

Albany County Redistricting Commission [November 8th, 2021]

Attendance

ACRC Commissioners	Other	MMD Commissioners
Joan Ramsey		Dominic Mazza
Warren E. Hamilton		Adrienne Kisse
Larry Volk		Marie Allen Campbell
Patricia Sibia		Larry Mauldin
Thomas Clingan		Keshana Owens-Cody
Sita Subbaram		Constance Graves
Leif Hartmark		
Julia Reeb		
Mark McCumber	Caitlin O' Brien	

Discussion Items

Website

- Items to be added on the website. Ideas given by Patricia. All announcements should be in a prominent spot on the website.
- Meetings changed to hearings
- A page for MMD subcommittee- the content to be decided by the MMD subcommittee and input to be obtained from the subcommittee
- All members should work on a brief bio for the website (use of a common template)
- A point person is required at the county to help with website.

Shared Folders

- A repository of documents that pertains to the operation of the commission and MMD and access for both.

Interns

- Address hiring interns and the process with Patrick Collins

Timeline

- Tentative timelines designed by Mark McCumber
- Dates for the public hearing need to be decided
- This will be a public document when finalized
- Discussion on MMD and the commission to work in tandem to complete the process in a timely manner
- Specific deadline discussed (project to be completed by June 2022 with an eye on the legislature meeting schedule). The absolute deadline is September 2022.
- Deadline for MMD to complete their report by end of March or middle of April tentatively (open item), the MMD must be completely convened.

MMD subcommittee

- Discussion on appointing other members
- No recommendations about MMD candidates from the commission 3 members of the initially appointed subcommittee will select the 4 by majority vote. Issue was raised about the MMD making appointments based on candidate recommendations received from the Commission. Chairman made a motion in the meeting that the commission agree that candidates provided to MMD by Patrick Collins from the Applicant Database be considered recommendations from the Commission and it passed.
- RFP template was provided by Patrick Collins
- Timeframe of RFP being issued and available for parties to submit applications (20 days)

Evaluation Tool

- Warren E. Hamilton has designed an evaluation tool.
- Discussion and comments on it to be held the following weeks after the commission goes through it.

Mapping RFP

- More description needed in the evaluation criteria
- Software for mapping (Vendor provided vs obtain separately from outside)

- Software used should be able to be used and maps generated be able to be viewed by the public. Proprietary software may have some issues and any output generated should let the public have access to the data.
- Discussion on separate RFPs and hiring of mapping companies for the ACRC and MMD subcommittee.
- MMD should be drawing the maps for the MMD districts (currently 5) and the ACRC for the remaining districts. The commission will then submit the finalized maps to the legislature.
- Methodology needs to be similar in the mapping between ACRC and MMD, however it may be a good idea to have two separate firms to avoid conflict situation.
- Two separate RFPs and the best consultant should be appointed even if they are the same company. ACRC and MMD will use their own separate evaluation to appoint a mapper. Independent mapping and then a collaboration to make final recommendation. The rules are present in local law and should be considered and followed. (Legal should also be consulted with these options)
- Methodology may be difficult to define, common software may be a better option.
- Discussion on whether the commission should start with maps for the MMD districts first and then work our way out to the other districts. (Open item on this topic as well as regarding the timeline of completion). Majority of the population live in the city and leaving the MMD districts till the end may create an issue (open item)
- Request has been sent to Patrick Collins to obtain transcript of the local law regarding redistricting to get more context and last decade litigation.
- General set of criteria for redistricting will be circulated and priorities will be discussed and decided on.

Counsel RFP

- Timeline for getting to a contract for counsel may extend to end of December especially if the cost is 100,000 dollars or more which requires full legislative approval.

Public Hearing

- Possibly holding 1st hearing January or February of 2022 before maps are drawn. (open item for next week discussion)

Notes prepared by Sita Subbaram from the November 8th 2021 zoom recording.