October 15, 2011
9:09 a.m.

Location
Eagar Town Hall Council Chambers
22 West 2nd Street
Eagar, Arizona 85925

Attending
Colleen C. Mathis, Chair
Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair
Linda C. McNulty, Commissioner

Ray Bladine, Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Joe Kanefield, Counsel, Ballard Spahr

PREPARED BY:
AZ Litigation Support, LLC
Michelle D. Elam, CR
Certified Reporter
CR No. 50637
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Good morning.

This meeting of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission will now come to order.

Today is Saturday, October 15th, and the time is 9:09 a.m.

And let's begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Welcome. It's good to see so many of the public here today for our hearing. We really appreciate you all coming out on an early Saturday morning.

I'll first start with roll call.

Vice Chair Freeman.

COMMISSIONER FREEMAN: Here.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Vice Chair Herrera.

Commissioner McNulty.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Here.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Commissioner Stertz.

And other folks at the table today include our legal counsel, Joe Kanefield, and our mapping consultant, Andrew Drechsler.
We have a court reporter, Michelle, who will be taking a transcript of today's proceedings.

Our chief technology officer is Buck Forst, and we're streaming this meeting live today over the Internet so folks can watch at home.

Other people from our staff include Ray Bladine, who is our executive director in the back. Our public outreach coordinators Shane Shields and Karen Herrman.

So please feel free to go to any of those folks and ask them questions if you need to give them anything or talk to them or have questions. They will be happy to help out.

We have a couple of translators here this morning. By federal law, we need to translate the proceedings should anyone require translation services.

So I'll call up to the microphone, Carlos Reyes, who will be translating into Spanish if anyone needs it, and he'll give a few words about that.

CARLOS REYES: Good morning, Chief Mathis and commissioners.

Chair Mathis, ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with the Voting Rights Act, a
translator/interpreter will be available at all of the public hearings in order to provide translating services that might be needed for those citizens that need translating or interpreting services.

Please contact the translator/interpreter present at this meeting so that he or she can assist you and we will have an Apache and Navajo interpreter and I will be the Spanish interpreter, and now I will read the script in Spanish.

(Speaking in native tongue.)

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.
And we also have an Apache interpreter,
Bonnie Lewis.

BONNIE LEWIS: Hello. Yes, I am Bonnie Lewis and I also am going to explain the same thing and it will be in Apache also, what was said to you is in Apache here.

(Speaking in native tongue.)

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.
And I believe we have a Navajo translator coming in shortly. So when they are here, we'll introduce them, too.

So the purpose of today's hearing is to
obtain input from you, the public, on our draft maps.

We have a draft congressional map that's been approved and a draft legislative map that's been approved.

And we're in the midst of a tour going across Arizona to 26 locations, I believe. And we just started this week and -- listening to folks all across the state.

Our goal is to hear from you, and we're here to listen. We want to know what you like about the map or what you don't like about the map. We'll take both.

And if you don't like it, if you can be as specific as you can about what modifications you think should be made to it, we would be happy to hear about those and take those into account. So please let us know.

It looks like we have our Navajo translator. If she would like to come in and please feel free to give some words of welcome.

Thank you.

LOUISE KERLEY: (Speaking in native tongue.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.
And so if you would like to address us today, please fill out a yellow request to speak form. Those are in the back of the room. And when we get to that part of the meeting, I'll be calling folks up and you can just come up to the microphone and provide your input. Be sure to fill out a request to speak form so we know that you would like to speak.

If you would not like to speak but you still have input that you would like to give us, you can fill out a blue form. Those are in the back as well, and that will become part of the record as well, the formal record. So it's treated just the same way as if you spoke here at the microphone.

Before we move into the presentation that our mapping consultant will give, I understand that the mayor is here, Mayor Holaway.

I would just like to acknowledge her.

Thank you for being here, and thanks for hosting the meeting here in Eagar. We appreciate it.

So with that, I think I can turn it over to Mr. Drechsler.

ANDREW DRECHSLER: Thank you very much.

Before we get to the presentation, this
is -- the map that you see on the screen is just the congressional map that you can find on the -- or I'm sorry, the legislative map that you can find on the website. And we'll put this back up on the screen afterwards. Just wanted -- unfortunately, this is a Google map and the two different colors sort of -- Eager is -- in the draft map is in Legislative District 7 and I just wanted to point out the lighter color on the screen is the Legislative District 6.

So we'll have this back up for people to look at a little bit more closer.

And we also have a congressional map up on the wall so you can see that as well and maps in your packet as well.

And again, thank you. Good morning.

Today we are here to discuss the draft maps presented by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

The draft maps are currently under a 30-day public review period, which is the main reason we are here today.

As the Chair mentioned, we're here to hear your thoughts on the maps, what you like, what you may want to change. And feel free to give us
Before we start, we just wanted to go over a quick overview of the process in general to show folks how we sort of got to the draft maps and what's going to happen next in this process.

Arizona redistricting process is governed by the State Constitution as amended by the voters in 2000, with the passage of Proposition 106. It stipulates that Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission redraw Arizona's congressional and legislative districts to reflect the results of the most recent census.

Due to the 2010 census, Arizona gained a congressional seat. So we'll be going from eight congressional seats to nine.

What are the guidelines of Proposition 106?

A, must comply with United States Constitution and Voting Rights Act.

B, equal population.

