

**MINUTES OF THE
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**

Saturday, June 11, 2011 – 10:00 a.m. – Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah

Members Present:

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

Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
President Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. Christine F. Watkins
Rep. R. Curt Webb

Members Absent:

Sen. Stuart C. Reid

Staff Present:

Mr. John Q. Cannon, Managing Policy Analyst
Ms. Emily R. Brown, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Leif G. Elder, Policy Analyst
Mr. Jerry D. Howe, Policy Analyst
Ms. Chelsea B. Lloyd, 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 Sumsion called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members of the Committee introduced themselves and noted the areas of the state which they represent.

2. Overview of Redistricting

Mr. Cannon gave a presentation on what the redistricting process entails for the state, including how it is executed, constitutional mandates, and the redistricting principles that were adopted at the May 4, 2011 meeting. He also explained the online redistricting website, which allows individuals to create and draw redistricting maps, comment on proposed maps, and get information regarding the Committee, including the audio and materials distributed.

Mr. Keith Siegmiller, citizen, commented on the redistricting website and available drawing tools.

Ms. Elyse Brown, citizen, inquired about commenting capabilities on the website's map drawing function.

3. Public Comment and Committee Discussion About Redistricting

Pres. Waddoups introduced a redistricting plan, "Senate 1% Plan." He explained the modifications that have taken place, including his emphasis on creating the best representation possible in counties throughout southern Utah.

Chair Sumsion introduced "House Plan -- Sumsion A", "House Plan -- Sumsion B," and "U.S. Congressional Plan -- Sumsion C." Rep. Ipson commented that he would like to see five house seats in Washington and Iron Counties.

Rep. Evan Vickers explained that he would like to keep Cedar City in one house district.

Mr. Keith Siegmiller, citizen, explained that Iron County and Cedar City in particular are known as agriculture hubs throughout the state. He commented that these areas would be best served with representation in both the House and the Senate.

Mr. John Morgan, citizen, commented that he does not want Cedar City or existing school district boundaries to be divided by a new boundary line.

Mr. Larry Daniel, citizen, commented that he would not like to see Cedar City split and also voiced his concerns about not having an independent commission regulating and formulating the redistricting process.

Ms. Kristen Daniel, citizen, inquired about the process to view submitted maps on the online redistricting tool.

Mr. Rob Dotsoa, citizen, commented that he would like to see Cedar City kept in one district and also thanked the Committee for the online map drawing tool capabilities available for public use.

Mr. Douglas Warner, citizen, noted his support for one congressional district for the rural population in southern Utah and having each county represented by a senator.

Ms. Linda Tirado, Southern Utah Young Democrats, commented that population centers need to be placed in one district. She explained that voting precincts need to be separate for rural and urban communities.

Ms. Kelli Lundgren, Represent Me Utah, inquired about the redistricting time line and questioned if a plan will be presented before the special session. She also noted her support for cities and towns to be kept together in one district.

Mr. Rob Dotsoa, citizen, Enoch City, explained that Enoch City is very similiar to Cedar City and would encourage the Committee to keep them together.

Mr. Kelly Stowell, citizen, Kanab, explained that Kanab would benefit from being included in the same congressional district as Washington County.

4. Adjourn

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

Chair Sumsion adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.