MEETING MINUTES

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR REDISTRICTING OF
SUPERVISORY DISTRICTS
&
TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUP TO AD HOC
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2011 – 3:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM N-1, 5TH 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.

ROLL CALL:

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

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), and Jeff Kuglitsch (Corporation Counsel).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

John Lader and Marilynn Jensen motioned to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion passed by acclamation.

Director, Paul Benjamin spent several minutes reviewing the "Criteria for Creating Tenative Supervisory Districts" as follows (in no particular priority order):
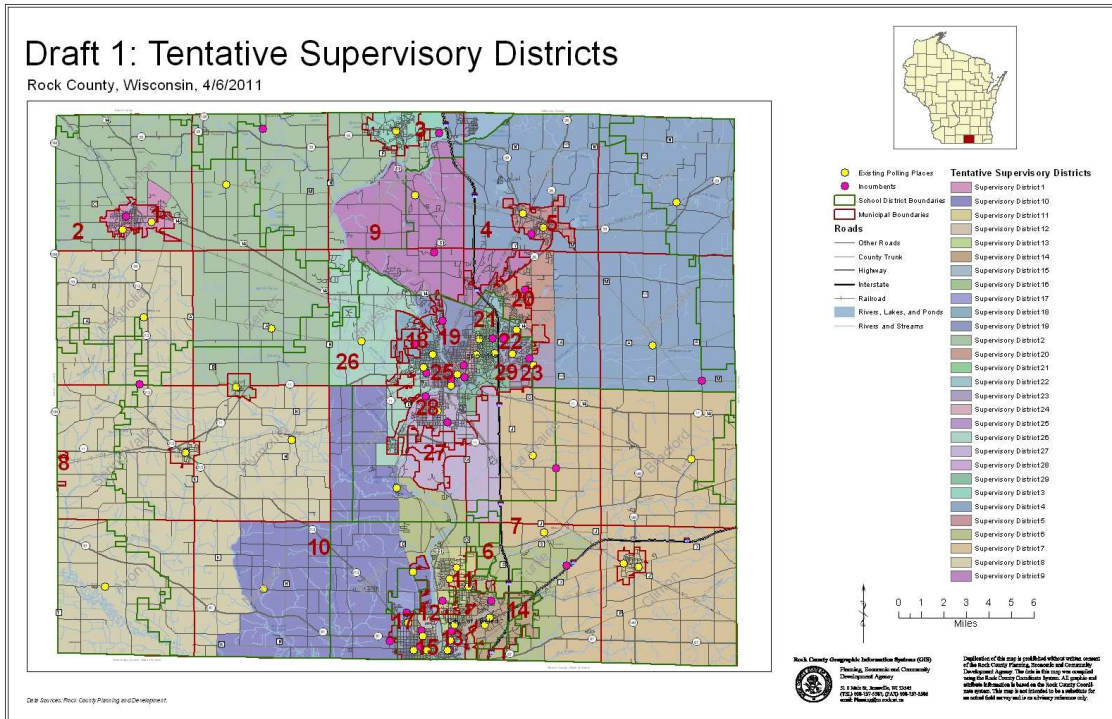- Basic Principles include:
  - Substantially Equal Population: +5/-5% deviation from target population of 5528.66. Although the 2001 Redistricting plan fell within 1% either way, this deviation will allow for greater flexibility for using natural and physical boundaries such as highways, rivers and boundary lines.
  - Contiguous in shape and ethnicity
  - Compact as to not dilute ethnic populations, etc.

- Additional Considerations that may apply:
  - Whole municipalities where possible
  - Preservation of Communities of Interest/Minority Polulations
  - Preservation of cores of Districts already in place

- o Municipal ward size restrictions
- o City/County representation
- o Polling place considerations
- o School District considerations
- o Physical features
- o Future development/growth areas

Prior to introducing Jennifer who presented the first proposed Supervisory District Map Plan, he emphasized that the plan is a preliminary map and that it is this committee's charge to review and provide feedback and recommend changes to the plan. He commented that given that our first meeting was just one week ago, Jennifer has made great progress and worked with the technical committee to provide what he thought was a great first draft.

