



Minutes of the Redistricting Commission Special Meeting  
December 20, 2011

Hearing Room 4, John A. Cherberg Building, 304 15th Ave, Olympia, Washington  
*Webcast Live on TVW*

**Commission Members Present:**

Lura Powell, Chair  
Tim Ceis

Dean Foster  
Slade Gorton

Tom Huff

**Commission Members Absent:**

None

**Commission Staff Present:**

Bonnie Bunning  
Heather Boe

Genevieve O'Sullivan  
Rachel Gay

Nick Pharris  
Ryan Wilke

**Other Attendees:**

David Anderson, Citizen  
Adam Bartz, House Democratic Caucus  
Rusty Fallis, Assistant Attorney General  
John Milem, Citizen

Joann Poysky, Citizen  
Amy Ruble  
Don Skillman, House Republican Caucus  
Jim Troyer, Senate Republican Caucus

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. with Lura Powell presiding as Chair.

**2. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 13 MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes for December 13 were presented by the Chair for approval.

**Motion:** Commissioner Tim Ceis moved to approve the minutes.

**In favor:** Commissioners Ceis, Foster, Gorton, and Huff.

**Against:** None.

**3. MATTERS PERTAINING TO REDISTRICTING**

Commissioner Dean Foster said the House subcommittee is working on Eastern Washington and they have met several times since Friday. They are exchanging maps, and things are moving quite well.

Commissioner Tom Huff agreed things are going well, but they do have some distance to go.

Commissioner Tim Ceis said the Senate subcommittee has met a couple of times since Friday. They have exchanged new ideas on the congressional map and thought they had narrowed the issues considerably. They may be able to discuss something by the end of the

week. Commissioner Slade Gorton agreed and thought that the issues between he and Commissioner Ceis could be settled quickly and they would have a map soon.

The commissioners agreed to cancel Wednesday's meeting for 1 p.m. They would like to use the day to work in their subcommittees. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 1 p.m.

Chair Powell asked about additional meetings for next week. Commissioner Foster thought they should take it one day at a time. Commissioner Ceis said he thought that if they had draft proposals for their current assignments by the end of the week, then it would help with consolidating issues and boundary adjustments needed to bring the proposals together. He didn't think they should underestimate those tasks.

Commissioner Huff asked if Commissioner Ceis was proposing drafts by the end of the week. Commissioner Ceis stated he would like to have draft maps by Thursday and cancel Friday's meeting. That would give them time to prepare for the meeting on Tuesday, December 27. He thought if things went well in the next day or two for him and Commissioner Gorton, they would be ready by Thursday or Friday.

Ms. Bonnie Bunning, Executive Director, shared feedback from the county auditors, indicating that Skagit, Island, and Benton Counties had sent comments, and that she had been communicating with the Spokane County Auditor who is coordinating the response from some of the larger counties. Ms. Bunning also indicated she had received a rigorous review from John Milem as well.

Mr. Nick Pharris, GIS and Data Specialist, said he will forward materials from John Milem, the Skagit county auditor, and Benton County to the commissioners.

Chair Powell said that Ms. Bunning is encouraging the auditors to provide input as soon as possible.

Commissioner Foster asked Nicholas Pharris how Commission staff were processing the comments received. Mr. Pharris indicated that he would forward a list of comments, as well as shapefiles showing the blocks in question and a table for the blocks that showed the comments received.

Commissioner Foster asked if any of the changes from Mr. Milem involved population. Mr. Pharris indicated that there were a couple of instances with only very small (2 person) populations involved. Most were uninhabited.

Commissioner Foster asked how the comments would be characterized. Mr. Pharris noted that most of the changes were for simplifying the map, and cleaning up disconnected, small uninhabited blocks, or adjusting lines for clarity. An example would be a line that was drawn partly on the south side of a freeway, and partly on the north side, when it could be drawn on the same side without any consequence to the district.

Commissioner Ceis asked that staff prepare a single summary of all the comments from auditors and others in the form of a single table and shapefile.

Ms. Bonnie Bunning shared draft text for the final report and directed commissioners to sections that will need commissioner comments and suggestions. Commissioner Gorton pointed out a couple of errors on the first page for correction.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

D. Paul Hackett, Citizen, South Hill

Richard Champion, Citizen, Federal Way

Tim Burns, Chair, 30<sup>th</sup> District Democrats

John Milem, Citizen

A transcript of the public testimony will be published on the Commission's website at <http://www.redistricting.wa.gov/forums.asp> and can be viewed as a webcast at [http://tvw.org/index.php?option=com\\_tvoplayer&eventID=2011120021](http://tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvoplayer&eventID=2011120021).

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.