So these two criteria are federally mandated, and then we have four other criteria that are to the extent practicable, C, compact and contiguous; D, respect communities of interest; E, use visible geographic features, city, town, and
county boundaries, and undivided census tracts; and F, favor competitive districts where no significant detriment to other goals.

So these are the six criteria that are sort of the rules that the Commission must follow when drawing these maps.

And obviously, they all can't be applied equally, but the two overriding rules are the Voting Rights Act and equal population.

We just wanted to go -- touch on Voting Rights Act a little bit and then explain it a little bit more.

Arizona's congressional and legislative districts must receive preclearance or approval from the Department of Justice or a federal court under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act before they can take effect.

To get preclearance, Arizona must demonstrate that the new districts do not discriminate against minority voters in purpose or effect, which means there can be no intentional or accidental discrimination.

Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce minority voters' rights. The
presence of discrimination can be determined by analyzing population data and election results.

So in terms of the timeline for the Commission, there's really six main steps involved.

Step 1, was setting up the Commission. Earlier this year the commissioners were appointed following a thorough screening process. They serve as volunteers to the Commission.

And the commissioners are Scott Freeman, who is vice chair and with us today; Jose Herrera, vice chair; Chairwoman Colleen Mathis, who is here with us today; Commissioner Linda McNulty, who is here today; and Richard Stertz.

The next step was the first round of hearings.

Before a single line was drawn, the Commission held 23 public hearings around the state in July and August to get input from members of the public about issues relevant to redistricting such as geography, communities of interest, minority voting rights, and competitiveness.

The next step was the mapping.

We started with a grid map. Per Proposition 106, they required us to start with a clean slate. And one of the -- and then to do the
And the grid map only takes into consideration two things: Equal population and compactness. And this grid map was approved on August 18th.

Since adopting the grid maps for both the congressional and legislative districts, the Commission has met more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the grid to accommodate all of the State constitutional criteria.

During this time, they received additional public comment and draft maps.

Approval of the maps.

On October 3rd, the Commission approved the draft congressional map that incorporated changes based on all of the constitutional criteria. And just earlier this week it approved the draft legislative map on Monday, October 10th.

The second round of hearings is step 4. Currently we're visiting 25 towns and cities around the state to share the draft maps and receive additional input during the month of October.

Once that is done will be step 5, where we come up with the final maps.
Upon completion of the comment period, the Commission will adopt final maps.

And the final step in the process is preclearance.

Because Arizona is subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, the district maps must be approved by the federal Department of Justice or federal court in Washington D.C. before they can be used in Arizona's elections.

Before we go into showing the current draft map for the Commission, we just wanted to walk through the process.

This is a map that you may recognize. It's the current -- it's the congressional map that was approved by the last Commission and last used in the 2010 elections.

Per Proposition 106, we were required to start with a blank map and then we came up with the grid map. Again, there were two considerations when we were drawing the grid map. It needed to be equal population and compact.

And finally, after more than 25 meetings, the Commission voted on the draft map that you see here.

Besides taking into consideration the six
criteria, the Commission took into consideration public comment provided via public meetings, round one of public hearings, comments mailed, e-mailed, hand-delivered, telephone, and I'm probably forgetting a couple modes of communication to the Commission, but over -- I think we're close to 5,000 comments -- public comments were given to the Commission on their opinions and thoughts of the six criteria. And that's when we came up with the draft map that you see here.

Some highlights in the draft map include two predominantly rural districts, three border districts, two districts in the city of Tucson, five districts that are entirely in Maricopa County, it avoids splitting Arizona's Indian reservations, two districts where minority voters have the opportunity to elect their candidate of their choice.

The legislative map draft map process went through a very similar process, and this was the map that was approved by the last Commission and was most recently used in the 2010 elections.

Much like the congressional map, we had to start with a blank slate, and that's where we came up with the grid map that was approved in August -- on August 18th.
And again, this -- the grid map only took into consideration two criteria, the compactness and equal population.

And again, per Proposition 106, they didn't want to take into consideration the last map. That's why we do the grid map.

And finally, we come up with the legislative draft map that was approved just on Monday.

So some highlights of the draft map.

So the old map that was used, that was last used in the 2010 election, the population of the districts ranged from 155,000 to 378,000. The current draft has 207 to 215,000.

To comply with the Voting Rights Act, the draft map includes ten districts in which minority voters have the opportunity to elect the candidate of their choice. The draft map includes three districts wholly within Pima County and three additional Southern Arizona districts. Seventeen districts primarily within Maricopa County and nine districts primarily rural.

As the Chairwoman mentioned before, we want your input on these maps. We really want to hear what you think of them. And just a reminder,
these are draft maps and not final and there is
going to be some anticipated changes.

So you can fill out a request to speak
form today, the yellow sheet that you can get in the
back to provide your thoughts and input.

Examples of input include any of the
thoughts on any of the constitutional criteria, any
thoughts on the draft congressional map, any
thoughts on the draft legislative map.

And you can submit your input by filling
out one of the speaker forms. And at the back of
your packet are one of these blue forms, and you
don't have to give us this today. If you wanted to
mail it to us, the address is on the bottom. So you
would be able to do that.

We also have a form on our website at
www.azredistricting.org that you can fill out the
public comment or you can call us at 602-542-5221 or
toll free at 855-733-7478.

And just one correction. In the packets
today, we apologize that the toll free number is
different. So this is the toll free number if
anybody wants to call toll free. It's on the screen
and you can get it from anybody at the back of the
room as well.
Here is just a screenshot of our web site. And I just wanted to highlight a couple of different things.

