ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Monday, October 24, 2011
11:14 a.m.

Location

Tohono O'odham Utility Authority
Highway 86
Sells, Arizona 85634

Attending

Linda McNulty, Commissioner
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Joseph Kanefield, Legal Counsel

Reported By:
Marty Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter #50162
COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Good morning.

Let's call this meeting of the Independent Redistricting Commission to order. It's Monday, October 24th at 11:14 a.m.

Let's begin by rising and saying the pledge of allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge was recited.)

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thank you for hosting us in Sells this morning.

I'm Commissioner Linda McNulty.

This meeting being live streamed this morning?

Excellent.

So the other Commissioners will be watching or will have an opportunity to watch the video later on.

I want to thank you for coming to the meeting.

The purpose of these meetings is to allow you to give us input on the draft congressional and legislative maps that we have issued.

We want to hear if you have concerns about the
maps, if you have comments about the maps, if you have suggestions about ways to improve the maps, this is the opportunity to make those comments to us.

There is a requirement under federal law that we have translation services available at each of these meetings, so I'd like now to call our translators up to provide a welcome, and to offer their translation services.

The first is Elsa Gutierrez.

Ms. Gutierrez, could you come up briefly? Thank you.

ELSA GUTIERREZ: Good morning. My name is Elsa Gutierrez, reading a statement. Commissioner McNulty, ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with the Voting Rights Act, a translator/interpreter will be available at all the public hearings in order to provide translations and interpretation services that might be needed for those citizens that need translation and interpretation services.

Please contact the translation interpreters present at this meeting so that he or she can assist you.

Will the interpreters please raise your hands so you can be identified.

(Whereupon the interpreter made a statement in Spanish.)

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thank you very much.

I believe we have two Tohono O'odham interpreters
this morning. The first is Sy Johnson.

THE WITNESS: Good morning. My name is Sy Johnson, Senior, and I was asked to come and assist in interpreting O'odham language.

I'm honored to be here to see -- to hear outside of what goes on in the nation and how the role of O'odham place in this Pima County.

(Whereupon the interpreter made a statement in O'odham.)

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thank you very much.

Canellas Lopez.

THE WITNESS: Good day. My name is Canellas Lopez. I come from the village of Santa Rosa, and Gu Vo District.

I was asked to come here to do translations for this subject.

I was involved in the subject last ten years ago when they had the redistricting, and so I'm pretty familiar with what happens. And so I'm hoping that if there -- my services are needed, that I will do a good job in order to help the people understand what this means for them.

I think many people don't understand what redistricting is, and I think that when people understand, they put a little bit more importance to it, and they seem to want to be involved.
(Whereupon the interpreter made a statement in his native language.)

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thank you very much.

We have with us this morning our assistant executive director, Kristina Gomez.

Our legal counsel, Joe Kanefield, from Ballard and Spahr.

Korinne Belock, from mapping, Strategic Telemetry.

Our court reporter Marty Herder, who's transcribing the hearing.

Our chief technology officer, Buck Forst, who's hiding behind all that stuff over there.

Our two outreach coordinators, Lisa Schmelling and Kristi Olson.

If you have questions, you can ask any of those folks for help.

As I said, we're here today to seek your comments about the draft congressional and legislative maps.

And if anyone would like to comment in the hearing, we have yellow Request to Speak forms at the table there that you can fill out and bring up to me.

And after we do a presentation about the redistricting process, we'll receive your comments at the microphone there.

If you would prefer not to speak at the hearing,
there's an information packet also at the table that provides information about what this redistricting process is all about, and where we are in the process.

And at the back of that there is a blue comment form that you can fill out and leave at the table, or you can send it in at any time in the next week or so.

I think I've told you everything that I need to tell you at this point.

So with that, I will turn it over to Korinne Belock, and ask her to give us all some information about the redistricting process.

KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: Thank you. I'm Korinne Kubena Belock with Strategic Telemetry. I'm happy to be here in this morning in Sells to give you an overview of the draft congressional legislative maps drafted by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

The goal of these meetings is to hear comments from you about these draft maps, so thank you for taking the time to attend.

Before getting into -- well, one more thing. The draft maps are currently under a 30-day review period, so that the Commission can hear your opinion about these maps. So before I get into the maps, I want to give you a quick overview of the redistricting process.

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

So due to the 2010 census, the state of Arizona gained a congressional seat, going from eight seats to nine seats.

So what are the requirements of the State Constitution via Prop 106?

The new district boundaries must comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act, and must have equal population. And criteria A and B are federally mandated.

And then to the extent practicable, the districts must be compact and contiguous, respect communities of interest, use visible geographic features, city, town and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts. And, finally, favor competitive districts where no significant detriment to other goals.

So just a little bit about the Voting Rights Act today.

Arizona's congressional and legislative districts must receive pre-clearance 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 pre-clearance, 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.

Also under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans cannot be retrogressive.

The plans cannot weaken or reduce minority voters' rights.

And finally, the presence of discrimination can be determined by analyzing population data and election results.

