit and the process and what's going to take place.

Usually when you have an audit you would like to have a Liaison for transparency and the Governance Board and Commissioner Rothhorn has a recommends for an appointment.

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: So I was going to suggest -- we've done such a nice job of sharing the seats of representation, I don't think we should have the Chair, the Vice Chair do that.

I think we've had a successful Liaison situation with legal, with Steve, and I was going to hope because Janice, Commissioner Vallette has a background with regards to auditing I'm hoping she will accept the nomination in what I had think is the accurate representation that she has an auditing background.

Commissioner Witjes, go ahead.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I would add to that and given the due diligence that Commissioner Clark has done, if he were to accept, I would like to potentially see him on the committee as well.

So we have basically three individuals which is what we've did not doing for the most part any way.

But I mean, that's up to him.

If he says no, then we won't have to put him on and the motion is completely up to Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah.

Let me comment on that.

I mean, I would be happy to do whatever, you know, the Commission asks me to do. But in this instance, I think the work that Steve has done as a Liaison with the legal people is a more effective approach than putting together a three person committee. Or three person subcommittee.

If we have a three person subcommittee it's going to have to be broadcast and online as we've done before.

If we have a Liaison, that individual can work with the auditor directly and offline and then come back and report to the Commission.

And I think at this point in time since we have the maps done, this is more of an administrative type of thing that we should take that approach instead.

And I would second the motion to have Janice if she accepts, to do that.

Thank you.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: And thank you, Commissioner Clark.

That's exactly what we were asking for was a Liaison structure as our Chair articulated in the beginning of his appointment.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Edward thought I should comment on what I did when I was working for the bank.

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I audited the vaults and the tellers and it's totally different than what you're asking me to do but I would be happy to attend the meetings and report back anything that I found out there.

I'm not really sure what it would entail, but I guess it's going to the meetings and just reporting and then letting Edward know if they were requesting anything.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: So would you want to be part of the team with Commissioner Lett?

>> EDWARD WOODS III: There's no team, Commissioner Witjes.

I want to be very clear.

Commissioner Lett is a Legal Liaison represent television to the Commission and Commissioner Vallette would be an audit Liaison.

I would be part of that but it is custom that you would have a Member from the governing body which is the Commission to be the Liaison.

I want to be clear we're not creating another committee or subcommittee.

That's not what is being asked.

What's being asked is to have an appointment from this governing body, the Commission, to work with myself and the other auditors to complete the audit from October 1st, 2002, to March 31, 2022.

I want to be really, really clear about that and I don't want any ambiguity or thinking this is a merging with the Legal Liaison these are two separate positions.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Szetela.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Did we get a motion and a second? I feel like I missed that.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: No, ma'am.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: Commissioner Rothhorn made the motion and Commissioner Clark made the second.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I'm sorry.

I must have missed that.

Can you please restate the motion, Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> CHAIR ROTHORN: Sure.

There's a Resolution 2022.03.17 be it RESOLVED that the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission appointed Janice Vallette to be the Liaison to the Commission of the auditor genuine I understand it now and that was seconded by Commissioner Clark? Perfect.

Is there any discussion or debate on the motion for Resolution 2022.03.17? Seeing none, let's go ahead and vote.

All in favor, please raise your hand and say Aye.

Aye [in unison]

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: All opposed please raise your hand and say Nay. Eyes have it.

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Motion ais adopted unanimously.

That concludes New Business. We'll move onto approval of minutes.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: I asked for that to be removed.

So we'll do that at the next meeting.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I'm sorry.

Today is April 28th.

Sorry.

So there are no minutes to be approved.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: Correct.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Move on that Staff Reports.

I believe we have one from Director Woods if you would give your report.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: Thank you.

Let me set up this window that I would like to do so let me come out of the PowerPoint because I'll need to come back to it.

And then I can get to the video.

[Video]

[Music]

[Video concludes]

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: What a lovely video.