You see two arrows on the left that show the maps. The arrow at the bottom below the picture is the -- you have the opportunity to click on the draft or congressional maps.

The meeting tab has all of the past meetings. So if you wanted to watch any of the deliberation that went into these maps, they are all -- all of the videos are online, so you can watch any of them along with the transcripts. And also the meeting tab has information on future meetings.

As we go around the state, you can follow us -- you can come in person or you can follow us. Most of the meetings are going to be streamed live. But if they are not streamed live, the video of the meetings will be up a couple of days later so that you can see.

And then the public input, you can click on that and it will allow you to do public input. It's a short form that you can fill out to give any of your thoughts or comments.

One thing -- so if you click on either --
on the bottom on any -- either of the two -- click here to see the draft maps, you'll come to this screen. This screen has the draft maps and a number of different formats, but one format that citizens have really liked and commented on is the Google maps.

And if you see the red circles, those are the two for both the legislative and congressional maps.

And if you click on those, you'll come to a screen that looks much like this. And one of the really nice things about this is you can really scroll in to see what the exact border is and you can zoom in or zoom out as necessary.

And here is just a quick example of how you can zoom in and you'll be able to see some of the exact boundaries, the streets, the buildings that make up the districts.

And again, we want you to stay connected. We want you to follow. We thank you for coming out this morning. But this process is still ongoing and we wanted you to follow along.

You can do that at azredistricting.org. On the website, besides watching current meetings and past meetings and getting updates on future
meetings, there's the ability to draw your own maps. We have an online mapping software that we have available or you can follow us at Twitter at #AIRC or friend us on Facebook.

There are also people in the back of the room with some computers that if you have any questions about the website or want to see how the online mapping works or if you want to see any maps or details a little closer, Karen or Shane are in the back of the room and they would be more than happy to help show you maps or answer any questions that you may have.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Mr. Drechsler.

I should have mentioned earlier that not all of the commissioners travel to each of the meetings. So today we have three. Commissioner Stertz and Vice Chair Herrera can watch this via Internet if they are able to watch it this morning, this live stream, or as Mr. Drechsler mentioned, these are recorded. It will be up on the website, the whole meeting, and they can watch the testimony at their convenience.

So we're all taking turns going to all of
the different towns across the state. I just wanted to make that clear for everyone.

So with that, I believe we are at the public comment portion of the meeting.

And just a few reminders on public comment. If you could come up to the microphone and get as close as you can to the microphone so that we hear it very well and it goes over the Internet well.

Also, if you could state your name and spell it for the court reporter so that we get an accurate transcript, that would be very helpful. And also if you could just give the city, town, or county in which you reside. We don't need your address, we just would like to know what city, town, or county.

And with that, I believe we'll go ahead and get started.

I don't think I've left any housekeeping items out.

So our first speaker is Eli Blake, from Joseph City.

ELI BLAKE: The correct spelling would be B-l-a-k-e.

The first thing I would like to say is
something I don't think that is said often enough at any kind of political meeting. And we keep hearing all of the negativity and all of the -- I have views and I accuse and I refuse, so I would like to thank the commissioners.

I know that none of you get a dime for doing this. I know that it's taking a lot of time away from your families, so I would like to say thank you. I think a lot of people really appreciate the work that you do.

One concern that I do have, as I mentioned, I'm from Joseph City and that's in Navajo County.

I live along the I-40 corridor and there's a group of communities along the I-40 corridor, Flagstaff, Winslow, Joseph City, and Holbrook that are very much tied together. People go back and forth between them because we do have an all-weather highway to do that.

Like a lot of people, I live in Joseph City and I work in Winslow.

One particular group of people I'm concerned about, a lot them do live in Joseph City and they work in Winslow and now they are in different legislative districts, are the employees
of the State prison.

Right now prison privatization is a hot topic in Arizona and their jobs may be on the line in the next ten years.

And if that comes up -- I don't think it's a good thing that they are maybe not represented by the same person who would be representing the prison. Because usually when privatization comes up, the legislators whose district the prison is in have the most say about whether it's going to be privatized or how that goes about.

So I'm not sure it's going to disenfranchise people when their job may depend on their having good representation.

So I hope you'll look at that, and I hope you'll look at putting these communities together in one district because they are very much tied together economically as well as -- you know, there's many people -- you know, families that live in, for example, Winslow and Joseph City or Joseph City and Holbrook or even Winslow and Flagstaff families. They spread across that.

And that's all I have to say.

Thank you very much, and I want to say
again, thank you for doing the job that you do.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.

Our next speaker is Gail Marcroft, representing self from Apache.

GAIL MARCROFT: Good morning.

I was going to ask, do you have a hearing-impaired -- somebody for hearing-impaired in here today?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I do not believe so. If it's requested in advance, we provide it, but we don't have anyone here this morning.

Is there somebody who needs assistance?

GAIL MARCROFT: Yes. Usually I see federally mandate law saying you have a sign-language person always available. And I didn't notice if that was -- I can hear; I am hearing-impaired, but I can hear enough. I don't need sign language, but I thought I would ask the question.

I don't know if it's -- I realize you're saying the other stuff is mandated, but -- can you hear me?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And if you could spell your name for the record, thank you.

