

LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
McHenry County Government Center – Administration Building
667 Ware Road
Woodstock IL 60098

MINUTES OF THURSDAY MAY 12, 2011

Chairman Heisler called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. The following Committee members were present: James Heisler, Chairman; Ersel Schuster; Kathleen Bergan Schmidt; John Jung, Jr.; Marc Munaretto; Nick Provenzano and Pete Merkel. Also in attendance: Ken Koehler, County Board Chairman; Peter Austin, County Administrator; Adam Lehmann, Assistant to the County Administrator; Nicole Gattuso and Brittney Venetucci, GIS; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; John Hammerand, Mary McCann and Paula Yensen, County Board Members; interested public and the press.

James Heisler, Chairman	
John Jung, Jr.	Pete Merkel
Marc Munaretto	Nick Provenzano
Kathleen Bergan Schmidt	Ersel Schuster

MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the committee minutes from April 28, 2011. Ms. Schuster stated that page #2 should show that the numbers are based on the census. Ms. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schuster to recommend approval of the minutes as amended. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Charlie Eldredge from Richmond IL requested the committee members keep Districts 4 and 6 as is. He stated these two areas are already close to the recommended population numbers. He also noted that some of the rail lines listed on some of the maps are no longer in existence and recommended the rail lines be updated on the maps.

Ms. Yensen, County Board District 5, voiced concern regarding the proposed maps. She requested that they consider her concerns while reviewing the mapping process. She noted that in the past when an issue was brought forward, the members worked together to make sure areas of representation have been protected. The State Legislature made a concerted effort to get citizen input into the redistricting process. She questioned why the County Board has not done this. She stated that they need to review the respective existing political boundaries, competitiveness, representational fairness and united communities of interest. She stated that all of these principles were addressed in Dr. Fortner's report. She stated that none of the proposed maps give proper weight to these issues. Map B divides Grafton Township into four districts and splits Lake in the Hills across three districts. The residents located in these areas deserve better. Mr. Hammerand noted that Map C has divided Spring Grove as well and he feels this area should remain intact.

Committee members were reminded that they need to keep Kathie Schultz, the County Clerk, involved in the process.

PRESENTATION

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Review Draft Redistricting Maps: Committee members reviewed the drafts for the Redistricting Maps. Ms. Schmidt stated she has attended all the meetings and they may need to backtrack and rethink this process as she feels the whole county should be considered in this process. She stated she does not feel it is fair that only four of the six districts are being considered for changes. She stated that the committee members owe it to their constituents to put the whole county into play. She noted that some of the districts may remain the same, but, they should still be considered during the discussion. Mr. Provenzano noted that he as well has attended all the meetings and never heard that they were required to "redistrict" the whole county. He stated that their job is to take the census numbers and redistribute these numbers evenly into 6 districts with a deviation of less than 3%, nowhere does it say they must redistrict the whole county. Mr. Munaretto noted that one of the criteria's previously discussed was

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to keep the western district rural. He questioned why you would disrupt some of these boundaries, if it is not necessary. The main requirement is to make sure the population numbers are as close as possible. He stated that he does not like any of the three maps that have been provided for consideration and questioned how the other committee members felt. They agreed and stated they need to put an emphasis on following the criteria that was established at the previous meeting while keeping the districts as intact as possible. Mr. Munaretto provided a modified version of one of the maps by Dr. Fortner. Suggested changes were incorporated by staff. Committee members moved forward with the agenda while the map was being redrafted.

State Legislative Update: Mr. Lehmann provided committee members with a State Legislative Update. He stated that this list has been divided into two sections. The first section includes Active Bills and the second section includes those bills that are inactive or referred to the rules committee. Committee members reviewed the list as provided. The schedule for the legislative session ends at the end of May. If a bill is to be approved, it must be acted on prior to this date. Committee members thanked Mr. Lehmann for this information.

Review Draft Redistricting Maps, Continued: Committee members reviewed the map changes as directed by the committee members. Ms. Schmidt stated she still has an issue with the whole county not being considered in this redistricting process but feels the map is improved. The majority of the committee members questioned why they should make changes in all of the areas, if only two portions of the County needs adjusting. Committee members were reminded that the next committee meeting would be May 26th. A resolution could be brought forward at that time recommending adoption of the suggested map. This would allow time for the map to be reviewed and allow the County Board to take action thereafter. Committee members were questioned if they like the changes to the map as suggested by the committee. Ms. Schmidt stated that everyone needs to understand that this is just a "draft" of the redistricting map and an infinite number of maps could be created. She stated that they need to let everyone know this map will not be finalized until the second County Board meeting in June to allow for as much input as possible, especially from those affected by the recommended changes. It was suggested that a press release be put forward notifying the public of the availability of the map for review, with a request for comments on the map. It was suggested that a "public meeting" or "open house" be held prior to the County Board meeting where the map could be placed in a public area with a request to solicit comments on the map. This would provide an opportunity for comments by the public. It was also suggested that a "special edition" e-news letter be sent out by the Chairman of the Legislative Committee informing the constituents of the redistricting recommendations. The resolution and map would then be taken to the County Board at their June 21st meeting for consideration. Committee members directed Mr. Austin to draft a resolution for consideration at the next committee meeting with references to the new map. Ms. Schultz reviewed the map and agreed that it brings more balance to the numbers.

Federal Legislative Update: Committee members were informed that there is nothing significant to update at this time. Mr. Trent Lehman from the Ferguson Group will join the committee members, by conference call, at the next committee meeting to provide a Federal update to the committee. Committee members questioned if there has been any information brought forward regarding how the local governments will receive funding from the Federal Government. Mr. Austin noted that no clear direction is apparent at this time but he expects that they will need to use a different tool for allocation of Federal funding.

NEW BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Noting no further business, Ms. Schuster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merkel to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:

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Approved 5 26 11