GIS Manager, Jennifer Borlick presented the map and described each Supervisory Districts features in picture and text format:

Supervisory District 1:
    The population of the City of Evansville is close to the target population. The entire city plus several blocks outside the city in areas of anticipated growth and comparatively high population were used.
Supervisory District 2:
    This District completely contains the Town of Porter, Town of Center and Village of Footville. It also extends into the Town of Union and contains all blocks not included in Supervisory District 1. It extends into the Town of Fulton being bounded on the east by the Rock River and extending to the northeast to Supervisory District 3.
Supervisory District 3:
    The population of the Rock County portion of the City of Edgerton is close to the target population. The entire city plus blocks in the Town of Fulton located within the city as well were used to create the District as well as extending east to I-90 and I-39 and the Rock River. Extending the District to the east preserves the core of the existing supervisory district, and follows the physical feature of the Rock River and the highway.

Supervisory District 4:

    The District completely contains the Town of Lima and the Town of Johnstown. The District extends into:

- Town of Milton except for Supervisory District 5. It extends to the west of I-90 to meet the whole municipality requirement.
- Town of Fulton to the east of I-39/I-90 to increase population around Lake Koshkonong and to meet the physical feature requirement, except for a small portion of Supervisory District 9 which is there due to a school district boundary.
- Population in the Town of Harmony needed to bring the population in line with the target population.

Supervisory District 5:

    The population of the City of Milton is close to the target population. We were able to include the entire City. No blocks outside the City were used.

Supervisory District 6:

    The District is in the Town of Turtle that is not included in District 7.

- It wraps around the city and is in the island populations in the interior of the city in consideration of future annexations from the Town of Turtle into the City of Beloit.
- It extends into the Town of Beloit to Afton Road as a physical feature.
- It extends north into the Town of Rock to the east of Hwy 51 as there is a minority population that may have been fractured in other scenarios used to try to equalize the total population among the Districts that came together in this area.
- It extends to the West of the Rock River to increase the population to the target population with Afton Rd as a physical feature.

Supervisory District 7:

    The District completely contains the Town of Bradford, Town of Clinton and the Village of Clinton. It extends into the Town of La Prairie up to I-90 as a physical feature. It also extends into the Town of Turtle to increase population to the target population. It wraps around District 6 so that District 6 can remain contiguous around the city.

Supervisory District 8:

    The District completely contains Town of Avon, Town of Spring Valley, Town of Magnolia, Town of Plymouth and Village of Orfordville. It also extends into the Town of Newark to increase the population of the District. The Town of Newark was chosen as the "partial" township because the population was greater than 1,000 which would the Town to be divided into 2 wards.

Supervisory District 9:

    This District uses the Rock River on the west as a physical feature in both the Town of Janesville and the Town of Fulton. In the Town of Fulton it uses I-90 as a physical feature and the town boundary and a school district boundary as political boundaries. The District extends into the Town of Harmony and the City of Janesville using major roads as physical features and school district boundaries as political boundaries.

Supervisory District 10:

- This District contains that portion of the Town of Newark not in District 8 and extends into the Town of Beloit not contained in District 6.
- It extends into the City of Beloit to the south to move District 17 north and wraps around and through the west and north portions of the City in consideration of future annexations.
- It extends north into Town of Rock to the west of the Rock River not included in Districts 6 and 26.

Supervisory District 11:

    This District is in the Town of Beloit and the City of Beloit. Attempts were made to follow physical features and municipal /school district boundaries in an attempt to make it compact and to minimize the number of ballot styles created with this plan and for future annexations.

Supervisory District 12:

    This District is located completely within the City of Beloit. It is bounded on the north by the municipal boundary and to the east by the Rock River. Blocks were chosen to minimize deviation from the Target Population.

Supervisory District 13:

    This District is located completely within the City of Beloit.

- It is bounded by the municipal boundary on one and a half sides. It is bounded by the Rock River to the west.
- It extends north into the city to maintain contiguity for adjacent blocks and to prevent other districts from being "pushed" into the Town of Turtle island populations.

Supervisory District 14:

This District is completely within the City of Beloit. It causes District 6 in the "island populations" to not be contiguous with the rest of District 6. However contiguity doesn't necessarily have to be maintained to preserve whole municipalities. (It is possible to create a contiguous Supervisory District for 6 and put these islands into District 14. This would cause both Districts 14 and 6 to be in both the City of Beloit and the Town of Turtle.)