GAIL MARCROFT: Gail, G-a-i-l, Marcroft,
M-a-r-c-r-o-f-t. F, as in fox trot, T, as in thank you.

Okay. The first question I would like to ask -- and I agree with the last speaker. I appreciate the efforts that you are putting forth.

I am getting -- I kind of need a fire-hose-in-the-mouth type catch up here. So I may ask you something that you've already been asked.

The commission's -- commissioners, what districts are they in with regards to the new distributing? What district would they fall under?

Like Jose Herrera, what district would he fall under the new redistrict?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So the purpose of this hearing is only for you to tell us and we are to listen, we are not supposed to answer questions. Our staff can answer questions directly of any --

GAIL MARCROFT: Okay. So I'll assume that on your website that information is available? Can I make that assumption?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: The information is on there.

GAIL MARCROFT: So I get to speak; I don't get to ask questions?
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Right.

GAIL MARCROFT: I see.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: You can ask questions of our staff and they can answer.

GAIL MARCROFT: And your staff is where?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Ray Bladine right here is our executive director.

GAIL MARCROFT: Okay. All right. Sorry about that.

My next question would be -- I'm having -- I need a comprehension of defining what -- in terms of this exercise minority voter, what is the definition of that?

RAY BLADINE: I don't believe --

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I think our legal counsel will talk.

JOE KANEFIELD: Madame Chair, minority voters is -- I think what you may be referring to, ma'am, as.

GAIL MARCROFT: I'm sorry?

JOE KANEFIELD: I'm sorry, my voice is very low.

Minority voters in Arizona, under the Voting Rights Act, generally refer to Spanish-speaking voters and Native-American voters.
GAIL MARCROFT: Spanish-speaking?

JOE KANEFIELD: Yes.

GAIL MARCROFT: Okay. Thank you.

What was the reasoning given -- well, the District 1 is very large and it said the purpose was to combine the Indian reservations all in one district.

What was the reason for that?

RAY BLADINE: Madame Chair, can you explain -- I can answer after the meeting, but it's really not appropriate for me to participate in dialog now.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And, legal counsel, is it appropriate for me to talk?

GAIL MARCROFT: I'm not disagreeing with it. I'm asking what the reason was for it.

JOE KANEFIELD: Madame Chair, it's perfectly appropriate to answer questions from members of the public; however, to move the process along, because this -- I'm sorry, ma'am, I didn't catch your name.

You have lots of questions. It may make more sense for us to try to answer not in the public form but through staff. I would be happy to talk with you, too, but I'm not sure this is the best
forum for the Commission, this dialog with these questions.

We would be happy to work with you and answer all of your questions.

GAIL MARCROFT: Okay. You also provided a 2010 census population by district. I will assume that that is the new district, District 1 on here, would indicate that 70 percent of that population there in that district is white and that .8 percent is Native American, 3 percent is African-American.

I just want everyone in here to question -- if you've been around -- if you drive around this area, if you live in this area, I would have significant question on those numbers.

I would ask anybody to ask this Commission, the Census Bureau, any of those -- how when I look at that district, I've been to most of it. I've been to Cochise County, Morenci, that 20 percent is Hispanic, 70 percent is white, 3.6 percent is African-American, and that .8 percent is Native American.

All of --

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Ms. Marcroft?

GAIL MARCROFT: I'm making a comment.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: You might want to
speak into the microphone so your comments get heard.

GAIL MARCROFT: Can you hear me?
All right you can hear me.
All right. That of Apache, Navajo Nation, the -- what was Havasupai or whatever one is up there, there was at least five Indian reservations in that District 1 on that map.

And I find it interesting that .8 percent of that district is Native American.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's 22.8.
(Multiple people speaking in the audience.)

GAIL MARCROFT: What I look on here at the -- it says .8 percent under Native American.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. 22.8.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's legislative districts.

GAIL MARCROFT: .8.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, is she talking legislative or congressional?

GAIL MARCROFT: I'm talking congressional map.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's showing 22.8.

GAIL MARCROFT: No, I'm talking about
here. I'm talking about the census.

ANDREW DRECHSLER: The legislative districts.

GAIL MARCROFT: Map population breakdown, Commission approved legislative draft map population breakdown. District 1, Hispanic population, 21.4 percent; non-Hispanic, 70; African-American 3.4; Native American .8.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's for legislative.

(Multiple people speaking in the audience.)

(interruption by the court reporter.)

GAIL MARCROFT: All right. But when I look at that district, Native American is much larger than .1.

(Multiple people speaking in the audience.)

GAIL MARCROFT: This is the question. I'm looking at District 1.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's congressional, not legislative.

GAIL MARCROFT: Oh, okay. I apologize.

ANDREW DRECHSLER: This is the legislative map.
GAIL MARCROFT: Okay. And the legislative map has 20 percent Native American?

ANDREW DRECHSLER: So the legislative map is 62.17 percent Native American.

GAIL MARCROFT: Okay. So then in our legislative, 25 percent of the 8 point -- the other non-Native American, would they not be minority?

I mean, how do I get represented as a minority when I'm a minority in a legislative district or congressional district?

I mean, just looks like this congressional district is really funny, huge, large -- I don't know how you came up with it that big.

I don't want to rant, I don't want to -- it's a huge, large district intentionally done to combine all of the Indian reservations.

It says right on the thing. Intentionally done to combine all of the Indian reservations along there.