Go ahead and continue with your report but I also just wanted to extend all of my gratitude to everybody who showed up and accepted awards and I do want to thank everyone personally for all the support every group has given us throughout the last two years.

Anything else, Director Woods? Can't hear you.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: Can you hear me now?

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Yes, sir.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: I had to bring back up the PowerPoint so just a second.

All right.

Are you able to see my screen?

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Yes, sir.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: Perfect.

Thank you.

Just some highlights and I know it's regards to the lesson learned reports video and I know they have a few more videos to do and I know they have a few today with regards to the video and they should have the draft and report next month as well as the video next month as well.

We did have Commission recognition in Lansing for those that weren't able to make it to Detroit.

I would like to thank MC Rothhorn and Dustin Witjes for being there.

We did it at Sweeten Counter Bakery.

I want to give a shout out to our legislative services bureau family and MDSS family for all the outstanding work they have done to ensure we were able to function and carry out and fulfill our mission.

This week I did a presentation on the area of aging on Tuesday morning for more or less an update and yesterday we had the Michigan society public policy and did a presentation along with Commissioner Szetela in joining us on the panel and talking about the implication of redistricts was Ben Solies and representative Tenesia Tansy was a part of that panel.

We've been trying to get maps.

There were a lot of questions with regard to getting the map -- people know what the new maps look like so we were working with a contractor to identify a solution and I would like to thank Commissioners Orton, Witjes, and Rothhorn for their help and we should have these new maps next week and they should look like this.

They will have each of the Congressional Districts and house Districts and senate Districts and it will be by County.

Congressional District one and -- District 13.

This is how it will look by Townships and you will be able to print this.

Your printer will be able to convert and this can come out on an eight and a half by eleven.

This is what we're working on and there's been a demand on it for quite some time and I want to thank the Commissioners for their support in ensuring to make that happen because that was a challenge.

Stop sharing all together.

That's the end of my report.

If there are any questions or comments, I can take them at this point at this time.

I want to thank the Commission.

It's been a very busy two weeks to get stuff going but a rewarding two weeks and thank you for your support and encouragement throughout the process.

Any questions?

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: All right.

Thank you, Mr. Woods.

We'll move on to our Legal Liaison Report which I do believe we have report.

So without objection I will ask Commissioner Lett to provide his report.

Please proceed, Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Good morning, everyone.

I'm really glad to be back in Michigan.

Edward and I met with Nate and David Fink on Tuesday the 26th, and basically, we talked about a couple of things.

I'll do the easy one first.

The AG file lawsuit in the Western District Federal court.

A response will be due and Baker Hostetler will be filing that response.

You, of course of course will get a copy of it.

The rest of the hour -- and we spent about an hour -- talking about how do we continue if we do continue; when do we expire? When, how is a vacancy provision come into play and what does a census cycle mean? Now having raised all the questions, the answers at the end of the day was we'll come back and talk about it some more because we didn't figure out what they were.

I expressed to the Attorneys that having a "new Commission" picked if there's a lawsuit filed after all the other lawsuits are RESOLVED and we go out of business, to have 13 new people come in would be in a technical, legal term: Crazy.

The learning curve as we all know is substantial.

And it was my opinion and I expressed it that pursuant to the Constitution, and I'll say there is no agreement on how this is going to work, but it was my opinion and I expressed it that if there is a court challenge after all of the other ones are done and we have expired, then a new challenge coming along and the court deciding that new maps had to be drawn or changes had to be made -- it's my opinion and still is that that would be up to us, the Commission, that made them.

I think that's clear.

I know that Mike may have a different take on that and I know that Fink had a different take on them but to say there's no consensus at the present time would be an understatement.

We really didn't talk about anything we haven't talked about here.

Talked about how we might or might not continue.

What does all of this mean? At some point in time we will have to decide what way we're going to do and we'll bring it back and we'll discuss it and see where we're at. So that seems to be the main topic of discussion right now besides the finances with the State paying the bills.

