



Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

Commission members:

Jim Regnier
Presiding Officer
P O Box 299
Lakeside, MT 59922

Jon Bennion
89 Whitetail
Clancy, MT 59634

Joe Lamson
612 Touchstone Court
Helena, MT 59601

Pat Smith
405 South First West
Missoula, MT 59801

Linda Vaughey
2505 Southridge Drive
Helena, MT 59601

Staff:

Rachel Weiss
Research Analyst
Joe Kolman
Research Analyst
Julianne Burkhardt
Attorney
Dawn Field
Secretary

MINUTES

April 19, 2012

Blackfeet Tribal Business Council Chambers
Browning, Montana

Please note: These minutes provide abbreviated information about committee discussion, public testimony, action taken, and other activities. To the left of each section in these minutes is a time designation indicating the approximate amount of time in hours, minutes, and seconds that has elapsed since the start of the meeting. This time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <http://leg.mt.gov>. On the left-side menu of the home page, select *Committees*, then *Interim*. Once on the page for *Interim Committees*, scroll down to the appropriate committee. The written minutes summary, along with the audio and video recordings, are listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. You must have Real Player to listen to the audio recording or to view the video.

Hard copies of the exhibits for this meeting are available upon request. Legislative Council policy requires a charge of 15 cents a page for copies of the document.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Regnier, Presiding Officer
Jon Bennion
Joe Lamson
Pat Smith

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

Linda Vaughey

STAFF PRESENT

Rachel Weiss, Research Analyst
Joe Kolman, Research Analyst
Julianne Burkhardt, Attorney
Kevin McCue, Secretary

AGENDA AND VISITORS' LIST

Agenda, Attachment #1.
Visitors' list, Attachment #2.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

00:00:11 Commissioner Regnier called the meeting to order and roll was noted (Attachment 3). Commissioner Regnier introduced the committee members and reviewed meeting protocol.

AGENDA

Overview of adopted districting criteria, hearing purpose, and public comment guidelines -- Commissioner Regnier

00:04:54 Commissioner Regnier summarized the mandatory and discretionary criteria for district adoption established by the commission. Commissioner Regnier explained the mandatory criteria used to determine districting.

Public comment

00:13:18 Rep. Rob Cook, HD 27, voiced support for the Existing and Urban Rural Plans, saying that under them communities would not be split internally but rather be linked with like socioeconomic interests (EXHIBIT 1).

00:16:04 Ted Kronebusch, Conrad, used Conrad as an example of why it is necessary to keep communities whole.

00:17:24 Brian Kavenagh, seconded the comments of Mr. Cook and Mr. Kronebusch and voiced support for the urban rural map.

00:19:07 Nathan St. Goddard, on behalf of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, voiced support for the three Indian majority Senate districts and six Indian majority House districts established in 2000. Mr. St. Goddard said the Tribe supports the Communities Plan and believes it affords equal opportunity to participate in the political process.

00:22:56 Liane Johnson, chair of Glacier County GOP, recounted her schooling in Cut Bank and said its ethnic population should not be the only criteria looked at. Ms. Johnson said the Urban Rural Plan best represents the Blackfeet.

00:25:56 Micheal DesRosier, Glacier County Commission, echoed support for the Communities Plan. Mr. DesRosier said it was important to maintain the link between Browning and Cut Bank and to maintain Indian majority districts.

00:29:36 Ronda Hall said she did not believe Browning was being well-represented.

00:31:11 Lea Whitford, candidate in HD 16, voiced support for the Communities Plan. Ms. Whitford said that the issues facing Browning and Cut Bank were the same and that the communities should be kept together.

00:34:08 Commissioner Bennion said he was encouraged by the community's participation. Commissioner Bennion reminded those in attendance that written comments would continue to be accepted through mail and e-mail for the next 11 months.

00:34:52 Commissioner Lamson noted the problems inherent in some of the plans and agreed with the need for establishing of communities of interest.

00:36:11 Commissioner Smith thanked the attendees and invited further participation.

00:36:56 Commissioner Regnier thanked the participants.

Adjourn

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