And legislatively, there are a large number of population-wise, there are .8 percent of a congressional district. The numbers don't look right. I'm just saying that -- I am new. I'm getting a fire-hose-in-the-mouth. I'm asking people
to question those numbers. Those numbers don't look right. They don't look represented.

At the same time, I am a minority in that congressional district and yet I'm not classified as one.

The other question I have -- I think that's all.

Thank, God, huh.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Bobbi Peterson, representing self from Pinetop.

ROBERTA "BOBBI" PETERSON: Thank you.

My first comments are about the map for the congressional district, the congressional district draft map.

As was just pointed out, it is way too big. I might have--

Oh, Peterson. It's Roberta, and it's P-e-t-e-r-s-o-n, but I go by Bobbi, which is B-o-b-b-i.

And I might have said that I am president of the White Mountain Conservatives and have been since we organized on July 1st, 2009.

And so actually I am speaking for a lot more than just myself, but I didn't think of that
when I filled out the thing.

We meet monthly in Show Low. I live in Pinetop, and we have discussed this and we have had our state legislators in our meetings talk about this issue of redistricting.

And the congressional draft map is not only way too big, but it is obviously putting, as has been mentioned, all of the Native American populations together.

I don't know, there are probably pros and cons about that idea of putting them all together. And speaking as a non-Native American, I don't like that idea.

Whatever happened to working together to make a melting pot instead of dividing us between races?

It seems to me like it's playing the race card to divide America, to divide Arizona between non-Natives and Natives.

I have many friends in the Pinetop area that are Apache. I lived in Flagstaff for 19 years and had no Native American friends. It all depends on where you live and who you associate with and so forth.

So I don't think that we have communities
of interest in this huge District 1. I think it would be entirely impractical to be represented in this huge district from Utah to Mexico and almost all the way to the border with California -- or Nevada, whatever that would be on the west. That would be Nevada, excuse my ignorance, by one congressional representative.

We are not happy with the fact that the size of the Congressional District 1 right now, our congressional representative does not get to visit his constituents nearly enough.

We do have technology where we can do town halls online and that kind of thing, but we want to visit with our representatives regularly. And this map is, in my view, just totally ridiculous.

Option 1 map was very similar to our current map. All we needed to do was add Camp Verde, and they are a community of interest along with what has been District 1.

It would be nice to get District 1 down geographically so that our congressperson could represent us better and get to all of us in the district, but speaking from rural Arizona, at least let's not make this ridiculous from Utah to Mexico.
I know that you have all donated your time and you've talked about how you've paid attention to comments and you had so many comments and so forth.

I'm sorry, but I really question that because it seems to me that this gerrymandering is designed to turn a red state into a blue state.

And I think it is important to let us know what districts you commissioners live in and why you would be combining Native American.

I think it's wrong that you can't answer our questions and we can't do that publicly. Where is the transparency in that?

I also understand that, Madame Chairman, you are not really Independent. Your husband is Democrat and so forth and so on.

As far as the legislative draft map, I lived in Flagstaff for 19 years and then moved to Pinetop in Navajo County six years ago.

My husband passed away 14 months ago, but our experience in Flagstaff and now in the White Mountains, there's no commonality with Flagstaff, and I would never move back to Flagstaff.

I think if you had talked to anyone who has lived in Flagstaff and the White Mountains, as I
have, you would discover that there really is no commonality. I won't go into all of the details where there isn't, but there really isn't.

And I would assert that those in Apache County, like here in Eagar, have no commonality with people in Mohave County.

This legislative draft map has no commonality in it and it looks very gerrymandering to me as well.

I don't understand how the Commission could come up with these gerrymandered maps, unless there is an agenda.

And I do not feel that we will end up with anything that is truly representative of the citizens of Arizona, that they would truly approve of until a lot of changes are made and a lot more integrity on the part of the commissioners.

I'm sorry, but it just looks that way to me, and I think it will end up in the courts.

So I would urge this Commission to pay attention to your criteria and pay a lot more attention to commonality and realize that you can do a whole lot better.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.
Just to let everyone know, I hope you all have a copy of the presentation that Mr. Drechsler gave. It should be available as a handout in your packet.

And on slide 5, the five commissioners' names are listed along with what party they are from and also what county they reside in. So just so you have that information.

Our next speaker is Steve Erhart, representing self from Eagar.

STEVE ERHART: My name is E-r-h-a-r-t.

First of all I would like to just thank --

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Can you speak directly into the microphone? Sorry.

STEVE ERHART: Better?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Really close.

STEVE ERHART: Closer?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Sorry.

STEVE ERHART: I don't want to eat it.

Anyways, I want to tell you thanks for, you know, all of your work on these districts, and I know it's pretty difficult, but I do want to point out a few concerns I have on the congressional draft map.
Is there any way you could put that up?

It seems to me that we have 13 rural Arizona counties that out of that we should be able to form at least two truly rural congressional districts.

We have over one-and-a-half-million people in rural Arizona and that should be enough to form two rural counties without including us with Metro Tucson or Metro Phoenix.

If Apache County has to be tied with the more populated area, why not the more populated of Pinal County that we share more interest and commonality with?

I'm concerned that Congressional District 1, that we're tied to the suburban areas of Tucson of Marana, Oro Valley, and Saddlebrooke.

It appears actually that all congressional districts, all nine, are linked to Metro Phoenix or the Metro Tucson area.

You know, this takes away, I feel like, competitiveness of the districts and our interests.

