



## MEETING MINUTES

### AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR REDISTRICTING OF SUPERVISORY DISTRICTS

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### TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUP TO AD HOC REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2011 – 3:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM N-1, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
ROCK COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
JANESVILLE, WI

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Russ Podzilni called the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee for Redistricting of Supervisory Districts and the Technical Support Group to the Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee to order at 3:00 p.m.

#### INTRODUCTION OF AD HOC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF

Committee members introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their position. In attendance were:

Present from the Ad Hoc Committee were: Russ Podzilni (Chair), Kurtis Yankee, Sandy Kraft, Ethel Himmel, Dave Brown, James Joiner, Larry Nehls, and Sue Conley. Absent was Marilyn Jensen.

Present from the Technical Support Group were: Lori Stottler (Chair), Jean Wulf, Rebecca Houseman, Cindy Heggelund, John Lader. None were absent.

Present from the Staff of Rock County were: Paul Benjamin (Director of Planning, Economic & Community Development), Jennifer Borlick (GIS Mgr.), Randy Terronez (Asst. to County Administrator), Nick Osborne (Asst. to County Administrator), Jeff Kuglitsch (Corporation Counsel), and Cheryl Martin (Accountant - Planning & Development).

#### 2010 CENSUS AND REDISTRICTING IN ROCK COUNTY

Committee Chair Podzilni suggested the committee view the handout titled "WCA 2011 County Redistricting Guide" as a helpful tool. This publication was prepared for the Wisconsin Counties Association to provide county officials and involved citizens with a general understanding of the county redistricting process and the statutes and legal principles that govern it.

Chair Podzilni emphasized the group's overall purpose is to utilize recently released 2010 Census data to address Rock County's population increase of approximately 10,000 residents. There will continue to be 29 Supervisory Districts. A couple of guidelines for the redistricting process are to avoid splitting up areas of ethnicity or race (thereby reducing an area's representation) and maintain an approximately equal amount of population in each supervisory district. In the 2000 County Redistricting, Rock County was rated the best in the state in terms of redistricting equal populations for its

supervisory districts. A generally accepted legal definition for equality of population is no more than 10% total deviation (no more than 5% above or 5% below) from the target population.

**MATERIALS REVIEW**

Paul Benjamin presented a summary of the census data and the projections based on it. Based on 29 Supervisory Districts for 2010 and that "substantially equal" to be within 10% total deviation (no more than 5% above or 5% below) then the calculations would be as follows:

2010 Rock County Population .....	160,331
Number of County Board Supervisors.....	29
Target number of People per Supervisory District.....	5,529
Substantially Equal .....	(+/-276)
Target Population Range .....	5,254 – 5,805
Total Population Increase .....	8,024
2010 Target Number of People per Supervisory District .....	5,529
2000 Target Number of People per Supervisory District .....	5,252
Average Increase of Population in Each Supervisory District.....	277

Mr. Benjamin discussed the timeline for completion of the redistricting process. The County has 60 days from March 21st to create a tentative Supervisory District Plan, hold a Public Hearing and adopt the proposed plan before being transmitted to the municipalities. To meet that deadline, those items would be placed on the May 12th agenda of the Rock County Board of Supervisors.

**WISE-LR**

Jennifer Borlick gave a presentation on the WISE-LR (Wisconsin Shape Editor for Local Redistricting) software application that Rock County will be using for the redistricting process. This software application allows municipalities, counties and technical staff to assign census blocks and population data in order to build plans for supervisory districts.

**REDISTRICTING CRITERIA**

Paul Benjamin gave a PowerPoint presentation on the principles of redistricting. Key points of the presentation were:

*Population sizes in supervisory districts should be substantially equal.* The most important standard to achieve is "one person, one vote among the districts that compose the jurisdiction." The objective used to achieve this standard is "substantial equality of population" of the representative districts within a jurisdiction. An ideal or target population is the total population divided by the number of districts. "Substantial equality of population" is generally accepted to be no more than 10% total deviation (no more than 5% above or 5% below) from the target population. Assuming 29 supervisory districts in Rock County and with a 2010 Census population of 160,331, Rock County has a target population per supervisory district of 5,528 (according to WISE-LR).

*Compact or Contiguous Districts.* Compactness or Contiguity can be defined in many ways. District lines that follow geographic or physical boundaries or neighborhood or

school district boundaries are a few of the factors that should be taken into consideration. Where possible, whole municipalities should be kept within the same district. Districts must avoid "gerrymandering" - the intentional formation of districts that would favor a specific political party.

Districts should preserve "Communities of Interest" and Minority Populations. The Voting Rights Act provides that a citizen's right to vote shall not be "denied or abridged" on account of race or color. Populations should have as much opportunity as possible to elect representatives who reflect their backgrounds and interests.

When possible, preserve supervisory districts already in place. If continuity and composition of existing districts are maintained, incumbents will not be forced to run against one another or seek re-election by voters who were formerly part of another district.

### DISCUSSION

The committee members discussed various criteria for creating tentative Supervisory Districts. Criteria discussed included:

- Substantially equal population
- Contiguous and compact districts
- Whole Municipalities where possible
- Preservation of Communities of Interest / Minority Populations
- Preservation of cores of districts already in place
- Municipal ward size restrictions
- City/County representation
- Polling Place considerations
- School District considerations
- Physical features
- Future development areas

### ADJOURNMENT

Chair Podzilni adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

### NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee and the Technical Support Group for Redistricting will be Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 3:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the N-1 & 2 Conference Rooms on the Fifth Floor of the Rock County Courthouse.