

**MINUTES OF THE
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**

Friday, August 19, 2011 – 9:00 a.m. – Senate Building Room 210

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Sen. Stuart C. Reid
Speaker Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold

Staff Present:

Mr. John Q. Cannon, Managing Policy Analyst
Mr. Leif Elder, Policy Analyst
Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst
Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, Policy Analyst
Mr. Christopher M. McClelland, Research Assistant
Mr. John L. Fellows, General Counsel
Ms. Kimberly A. Heiner, Legislative Secretary
Ms. Tracey Fredman, 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 9:13 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Van Tassell moved to approve the July 20, 2011 Rose Park minutes and the July 26, 2011 Vernal and Park City minutes. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Watkins absent for the vote.

2. Committee Review of Redistricting Plans

Mr. Peter Corroon, Salt Lake County Mayor, said that Salt Lake County prefers a doughnut approach to congressional redistricting and asked the Committee to minimize the number of districts that Salt Lake County is split up into to keep communities of interest together.

Chair Sumsion said that he was planning on making a motion at Monday's meeting for the Committee to adopt a State School Board plan as a committee recommendation to the full Legislature. As part of this motion, he said he would also move that the committee authorize staff to make minor technical corrections to the plan to be subsequently approved at a final meeting of the Committee before the Legislature considers these plans in a special session. He then distributed a handout to the Committee containing the language of the motion.

SCHOOL BOARD PLANS

Committee staff distributed a handout listing state school board plans submitted on RedistrictUtah.com.

The Committee chairs distributed a letter from the Utah State Board of Education discussing their preference for plans. They also distributed a memorandum showing the Board of Education's

vote on the "Dave Thomas 5 Plan."

Mr. Martell Menlove, Deputy Superintendent, State Office of Education, discussed his School Board plan "Martell 1" (state school board handout item 13). He responded to questions from the Committee.

Chair Sumsion discussed David Thomas's "Thomas 5" (state school board handout item 10), Evan Millett's "School Board-12" (state school board handout item 1), Fred Cox's "Draft 1" (state school board handout item 2), David Edward Garber's "Garber SBs B" (state school board handout item 4), Trevor Tidwell's "La Escuela Board" (state school board handout item 5), Robert Horning's "School Board Plan 57" (state school board handout item 12), Chad Smith's "New State School Board Plan" (state school board handout item 14), and his "Sumsion 15 V1" (state school board handout item 17).

President Waddoups discussed his school board plan "School Board - Waddoups 1."

Chair Sumsion suggested that it was possible to change the number of school board seats from 15 to 9 and said that most states have less than 15. He presented two plans showing 9 member school board plans entitled "Sumsion 9 V1" (state school board handout item 16) and "Sumsion 9 V2" (state school board handout item 15) school board plan.

The Committee and public discussed Chair Sumsion's suggestion to reduce the school board size and the consensus was to keep it at 15.

Mr. Menlove expressed appreciation to the Committee for taking the input of the State Board of Education. He also reminded the Committee that sometimes what looks like rural representation graphically may not be the case.

Ms. Lola Beatlebrox Hoopes, Peoa Utah resident, asked the Committee to keep in mind the unaffiliated voter when looking at redistricting maps. She also said that she feels disenfranchised with the political process and does not feel that her opinions are taken into consideration.

Mr. Leonard Gorman, Executive Director, Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, distributed a "Resolution of the Navajo Utah Commission of the Navajo Nation Council" proposing redistricting boundaries. He also distributed a "Resolution of the Naabik' Íyátí Committee of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council." He said that he supports keeping 15 school districts versus reducing the school board size. He also said that using technology to encompass large areas in school districts would be difficult in the Navajo Nation of the south eastern corner of Utah because it would disenfranchise many Navajo children.

SENATE PLANS

Committee staff distributed a handout listing senate plans submitted on RedistrictUtah.com.

Chair Okerlund discussed Ryan Kelly's "RJK Senate Final Plan" (senate handout item 1) and David Edward Garber's "Garber SDs" (senate handout item 2).