So very quickly, I just want to show you a video from Bruce Adelson, with the Federal Compliance and Consulting LLC, who's been providing consult to the Commission on the Voting Rights Act.

(Whereupon, Mr. Bruce Adelson's video presentation was played.)

KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: So I will just pull up the presentation again, very quickly.

And moving through, before we get to the maps, one more section we'll cover is the time line of the Commission. So earlier this year, as step one, the Commission was established.

The commissioners were appointed following a very
thorough screening process and serve in a voluntary role for
the State of Arizona.

Of course, this afternoon we have commissioner
Linda McNulty. Other commissioners not present, Scott
Freeman, Vice Chair, Jose Herrera, Vice Chair, Colleen
Mathis, Chairman, and Richard Stertz, Commissioner.

So the second step in this redistricting process
for the first round of hearings.

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

And after those first round of hearings the
mapping process actually began.

Per proposition 106, the Commission started with a
clean slate, which I'll show you in a bit.

They then divided the state into equal population
and compact grid-like districts and approved a grid map on
August 18th.

Since adopting the grid map, the Commission has
met more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the grid
to accommodate the six constitutional criteria.

And during this time they also received additional
public comments and draft maps from the public as well.
Approval of the draft maps was the next step. On October 3rd the Commission approved draft congressional maps that incorporated changes based on all of the constitutional criteria.

They then approved a draft legislative map on October 10th.

Which brings us to the second round of hearings which are happening right now.

The Commission is currently visiting 25 towns and cities to share the draft maps and to receive additional public input in the months of October and November.

Step five will be approval of the final maps.

Upon completion of the public comment period, the AIRC will adopt the final maps, and then pre-clearance, which Bruce Adelson spoke on a bit.

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

So moving on to the maps.

Before I show you the draft map, I just want to show you the progression of the maps throughout the process.

So the map that you see here on the screen is the congressional map that was approved by the last
Redistricting Commission and was most recently used in the 2010 elections.

Then, per Prop 106, which I mentioned, the Commission was required to start with a blank slate, not taking into consideration any election districts or incumbents.

Also per Proposition 106, the Commission started with a grid map, as I touched on earlier.

Trying to get over a cold here.

So per Proposition 106, the Commission started with a grid map which I touched on. You'll see the grid map on the screen now.

However, the grid map only takes into consideration two of the six constitutional criteria, compactness and equal population.

So in August the Commission asked that two grid maps be drawn, and on August 18th they agreed upon option two, which you see here.

And then after more than 25 meetings, the Commission voted to approve the draft map that you now see on the screen.

In addition to taking into consideration the six criteria, the Commission took into consideration public comment provided via public meetings, round one of hearings, comments mailed, e-mails, hand delivered, telephoned, and
any way possible that they could be delivered to the Commission, those comments were taken.

And then over 5,000 comments helped to develop this draft map that you see on the screen.

Just to point out a couple highlights of the congressional map. The district -- the congressional draft map includes two predominantly rural districts, three border districts, three districts in the Greater Tucson region, five districts that are entirely in Maricopa County. It avoids splitting Arizona's Indian Reservations, and it creates two districts where minority voters have the opportunity to elect their candidate of choice.

So just moving on to the legislative maps.

Like the congressional draft map, the legislative map followed a very similar process.

Here we see the legislative map that the last Commission approved, which was most recently used in the 2010 election.

Again, per Proposition 106, the Commission started with a blank slate, and then a grid map was approved in August, legislative grid map. Similar to the congressional grid map, this grid map only took into consideration two of the six constitutional criteria, equal population and compactness.

Which leads to the legislative draft map.
Arizona has 30 legislative districts and each district elects one senator and two House members.

Some other points to give you about the highlights from the legislative map include, the population growth and reduction was taken into consideration by the Commission. The old districts ranged from about 155,000 to 378,000 in population.

According to the current draft map, population ranges from 207,000 to 215,000.

To comply with the Voting Rights Act, the plan includes ten districts in which minority voters should have an opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

And the draft map includes three districts wholly within Pima County, and three additional southern Arizona districts. 17 districts primarily within Maricopa County. And creates nine districts that are primarily rural.

So moving on to the most important reason why we're here today, is that the AIRC wants your input on these maps.

There's several ways you can do that. You can fill out a Request to Speak at a public hearing and provide the Commission with your input.

Examples of input might include thoughts on all the constitutional criteria, draft congressional map, and a draft legislative map.
You can also submit your input by speaking at a hearing, and filling out a public opinion form at a hearing, or on the AIRC website, and you can visit azredistricting.org, the Commission website, or call 602-542-5221, or also toll free at 855-733-7478 with any comments that you might have about this, the maps.

So another important thing is that the Commission wants you to stay connected through this process.

On the screen you will see a shot of the Commission's website. The arrows highlight a couple key areas of interest.

Under meetings you can find dates for future and past meetings. And in case you'd like to watch the deliberation that went into these draft maps, all of the videos on the -- on the website by dates, you can find the date that you're interested in watching.

If you'd like to make comments, you can click on the public input form which you can see on the red arrow there highlighting that.