So I don't know if Mike wants to add anything? Mike was not there but I know Mike had talked about Fink and perhaps with Baker Hostetler but I think that summarizes where our discussion went and we're going to meet again in two, three weeks and see where we go.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Was the idea of issuing a motion to stop or pay after X amount of days and then go into a perpetual recess brought up? I think that is the easiest way to do that so we're not actually disbanded.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We didn't talk about, as you say, perpetual recess. And certainly -- we didn't talk about pay that much.

Other than, if all of the lawsuits are RESOLVED, it would be pretty hard for us to say we're going to continue to be paid.

So that wasn't much of a topic of discussion.

Really the discussion was around what does expire mean? Are we able to bring ourselves back or is the Secretary of State able to bring ourselves back? If there is a lawsuit filed after all of the rest are RESOLVED, who is going to defend it? Because if we're not in business anymore, we're not around.

So those are all the various issues that we're looking at.

Like I say, it's nothing that we as this Commission haven't talked about in prior sessions.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I'm just wondering if there was any discussion on when these lawsuits that are pending in west Michigan might end.

It seems like we're just at the beginning of them and probably wait for scheduling orders.

I'm just wondering if the thought from the lawyers is that these might end sooner rather than later or dragging out for another year or so.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: No, there was no discussion about that at all.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Okay.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I was wondering, can we refer to what the other states have done, the Commissioners, and follow their leads? Or just discuss with our state?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We certainly -- we can look at anybody we want to.

That doesn't mean that their procedures are going to mesh with our procedures.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Oh; okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: And I don't know that the Attorneys have done that.

That wasn't -- wasn't a question that came up Tuesday.

So the answer is yeah, we can go look and see what they're doing.

We did discuss that perhaps after having gone through this process we could probably write a better constitutional amendment.

But that ain't going to happen either.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Any other questions for Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Good because I don't have any other answers.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: We appreciate you.

Thank you very much.

At this point we'll move on to Michigan Department of State updates.

Without objection, I will ask Mike Brady or Sarah Reinhardt if they have an update.

Hearing no objection please proceed Mr. Brady.

>> MS SARAH REINHARDT: Just an update to Commissioners if you're going to be absent or tardy to a meeting, please notify myself or Executive Director Woods -- we may establish if there will be a quorum present for the meeting.

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We passed a Rules of Procedure to allow the posting of a cancellation notice so if we can determine beforehand there will not be a quorum present for a meeting, we'll be able to cancel that in advance.

Please share an email or text or any kind of a notification that would be great.

Thank you so much.

That's all I have.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Thank you Ms. Reinhardt.

Apologies.

Mr. Brady anything from you?

>> MIKE BRADY: We continue to process the FOYA requests and I know the Commission talked today to continue discussion at the last meeting and -- we're working through that and divan working through that with logistics issues ahead of today's vote. I would say one of the key logistic issues is whether it's actually posted on the Commission's website or posted on the Public Comment portal given the size of some of the documents themselves and one of the -- the public portal lends itself more readily to the additional sizing capacity of posting documents and the words is consistent with the language that calls for documents to be proactively posted and made available to the public and we'll have more updates on that.

Also as a reminder from the discussion at the last meeting, I guess just managing expectations in terms of the ability once we get it up and running to do that moving forward versus will it take up whether it of time to go back into the last year and identify the different records and post that.

We understand that the Commission wants to do all of the do have and so we support that and it just takes some time to phase that fully in.

I think that's the main update.

We were in conversations with the newest Staff level, Director Woods and looking ahead to a time where it doesn't make sense which, frankly, might be now.

It doesn't make sense for the Commission to meet twice a month.

The amendment language today allowing for a clear path forward for the canceling of meetings is, you know, certainly an important step, frankly, for basic operations of the Commission and put that out there on your radar.

Don't have a proposal here because ultimately as a nonvoting secretary of the Commission I'm here to support the Commission's work.

Just noting today started a little bit late and whatever else and we're clocking it under an hour and ultimately just a question and truly just a question but a question of whether it's better to do that versus to have a single meeting, given just the reality of what the Commission is doing.