Supervisory District 15:

This District is completely within the City of Beloit. It is bounded by the Rock River to the west and municipal boundaries at the south and east. It extends north to make up the target population.

Supervisory District 16:

This District is completely within the City of Beloit. It is bounded by the Rock River to the east and the municipal boundary to the south. It extends north and south to reach the target population and maintain compactness.

Supervisory District 17:

This District is completely within the City of Beloit. It is bounded to the west by a municipal boundary and a school district boundary. The District is moved north to capture a block that contains an apartment complex that was built after the last re-districting. There is a minority population within this block that may have more in common with the citizens in the rest of District 17 than with the citizens in District 10.

Supervisory District 18:

This District is located in both the City of Janesville and the Town of Janesville. It is bounded by the Rock River on the east and the municipal boundary on the north and to the west. It uses roads as physical features to make the District compact.

Supervisory District 19:

This District is located within the City of Janesville. It is bounded on the west by the Rock River, to the south and east by major roads and to the north by school district and municipal boundaries.

Supervisory District 20:

This district is located within the City of Janesville and the Town of Harmony. It is bounded to the west by a school district and to the north and east by major roads. It extends south past Highway A as a result of the school district boundary to the west.

Supervisory District 21:

This District is located completely within the City of Janesville. It uses major roads as physical features on all sides.

Supervisory District 22:

This District is located completely within the City of Janesville. It uses major roads as physical features to the west and south, and municipal/school district boundaries to the east and north.

Supervisory District 23:

This District is located within the City of Janesville and the Town of Harmony. It is bounded by municipal boundaries to the south and east and roads on all other sides except for those blocks in District 20. It extends past Wright Rd. and Ruger Ave. in the southwest to increase the population to meet the target population.

Supervisory District 24:

This District is completely within the City of Janesville. It is bounded to the southwest by the Rock River and on all other sides by major roads.

Supervisory District 25:

This District is located within the City of Janesville. It is bounded to the east and south by the Rock River and all other sides by roads and railroads. It captures the Fourth Ward neighborhood.

Supervisory District 26:

This District is located within the City of Janesville, the Town of Janesville and the Town of Rock. It is bounded in the northeast and southeast by the Rock River. It wraps the city on the west in consideration of future annexations.

Supervisory District 27:

This District is located within the City of Janesville, the Town of Rock and the Town of La Prairie. It is bounded by the Rock River to the west and I-90 to the east. It is bounded to the north by major roads and a municipal boundary to the north. It is bounded to the south by municipal boundaries except for that portion that is located in District 6.

Supervisory District 28:

This District is located completely within the City of Janesville. It is bounded by the Rock River to the west and north, and major roads to the east and south.

Supervisory District 29:

        This District is located completely within the City of Janesville. It is bounded by municipal boundaries in the southeast and roads on all other sides. Major roads were used as often as possible, but in some cases minor roads were used to equalize the population.

Jennifer also distributed a chart that showed each district with a breakdown of ethnicity and total population.

Discussion followed. After thirty minutes of discussion, Chair Podzilni in conferring with Corporation Counsel agreed that it would be best for these areas of the County that carry concern to have them meet in the next few days to address and amend and come back to discuss at our next meeting.

Kurt Yankee asked if it would be possible for each Supervisory District to have a blown up view of their map and Jennifer suggested that they be converted to pdf and emailed rather than running so many color copies that would likely change and quickly become outdated. She will work on that.

Dave Brown wanted to express how impressed he was with the progress made to date and the fact that Jennifer was able to fall within +3/-3% deviation across the county.

It was recommended that in the southern portion of the County that the Town of Turtle Clerk, Town of Beloit Clerk and City of Beloit Clerk meet personally with Jennifer to discuss challenges that arose out of this discussion. Lori will also make contact with the City of Evansville as well to seek input from the Clerk and their Comp. plan to determine if the growth areas were properly targeted.

ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by John Lader and Kurt Yankee to adjourn to April 12th at 3:30. Chair Podzilni adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE
The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee and the Technical Support Group for Redistricting will be Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 3:30 PM**. The meeting will be held in the Courthouse Conference Room on the 2nd floor of the Rock County Courthouse**.

Minutes submitted by Lori Stottler – Not official until approved by Committee.