And I -- in rural areas, we would like to have a voice. We would like to be able to elect candidates from rural Arizona, not necessarily suburban Tucson.
I'm concerned also that we've got five counties split up. We've got Pinal, Cochise, Gila, Pima, and Yavapai Counties that are chopped up, and I'm not sure, but it appears somehow to keep Coconino County whole, and I don't really know what the purpose of that is.

But as you mentioned earlier, the Constitution says when practicable, district lines should be visible geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries and undivided census tracts.

That's really not what I see on that map, and I guess I would think that there ought to be a desire by the Commission to have at least a couple of rural Arizona counties. You know, maybe one on the eastern part of the state and one on the west, but I don't believe that Eastern Arizona counties need to be grouped with Pima County, and the western counties don't need to be grouped with the urban areas of Maricopa County and Pinal County.

I feel like we need two truly rural counties in our state.

Thank you. That's really all I have to say.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Terry Hill,
representing self from Navajo.

    TERRY HILL:  Hill, H-i-l-l, first name is Terry, T-e-r-r-y, from Shumway.

    What you are creating in this CD 1 is a district that's too large. From Mexico to the south and New Mexico completely on the right on the east and Utah to the north. On the northeast corner we are just a few short miles from Nevada/California border. On the southeast you've got us wrapped around all the way to Goodyear.

    UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  West.

    TERRY HILL:  Or rather on the west, thank you.

    On the Southwest corner it goes all the way around to Goodyear.

    The district is too huge to be properly represented without a major increase in funding -- congressional funding rather. And that will not happen.

    If you -- District 9, the new district, that little new district will have just as much funding as District 1.

    If you question that, just ask Gosar's office or any of the Schweikert's office or any of the other or Frank's office, they all get the same
amount of money to fund their districts.

And what you have created is an unfinancial -- it cannot be financially maintained the way the small districts are.

You go down into staffs in the city and get a heck of a lot more money than the staffs up in the rural areas, especially right now, even with CD 1, because there's no -- there's only a certain amount of dollars and can only go so far.

Second thing, the district is no longer competitive. I'm not a registered Democrat nor am I a registered Republican, but I'm seeing the district go from 3.8 percent Democrat favor -- you know, in favor of -- there are more -- 3.8 percent more Democrats than there are Republicans. Now it will be -- it will have -- it will outnumber everybody by 9.5 percent. That makes this district almost appear a noncompetitive district. It makes it solely a Democratic district.

And some of us, though we are not Republicans nor are we Democrats, we just as soon be as close as possible so we can have some influence over those we send to Washington. And when you've got a majority -- you have no one majority, you have no influence.
Third thing, the district is no longer -- has communities of like interest. This district map needs to be redrawn to take that into consideration.

I would recommend you go back, you redo this map. You redo this CD 1 and make it more compact and contiguous and make it more competitive and bring back in more communities of like interest.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Tom Samoff, representing self from Apache.

TOM SAMOFF: Okay. I'm Tom Samoff, T-o-m, last name S-a-m-o-f-f. I live in the Hunt area north of Concho in Apache County.

I'm a conservative person and -- which is an extreme minority in Apache County in the first place, and I do like representatives we have in service right now.

By including the entire north of the 40 and the Indian reservations, it's going to make our county completely Democrat.

And when you say I live in America, I love America, and when you say that we need to make certain areas minority so they can vote somebody in, that sounds so, so wrong to me.
I mean, it's just a matter -- you know, we all are competitive. We all want to vote our people in, but to make it gerrymandering or whatever -- to make it so certain areas have a bigger chance in certain areas, it's just -- it doesn't sound right and this is definitely doing that to our area.

Our area is going to be, well, like everybody elses'. It huge, it's going to be largely Democrat, and it is not representing us that are just trying to get by and work our way.

And as far as just with our philosophy as being a conservative person in Arizona, I think we should have a fair chance, too.

And what you are doing in District 1 is just absolutely incredible, making it so huge and leaning towards a different way than I see and it's just a matter -- I have to speak up for what I see, too.

And I'll make it short, and that's just a matter of what I feel. That this is just an unfair expansion. What we had before was -- was tenable and this expansion just makes it impossible.

Thank you for your time, and that's all I have to say right now.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Eleanor Kerger, representing self from Blue.

ELEANOR KERGER: Yes. It still is morning.

Good morning. As it says, I'm Eleanor Kerger. Last name is K-e-r-g-e-r. I live in Blue, Arizona. And if you've ever been there or haven't, you need to go.

We had a meeting down there not on this, on something else. And my comments today are basically Sylvia Allen was at our meeting and so was Petty Pew, Congressman Gosar's -- one of his aides.

And we had Coconino -- I'm sorry, we had Greenlee County officers there and Apache County officers.

My comments on this is that Sylvia Allen pointed out to us, the residents there at the meeting, about this meeting. And not one person besides the officials knew anything about this.

When I got here and looked at the paper, some of the information you have, and it stated in there that this is the second round of public comments?

There is -- it's the first time I've
heard anything about this was Thursday, two days ago.

My husband this morning went through the Independent here, the local paper. There was not one mention in that paper of this meeting. That means that the news media, our media, is not getting any information to the public on this. That's my first part.

The second part, I agree with the other people here that have stated that this section, this area, is way too large. It is going to be absolutely -- and this is something Sylvia Allen said, it's going to be absolutely impossible for a representative to go from the far northern part of the border of Utah down to Mexico and try to visit, even know this area. It would be impossible for them to do it.