If you would like to see the maps, you can click on either of the links there that say maps.

In particular, the arrow down at the bottom will guide you directly to draft maps.

Once you click on that link, you'll see this
screen here.

Basically, most people are, of course, interested in reviewing the draft maps as closely as possible.

So once you get to this screen, you'll see you have several menus of choices. Basically these maps are displayed essentially in a number of different file types from JPEG to PDF to KMZ/Google map.

It can be a little bit confusing, but the one we want to highlight for you that gives you a really good opportunity to review the maps is the KMZ/Google maps, which are circled in red here.

Once you click on that KMZ/Google link, you then are directed to this site, which allows you to view the KMZ/Google map. It's a great way to view the map because you're able to zoom in and out to specific areas that you want to see.

Basically, on the screen here you see the draft congressional map, and then on the left column you'll see there's a number of different filter or labels essentially.

What you can do is unclick on any of those boxes to help you better able to view the map. For example, you can click off of counties that you don't want to view. You can click off the colors of areas that you do not want to view.

And it just enables you to view the map much more
clearly.

So, this is a zoomed out version of the entire state of Arizona, and this is as you zoom into the map.

This, as what you're looking at here is a slide of the districts around Maricopa County.

Again, you have the ability to zoom in and out, down to viewing street names, small street names and individual blocks to see which district they possibly like according to the draft maps.

So that's just a view of the maps.

And then, just moving up, as I wrap this up I want to highlight the Commission's website once again, azredistricting.org. On the website you can draw maps, you can watch hearings, you can also find out details about future meetings.

And I encourage you, if you're in social media, to follow the Commission on Twitter on hash tag AIRC. Also friends of the Commission on Facebook. And you basically, through those two opportunities, to get up to the minute updates from the Commission.

And, again, thank you for coming out this morning to be a part of this process.

Final word on these maps.

Versions of them can be found in the packet that you received today.
And then I'm also available after the public comment period of this meeting. If you have any questions regarding maps or the process, I'm happy to talk you through it. And any of the staff as well, as we mentioned, can help you view the maps more clearly or explain it to you where you can find them on the Commission's website so you can continue to stay connected.

And so I look forward to speaking with you and thanks again for having us today.

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thank you, Ms. Belock.

Thank you.

I have one Request to Speak form, so we'll go ahead and hear from Bill Roe from Pima County. Come up to the microphone and spell your name for Mr. Herder, please.

BILL ROE: Good morning, am I close enough?

Buck, how do I do this?

Good morning, can you hear me now? Good.

I'm Bill Roe, R-O-E, from Tucson and Pima County.

And thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning. And Commissioner McNulty, thank you for being here.

Until after the second World War in an Arizona Supreme Court case in the 1940's, authored by Justice Udall, Native Americans did not have the right to vote in Arizona. And since then they have had that right.
Redistricting is incredibly important to them, not just the Tohono O'odham nation, but the other nations, some 22 federally recognized tribes in Arizona.

The process is extremely important.

I heard Sherman Norris from this nation speak at the Heard Museum a month or so ago in the first round, and he was quite eloquent about what his nation needed in representation.

But like many of us, he felt strongly that the process was going well, that it was important to focus on fairness, it was important to focus on competitiveness, and the -- he gave some proposals for legislative and congressional districts, and those were taken into consideration.

I don't think they were followed completely in the draft maps that are out now.

But, I urge you to continue in your process looking for fairness, looking for competitiveness, and benefiting all Arizonans, including the 22 federally recognized tribes in this state, who in the past did experience voting discrimination.

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thank you Mr. Roe. Is there anyone else who would like to speak before the Commission?
(No oral response.)

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: I'd just say for the record, and for anyone who might be watching on the live stream, one more time, that as Ms. Belock said, there are a number of ways to provide your input to the Commission, including the blue form that's in this packet, on the web, by phone. So please take advantage of those opportunities.

Typically at this point in the meeting the Commissioner who's chairing the meeting asks their fellow Commissioners if they have anything they would like to add, so being the only Commissioner here, I will say I would like to add that, as you heard on our presentation of the Voting Rights Act, is extremely important to this endeavor, and insuring that minorities, including Native American members of our state of Arizona, have the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.

The Native American nations have been very generous in hosting the Commission all over the state. We learn a great deal by traveling to their communities and reservations and we appreciate that.

Mr. Kanefield, given that there's no one else here of the Commission, do you have anything you would like to add.

JOSEPH KANEFIELD: No.

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: That, with one last call
for comments.

    Hearing none, I will declare this meeting

adjourned at 11:47 a.m. in Sells, Arizona.

    (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

* * * * *
BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceeding was
taken before me, Marty Herder, a Certified Court Reporter,
CCR No. 50162, State of Arizona; that the foregoing 20 pages
constitute a true and accurate transcript of all proceedings
had upon the taking of said meeting, all done to the best of
my skill and ability.

DATED at Chandler, Arizona, this 26th day of
October, 2011.

__________________________________________
C. Martin Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 50162