Mr. Steven Clark, SanPete county Republican Chair, discussed his senate plane entitled "Steven Clark_State Senate I" (senate handout item 10).

Mr. David Irvine, Utah Citizens Counsel, presented a senate plan entitled "UCC State Senate B" (senate

handout item 15). He also distributed a Utah Citizens' Counsel News Release that recommended a non-partisan citizens' committee to be created for redistricting.

Mr. Merrill Nelson, Utah Citizens Counsel, presented "UCC Senate Plan A-1" (senate handout item 16) and discussed the rationale of the plan.

Rep. Cox discussed his senate plan "Draft 1" (senate handout item 7) and explained the rationale of the plan.

Chair Okerlund discussed David Edward Garber's "Garber SDs B" (senate handout item 3), David Edward Garber's "Barber SDs C" (senate handout item 4), Adam Bass's "State Senate Maps" (senate handout item 5), Beau Sorensen's "Senate Redistricting" (senate handout item 6), and Jon Greiner's "Jon Greiner 1" (senate handout item 8). President Waddoups said he liked the "Jon Greiner 1" map because it illustrates that communities of interests are different for different people.

Chair Okerlund also discussed Robert Wren's "Senate redistribution" (senate handout item 9), Gary Hawes's "One Great Plan" (senate handout item 11), Gary Hawes's "new senate plan" (senate handout item 12), Chad S's "Chad Senate" (senate handout item 13), and Michael Jolley's "Michael Jolley Senate Districts" (senate handout item 14).

Mr. Gorman said that the Navajo nation has unique issues and should be taken into consideration in redistricting. He also said that the 2010 Native American population in senate district 27 is 8.5%. He said the Navajo Nation supports Adam Bass's "State Senate Maps" (senate handout item 5), Steve Clark's "Steven Clark_State Senate I" (senate handout item 10), and the Utah Citizen Counsel's "UCC State Senate B" (senate handout item 15) because they follow the current district 27 line, preserving the Native American population within that district.

Dr. Sue Connor, Represent Me Utah, said that she opposes Steven Clark's "Steven Clark_State Senate I" (senate handout item 10) map because his description said that he created the map with incumbents in mind. She said that she supports the Utah Citizen Counsel's "UCC State Senate B" (senate handout item 15) map because it keeps communities of similar interests together. She said that she also supports Rep. Cox's plan "Draft 1" (senate handout item 7) because it did not take incumbency into consideration. She responded to questions from the Committee.

Mr. Ken Froehle, Represent Me Utah, said that incumbency protection is not what the government needs.

Mr. Chris Sloan, Tooele County Republican Party, thanked the Committee for the work done on Redistricting. He said that Tooele county identifies more with the western side of Salt Lake County than they do with Utah County and asked the Committee to keep Tooele County as whole as possible.

Mr. Glen Wright, Fair Boundaries, said that Fair Boundaries is looking into a software that will allow them to see how many times county boundaries are crossed in proposed maps to give an objective number to compare maps with. He also said that Fair Boundaries will be publishing ratings on different presented maps. He responded to questions from the Committee.

Rep. King asked staff if there was a way to mathematically measure the plans to see how compact the boundaries are. Mr. Cannon said that there are several measures of compactness with the current Redistricting software.

HOUSE PLANS

Committee staff distributed a handout listing house plans submitted on RedistrictUtah.com.

Mr. Steven Clark, SanPete County Republican Party, discussed his plan entitled "Steven Clark Utah House Districts Final" (house handout item 18) and discussed the plans rationale. He said that incumbency is a legitimate consideration as long as the other redistricting principles are met. He also said that his map puts Tooele and Box Elder counties in separate districts. He responded to questions from the public.

Rep. Fred Cox, House District 32, presented his house plan entitled "Plan 1" (house handout item 7) and discussed the plan's rationale. He said that he did not look at where incumbents live when he drew the boundaries. He responded to questions from the public.