Single meeting a month, given the result of the current workload for the Commission and even just the status of the lawsuits and the like.

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So I look forward to that conversation developing further as the Commission proceeds into this.

I don't even know that it's a new phase at this point but continues to proceed in the current phase of the work.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Thank you, Mr. Brady.

Any questions for either Ms. Reinhardt or Mr. Brady from anybody? All right.

Moving on.

Correspondence received in advance of our meeting today was provided along with the written Public Comments to the Commissioners in our meeting materials.

Are there any agenda items that the Commissioners would like to have added to Future Agendas? Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I would like to address this to Edward Woods, our Executive Director.

Are we still working on a documentary for the Commission?

>> EDWARD WOODS III: We're working on a lessons learned report and video.

Not a documentary.

But yes.

And the report should come out next month and the video should come out next month. They're finishing up some things right now with regards to that and it will be released to the Commission next month.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Is it going to be in the form of a booklet or video?

>> EDWARD WOODS III: Both.

A written report and a video.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would like to have an item added to Future Agendas. Like we do with Steve as Liaison for legal work, I would like to have Janice added as the Liaison for the audit and have her speak each week -- or each meat meeting.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: All right.

Perfect.

Anybody else? Are there any Announcements?

>> EDWARD WOODS III: Yes.

My daughter is graduating from high school and it's going to be a little bit difficult with family coming in for me to meet on May 26th.

So I was hoping, if it's okay with the Commission, that we look to cancel that meeting on the 26th of May.

Her graduation activities start that day and it would just be helpful to -- for my family if I could help out and be supportive for that entire weekend.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Clark?

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>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think that's appropriate.

Not only for that, but it's -- backs up to memorial day weekend where all of us may have some family obligations so I think that's a good approach to maybe cancel it or reschedule it.

>> EDWARD WOODS III: So I would like to suggest canceling the meeting and if we need a special meeting, we can call it.

But for the books that we just cancel that meeting on May 26th would be my May recommendation and according to our new policy of a simple majority vote, we can all do that today.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Not with what you're talking about.

Come back to me.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I guess I'll entertain a motion to cancel the meeting in question on the 26th.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So moved.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Motion made by Commissioner Lett and seconded by Commissioner Clark.

Any debate on the motion? Seeing none, all in favor say Aye Rhine Commissioner Curry had her hand raised.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I'm sorry.

Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: There will be no meeting in May; is that right?

>> EDWARD WOODS III: No meeting May 26th.

We have a scheduled meeting May 12th, virtual.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: All right.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Apologies, Commissioner Curry.

Any other discussion on the motion? Let's do this again.

All in favor raise your hand and say Aye.

Aye [in unison] all opposed say Nay.

>> [indiscernible]

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: I'm sorry did somebody Nay?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: No.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Motion carries.

Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I hello like to plan another party and one of the things that I'm thinking about is they're going to have the Traverse city film festival this year again, starting again.

And that would be an opportune time if people would like to come up and participate in the film festival and have a little soiree at my house and give it thought and let me know one way or another and we'll go from there.

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That's it.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Thank you Commissioner Lett.

All right.

Now it's my turn.

And I was meaning to do this for a while now.

But in Public Comment today there was a vast and utter inappropriate comment made and I'm sorry I'm going to try and hold myself together here.

But if you know anyone who is contemplating suicide, please call 911.

And if you are or you or anyone in the public watching need assistance, know that you're not alone in contacting national suicide hot line.

1800 273 8255.

With all the agenda items being complete and the Commission having no further business, a motion to Adjourn is in order.

May I please have a motion to Adjourn.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So moved.

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: Motion made by Commissioner Lett and seconded by Commissioner Wise.

Any debate on the motion? All in favor please raise your hand and say Aye.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Aye.

Aye [in unison]

>> VICE CHAIR WITJES: All opposed say Nay.

Motion carries unanimously and meeting Adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Thank you very much.