

## Albany County Redistricting Commission [Minutes: April 3, 2022]

### Attendance

<b>ACRC Commissioners</b>	<b>Intern</b>	<b>MMD</b>
<del>Joan Ramsey</del>	Nick Glass	
<del>Warren E. Hamilton</del>		
Larry Volk		
Patricia Sibilgia		
Thomas Clingan		
Sita Subbaram		
Leif Hartmark		
Julia Reeb		
Mark McCumber		

Chairman Volk convened the meeting at 6:03 PM, and called the roll. 7 ACRC members were present, plus our intern Nick Glass.

The draft minutes of meetings held on February 28 and March 6, 7 and 14 were reviewed, and with no changes needed it was moved and seconded to approve these minutes, which passed without opposition. Members were asked to review March 21 and 28 minutes before the next meeting.

The second joint Public Hearing with the MMD on April 14 was discussed at length. Since the current Governor's order authorizing virtual meetings expires that day, ACRC members can attend in person or virtually, as can the public. The hearing will be live-streamed, and Zoom will be used for members and the public attending virtually.

There was discussion of how our regular meetings will have to change if the Governor's order is not extended past April 14. We should seek Professor Wice's advice about this at tomorrow's meeting.

We discussed the draft timeline, especially the timing of the creation of maps and future public hearings. The first MMD map, including 6 proposed Majority Minority Districts, is available on our website for review and comment. Also discussed was how to get more community input in the process, by reaching out to municipalities within the county to publicize what we are doing and when our Public Hearings are. In the City of Albany, we could reach out to neighborhood associations as part of this effort. Our use of Facebook and Twitter so far has been limited; we could try to find a student to assist with this particular outreach effort. When these accounts are not active with new postings, people lose interest in them.

Discussion returned to our timeline. Tentative target dates for creating maps were set, with a public hearing on each set to follow approximately week later. The issue was raised of how to hold hearings in differing locations given the significant technical challenges of hybrid public

hearings. It was calculated that the ideal legislative district population of 8105 with a maximum deviation of 2.5% over or under means a range from 7900 to 8300 for district populations (as long as the average remains 8105.)

ACRC members can reach out to local governments, asking them to publicize our public hearings on their websites or newsletters, and tentative assignments were agreed on for which members would handle which municipalities. The largest of these (Albany) is more complicated, and would also involve the MMD subcommittee. One approach to Albany would be to also contact neighborhood associations. We need to have materials (e.g. a “catchy” flyer) ready to share with these entities in such outreach to the public.

Discussion followed about planning for the final report of the Commission, especially assigning specific report-related tasks to Commission members. The report should include the documents we have created (e.g. Progress Reports) as well as sections such as lessons learned. Right now the priority is our next Public Hearing, but planning for the final report now makes sense, since May and June will be busy months for ACRC and the MMD.

Tom volunteered to draft a second Progress Report for consideration by the Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

**ACTION ITEM:** Minutes of 2/28, 3/6, 3/7 and 3/14 were approved.

Meeting notes drafted by Tom Clingan.