Mr. Gorman said that the Navajo Nation is using as a redistricting principle the need to comply with sections 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act. He also said that the Navajo Nation is a community of interest and should be taken into account in redistricting. He stated that the Navajo Nation proposes to move the boundary of House District 69 northward to keep the Navajo Nation together and to have the possibility of electing someone from the Navajo Nation. He said that some of the maps split the Navajo Nation in half.

Chair Okerlund dismissed committee members for lunch at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

Chair Sumsion discussed Brian Voeks' "State House - Plan 3" (house handout item 3), Adam Bass's "House Map" (house handout item 4), Beau Sorenson's "House Plan" (house handout item 8), "Steve Swann's "Utah Representative District" (house handout item 9), Robert Horning's "State House Rural Interests #2" (house handout item 12), and Erik Gumbrecht's "Gumbrecht Second Variation of House Plan 2" (house handout item 13).

CONGRESSIONAL PLANS

Committee staff distributed a handout listing congressional plans submitted on RedistrictUtah.com.

Ms. Dee Rowland, and Mr. Paul Thompson, Citizens Counsel presented "UCC Congress Plan D" (congressional handout item 116), "UCC Congress Plan C," (congressional handout item 117), "UCC Congress Plan B" (congressional handout item 118), and "UCC Congress Plan A" (congressional handout item 119).

Ms. Sue Connor presented "Kelli Lundgren's proposal "U.S. Congress" (congressional handout item 99). She said that Kelli created the map without any consideration of where incumbents lived.

Mr. Steve Clark presented and discussed "Amended U. S. House Districts" (congressional handout item 67), and indicated that the goal was to include both rural and urban population within each district so that both interests are served in each.

Rep. Cox presented a map that was not contained on the list titled "Utah 1 Congress Hat and 3 Stripes." He stated that the purpose of the map was to balance the districts, dividing as few counties as possible

without favoring any party or group.

Mr. John Hansen, citizen, presented and discussed a map that was not contained on the list titled "Plan: JAH for Utah."

Mr. Cannon clarified how Committee staff defined the classifications of two types of plans on the handout. Mr. Cannon said that proposed districts containing a mix of rural and urban communities were being referred to as pizza plans, whereas proposed district plans that did not contain a rural urban mix were referred to as doughnut plans.

Chair Sumsion reviewed the following congressional plans: Alex de la Torre's "Alex's Congressional Districts" (congressional handout item 1), Beau Sorensen's "Sorensen Plan" (congressional handout item 2), David Edward Garber's "Garber CDs" (congressional handout item 3), Jason Steffen's "Jason Utah Plan" (congressional handout item 7), Norman Allen's "normallen plan 1" (congressional handout item 11), Steve Swann's "Swann Congress Plan 1" (congressional handout item 12), Jeremy Johnson's "Turbo" (congressional handout item 14), Daniel Mejia's "Congress - Davis - Centered" (congressional handout item 23), and David Hulme's "4" (congressional handout item 25).

Chair Okerlund reviewed the following congressional plans: David Edward Garber's "Garber CDs B" (congressional handout item 5), John Evans' "Plan 1" (congressional handout item 8), Jon Stanard's "Stanard_1 Submit" (congressional handout item 10), Brian Fabb's "Congressional District" (congressional handout item 13), and Bob Bernick's "bobcong2" (congressional handout item 105).

Rep. King presented the Salt Lake City Council and Mayor's "Salt Lake City Congressional Map 2" (congressional handout item 120).

Sen. McAdams presented the Salt Lake City Council and Mayor's "Salt Lake City Congressional Map 1" (congressional handout item 121).

Mr. Gorman said that there are areas of Utah with a significant number of Native Americans, in particular the current Congressional District 2. He said that the Navajo Nation has similar interests with other Native Americans and together could be considered a community of interest.

Mr. Sloan, commented against the Salt Lake City Council and Mayor's "Salt Lake City Congressional Map 1" stating that Salt Lake County would overpower and likely silence Tooele County's voice in the future.

3. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Gibson absent for the vote.

Chair Sumsion adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.