If I was a member of the Indian community, I would be outraged that they are lumping -- that they are being lumped all in one little basket. It's so unfair.

I thank you for allowing me to give my comments, and everyone have a nice day.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Tara Haws, representing self from Apache.
TARA HAWS: Hello. Tara, T-a-r-a, Haws, H-a-w-s, and I am from Apache County.

And this is a big purple splotch on the state for sure. These congressional people, they have a lot of different issues that they need to look at and address and deal with consistently.

They have staff, of course, that they help rely on running down information for them and such, but this is almost like -- that person would be, like, governor over this territory on this side of Arizona.

That would be far too much. And as has been previously brought up that it would be just so impossible, near to impossible, to address the concerns for such a large area because when you get it that large and you rely that much on staff, then pretty soon you're seeing the opinion of the staff member who looked at that area and you don't know what their goals are and their agendas, personal opinions. And then pretty soon the person cannot properly assert what they have been elected to do in that area. It's just impossible.

It's just far too large, far too expansive, and this is why we elect these officials, is to better govern the area that they are in and
break it down instead of creating almost like a
second governor for this part of the state.

You're going to have your large
populations or your population count in different
areas and say this is how we're breaking up;
however, if you have the large -- a large population
concentrated in one area -- and just because we're
very rural up here in this north -- northeastern and
down to the south part of the state, the needs of
the people and the concerns are greatly and vastly
different than when you're starting to skirt the
more major towns that have much more different
concerns and needs.

And I would like to also ask -- this is
input. Is there going to be any meetings to where
you can have a rapport or is it just strictly
speaking with staff on a one-to-one basis?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Well, all of our
meetings and hearings are in this format. That's
how it's run. Outside of the meeting, though, we
can -- you can talk individually to commissioners as
you wish and you can also contact our office through
our staff and also get information from them.

TARA HAWS: Okay. So these are just
strictly this-is-how-we-feel meetings?
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Right.

TARA HAWS: You guys got to sit there and take it?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: That's right.

TARA HAWS: All right. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

That was my last request to speak form. Is there anyone else who would like to address the Commission?

GAIL MARCROFT: I would like to say one more thing.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Please come up. This is Gail Marcroft.

GAIL MARCROFT: Yes, Gail Marcroft.

G-a-i-l, M-a-r-c-r-o-f-t.

I did want to make -- I have no question, I have a comment.

On the congressional and legislative districts and the purpose of combining all of the Indian reservations into one district.

Again, I'm not certain what advantage that is to the Indians or to me; however, I do want to make a note that the Indian reservation -- it's a matter of competitiveness with -- private sector would become an issue under that scenario in that
the reservations are allowed to log, they are allowed casinos, they are exempt from a lot of federal regulations that private sector is not exempt from.

That puts private sector at a disadvantage, and you're putting all of these reservations into one district.

Anyway, that's the comment I wanted to make with regard to competitiveness.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Is there anyone else?

Mayor, please come up.

KIM HOLAWAY: I'm sorry, I didn't fill out a form, but I just was kind of formulating some things.

My name is Kim Holaway, K-i-m, H-o-l-a-w-a-y, and I would like to speak to the legislative maps, not the congressional maps. I think most of the previous comments have been related to that.

And Apache County and specifically the town of Eagar, which I represent, are all located in District 7, which, again, has a similar issue to Congressional District 1, being that it's very, very
large.

   It goes from the northwest corner of the state all the way across the north part and down the eastern portion.

   I cannot see how -- how legislators, to represent this area adequately as well as go to Phoenix to do the business that they need to.

   And your option 2 map previously had the southern part of Navajo County in with this same district, and I don't know if I have the number, but I would just propose that you relook at that because we in this -- in Southern Apache County, we have the most in common with Southern Navajo County. We really do. And to separate us out and to put Southern Apache County with Greenlee County, Gila County and then all the way over to parts of Coconino and Mohave County doesn't seem to make sense.

   And it doesn't -- I know that you want your districts to be very compact; this is not a compact district the way it is. Your previous maps were much more compact.

   So that's my comment regarding that, so I hope that you will relook at that on your draft map.

   Thank you very much.
And I also would like to echo the previous comments that we truly do appreciate your time and your efforts, and I know this is a monumental task and you probably don't get very many positive comments and you're mostly hearing the negative, but I think you're doing a great job and we really appreciate you coming to Eagar and allowing the citizens in our area and the surrounding areas to meet with you and give you our opinions.

So thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.

Is there anyone else who would like to address the Commission?

Please, and if you can fill out a request to speak form for us when you're done, that would go great.

JOE SITARZEWSKI: My name is Joe Sitarzewski. Last name is S-i-t-a-r-z-e-w-s-k-i, and I'm a resident of Eagar.

My comment has to do with both the legislative and congressional maps.

I know that one of the objectives nationally is to keep districts compact, but on the congressional map, I would suggest that you look at
possibly using the Phoenix metropolitan area as a
center of a spoke and radiate out to all sides of
the state, include -- if you aren't going to make
rural districts, then include part of rural in each
metropolitan district so that those congressmen and
congresswomen have to go out and listen to the
residents or rural people and not only think of
metropolitan things when they are doing their job.

And with the legislative map, again, I
pretty much second what Mayor Holaway said, but I
would also suggest that you look again at including
some rural areas with metropolitan areas.

