

MINUTES

BROWN COUNTY CITIZENS DRAFTING AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING #3

BROWN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY
(2198 GLENDALE AVENUE
GREEN BAY, WI 54303)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021
5:30 PM

ROLL CALL:

David Atkins	<u>Present</u>
Robert Cook	<u>Present</u>
Randy Griswold	<u>Present</u>
Stan Kaczmarek	<u>Present</u>
Timothy Kneeland	<u>Excused</u>
Christine Seidl	<u>Present</u>
Terri Trantow	<u>Present</u>

Others Present: Brown County Planning Director Cole Runge, Brown County Senior Planner Devin Yoder, and Brown County Planner Ker Vang.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson S. Kaczmarek at 5:31 p.m.

1. Approval of the minutes of the January 28, 2021 committee meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by R. Cook and seconded by R. Griswold. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Seidl arrived at 5:33 p.m.

2. Discussion regarding US Census data distribution delays.

C. Runge updated the committee on the estimated release date for the US Census data needed to develop the new Brown County supervisory district maps. He stated that the US Census Bureau expects the data will be made available by September 30, 2021.

D. Atkins arrived at 5:38 p.m.

A committee member asked about the possibility of the data not being available at all in 2021.

D. Yoder stated that it is possible the data will not be available in 2021.

S. Kaczmarek discussed information that was presented during a redistricting webinar that was hosted by the Wisconsin Counties Association in February.

Discussion occurred regarding the impact the data distribution delays might have on Brown County's redistricting process and the redistricting processes at the state and federal levels.

C. Runge stated that staff will wait until the data are available to begin developing the county's supervisory district maps. When the data are available, staff will rely on the weighted criteria developed by the committee to guide the mapping effort.

3. Committee approval of weighted criteria for developing Brown County's supervisory district maps.

The committee continued the mapping criteria identification and weighting discussion that began during the committee's January meeting.

A committee member asked if the "compactness" and "density" criteria are identical.

D. Yoder stated these criteria are similar but not identical. He stated that "compactness" in this case largely refers to the boundaries of supervisory districts and that "density" largely refers to the population within supervisory districts. For example, to maximize "compactness", a district should not include serpentine sections that are extended long distances to include people who are relatively far away from most of the district's population. D. Yoder also provided illustrations of districts that are and are not compact.

A committee member asked about the difficulty of developing compact and dense supervisory districts in the county's rural areas.

D. Yoder stated that it will likely be difficult to avoid making some rural districts large and oddly shaped because of the rural area's low population density and large census blocks.

A suggestion was made by a committee member to add industrial areas to the mapping criteria as a "Community of Interest". The member stated this makes sense because these areas significantly affect the people and neighborhoods around them.

After discussion, the committee agreed to add industrial areas as a mapping criterion.

A committee member asked if the school district boundaries criterion identified at the January meeting should be removed from the list. After discussion, the committee decided to retain this criterion but to include it as a "Community of Interest".

A committee member asked staff if the committee is identifying too many criteria for the mapping effort.

D. Yoder stated that the committee is not identifying too many criteria. He stated that all the criteria will not apply in all mapping situations and that staff will rely on the applicable criteria when mapping decisions have to be made.

A committee member stated that the committee decided to include the Oneida Nation as a component of the Racial and Ethnic Groups criterion at the January meeting. The other

committee members agreed that this was the decision of the committee at the January meeting.

S. Kaczmarek asked if the committee is satisfied with the criteria that have been identified and the order in which the criteria are ranked. S. Kaczmarek then asked for a motion to approve the following weighted criteria:

- 1. Equal population**
- 2. Compactness**
- 3. Contiguity**
- 4. Racial and ethnic groups**
 - a. As identified by the census**
- 5. Municipal boundaries**
- 6. Natural boundaries**
- 7. Communities of interest**
 - a. Rural and Urban**
 - b. Agricultural**
 - c. Post-Secondary Students**
 - d. Neighborhood Associations**
 - e. Industrial Areas**
 - f. School District Boundaries**
- 8. Same number of supervisors (+/- 2 supervisors)**

A motion to approve the weighted criteria was made by D. Atkins and seconded by C. Seidl. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Discussion of next steps.

C. Runge stated that the committee's work is finished until the census data are released and staff can start to develop the supervisory district maps. He stated that staff would like to meet with the committee about halfway through the 30-day map development period to present the preliminary mapping results and discuss how the weighted criteria are working. He stated that the committee will then meet one more time to select a preferred supervisory district map to recommend to the Brown County Board of Supervisors Chairperson.

C. Runge stated that staff will provide the committee members as much advance notice as possible of the dates and times of these meetings.

S. Kaczmarek invited the committee members to participate in redistricting webinars that may be offered over the next several months to enable the members to keep up with the status of the data release and learn how elections might be affected by the release delay.

5. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.