

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
October 19, 2010
Administrative Center – Room 3220

MEMBERS PRESENT:	S. Doyle, T. Johnson, J. Billings, J. Medinger, S. Hampson, M. Pedretti, D. Manthei, A. Kader, J. Heim, J. Ehrsam, M. Naegle, M. Larson
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	None
OTHERS PRESENT:	J. Bluske, L. Stone, T. Lehrke, T. Acklin, C. Burmaster, M. Giese, R. Becker, L. Decker, J. Gilman, J. Barstow, B. Williams

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Steve Doyle called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and everyone introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2010 REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MINUTES

MOTION by Johnson/Billings to approve the September 20, 2010 Redistricting Committee minutes **carried unanimously**.

OCTOBER 2010 DEMOGRAPHICS UPDATED ESTIMATE

Jeff discussed the letter from the Wisconsin Department of Administration which contained the final 2000 Census Count and the 2010 Final Estimate, which was 113,758. It appears that we increased by a little over 5,000 people. Jeff feels that this estimate will probably be within @500 people when we receive the final count.

2006 REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE REPORT

Steve Doyle indicated that the laws may restrict our abilities to do some things in this area. When we had the County Board Size Study Committee in 2006, we looked at what our options would be. The law states that you can change district numbers at the County Board level once in between. There was some question with regard to following existing ward lines. Bill Shepherd felt it was best to follow the statutory guidelines and provide the municipalities with a tentative plan 60 days after receiving the census. Once the municipalities receive the County plan, it is their obligation to create wards that fit within that plan – they need to take the districts that we provide to them to create their wards within these districts.

In Section 5.15 of the statutes, it states that a city in which the population is at least 39,000 but less than 150,000 each ward shall contain not less than 800 nor more than 3200 inhabitants. The aldermanic districts do not have to match the County Supervisory district lines. The wards that are created by the City have to fit within the Supervisory districts.

Sharon Hampson discussed the findings from the County Board Size Study Committee. Because of the law that was passed, there were several different provisions that had an impact on their decisions. One issue was committee assignments – how would the committee structure change with a different number of County Board Supervisors? What would be the role and the purpose of a much smaller Board?

DOWNSIZED COUNTIES INFORMATION/OPINIONS

As Steve discussed at our first meeting, the two things that we really need to resolve here before actually drawing lines are:

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1. What size should the County Board be?
2. Staggered or non-staggered?

The County Clerk had compiled summaries from several different counties that had downsized and this was discussed. What more information do we want at this point to make a recommendation to the County Board in terms of what size the Board should be? Another issue that needs to be addressed is why counties with bigger county boards have lower taxes (Wisconsin Taxpayer Alliance information).

The Onalaska City Reapportionment Committee will meet after the November election and report back to this committee.

Sheboygan County did an in-depth study regarding County Board Size and Organizational Structure. Would this be something La Crosse County would want to do? It was decided to pick 1-2 counties in Minnesota that are similar in size and see what their board size is; what is their budget; how many meetings they have; committee structure, do they have responsibility for Human Services and Courts?

Next Steps to move the process forward:

1. Hear back from the City of La Crosse after they meet
2. What type of structure does each entity need to function
3. Get Minnesota and Iowa information (Linda Stone, Jeff Bluske, Steve Doyle)
4. Wisconsin Taxpayer Alliance Information (Jim Ehram/Linda Stone)
5. Put on Executive Committee Agenda (look at committee structure)

UPDATE FROM CITY OF LA CROSSE

Once the City of La Crosse has their meeting, they will call Steve Doyle to give an update on where they are at. Then we will decide when we want this committee to meet. Also, Steve and other committee members of the Redistricting Committee that want to attend, will try to attend their meetings. Jeff will do a chart using the current numbers (from 35 to 20) so the committee can see how many people would be in La Crosse, Onalaska, and the villages.

UPDATE FROM CITY OF ONALASKA

The City of Onalaska is not looking to reduce their council size. They need to have a minimum of 8 wards and are looking at reducing the ward size if possible – they currently have 13 wards now.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Manthei/Heim to adjourn the meeting at 4:22 p.m. **carried unanimously.**

The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next Committee meeting.

Recorded by Terri Pavlic