There is a belief in Arizona, as I'm sure
you all know being from metropolitan areas most
likely, that very little gets done in rural areas.

We have extreme recreational use in rural
areas and we receive no funding to deal with the
amenities, the transportation system. The
infrastructure that rural residents have to support
and urban residents come and use and complain
because it's not up to their standards.

So if you would include a mix of lands in
your districts, I think there would be more
understanding to the needs of rural communities.

Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Is there anyone else who would like to address the Commission?

Please.

ELEANOR KERGER: Hi. Eleanor Kerger again.

Something that -- two things that you mentioned just a little while ago.

One was you showed a -- one was the information forms here, that your names and where you're from and your voting preferences were on that. They are not on those papers, but they are on the website. That's what I found out from the back from one of your -- from the guys that helped.

Besides that -- see, now I've just lost that one train there was there.

When it comes to the media -- again, I want to stress that there is nothing -- coming out on this.

Is there -- you know, just a comment here, is there anyone here that is on the media?

Plus you also said earlier that this is going to be streamed. According to the website this morning, there was not going to be a streaming of this meeting. That's what it said on the website.
There was not going to be one for this meeting.

So you --

BUCK FORST: Can I respond?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yes, please.

BUCK FORST: You know, as of this meeting we were not supposed to have streaming, but the City of Eagar was nice enough to put an Ethernet connection in the wall for us.

ELEANOR KERGER: Wonderful.

Like I said, it said it on the website. I just looked at it this morning on my iPad. So great. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Is there anyone else who would like to address the Commission?

JAY KERGER: My name is Jay Kerger, J-a-y, K-e-r-g-e-r. My wife has been up here a couple of times. I appreciate you listening and I wasn't going to make a comment, but I feel like I have to. I travel back and forth with my wife. She lives down in Blue and I work in Prescott. Weekends I'm up here. I'm a pilot, so I fly back and forth.

As a pilot -- and I fly all over the state, I would think it would be an exacting -- an
effort to represent this District 1 in congressional district. It would be a daunting task. I don't see how a representative would be able to even come close to representing the people here.

And I'm a pilot and my plane goes 200 miles an hour, and I would have a difficult time representing this county -- this district here.

And both on the legislative part, it's a vast increase -- I don't see how anybody is going to really represent this area properly, and I feel you ought to really consider redrawing the map some.

I appreciate the thought.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to address the Commission?

Okay. Well, I'll ask my fellow commissioners if they would like to say anything.

I'll start with Vice Chair Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.

Thank you all for coming out today. It's really a pleasure. It was a beautiful drive up to Eagar this morning.

When I was coming down the 260, I saw a
nice herd of antelope just north of the road. I
don't know why I see them whenever I don't have an
antelope tag, but there they were. And so it's
great to come up here.

I think one thing I want to emphasize is
something that each of the other commissioners have
said in other hearings, is that the congressional
map and the legislative map that we put out, the
Commission has put out for public comment, are
drafts. And they've all noted that there will be
changes, and I think it's very incumbent upon this
Commission and on the commissioners to take into
account all public comment and apply the six
constitutional criteria that this Commission is to
follow. And you saw that earlier in the
presentation. And make the necessary changes to
make these maps fit together the way Arizona fits
together.

And that's what I'll be striving to do as
I attend as many of these public comment hearings as
I can. And after the Commission reconvenes to go
back to work with the maps, that will be my goal.

I think later today we're going to be
over in Hon-Dah at 3 o'clock. So if anyone wants to
follow us over there, that's where we'll be.
And I'll stick around as long as needed if any of you have any questions, I'm happy to stick around and answer any questions you may have. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

And Commissioner McNulty.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I would echo those comments. I appreciate you coming out on a Saturday morning. I appreciate your hospitality in this beautiful part of the state. It's a pleasure and a privilege to be able to have an excuse to come up here and spend time.

And this is a complicated process, it truly is. We have to merge together these six criteria.

We are trying very hard to create some rural districts in response to comments we received, at the same time, just by virtue of the rural nature of the state and the way -- where population exists, in order to do that, you have some very -- it covers some very large mountain territory.

So those are the trade-offs, you know, for trying to create rural districts. They are going to cover a lot of ground, but we really do -- I really do appreciate your comments. I appreciate
the thoughtful and professional way in which you delivered them.

And again, I appreciate the opportunity to visit Eagar.

Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.
And I echo both of those commissioners' comments as well. It's a treat to be here and such a beautiful day seeing all of these fall colors in your region. It's incredibly gorgeous.

So we appreciate you participate in this process and we hope you will continue to do so by coming to additional meetings in the region or following us online.

And you can always contact our staff via the office through, you know, calling or e-mailing. Visit our website. There's a lot of information out there, we know, and we're trying to make it as accessible and transparent as possible.

So please, you know, keep -- stay with us throughout these next 20 days or so that we are continuing on this journey.

And afterwards, if you have any questions or want to address any of us, please feel free to do so.
And again, thank you for coming.

The time now is 10:24 in the morning and I'll declare this meeting adjourned.

Thank you.

(The meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.)
I, MICHELLE D. ELAM, Certified Reporter No. 50637 for the State of Arizona, do hereby certify that the foregoing 57 printed pages constitute a full, true, and accurate transcript of the proceedings had in the foregoing matter, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

WITNESS my hand this 27th day of October, 2011.

______________________________
MICHELLE D. ELAM
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50637