

The following are the minutes of the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission meeting. The meeting was held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. Taylorsville State Office Building 4315 2700 W, Room # 1400 Taylorsville, UT 84129

Note: A copy of meeting materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found on the Public Notice Website. The minutes may refer to the recording found on the Public Notice Website with the approximate number on the recording where an issue is being discussed.

Attendance - Commission Members

Chair, Utah Independent Redistricting Commission - Rex Facer
Commissioner Christine Durham
Commissioner Karen Hale
Commissioner Lyle Hillyard
Commissioner Jeff Baker
Commissioner William Thorne
Commissioner Robert Bishop (virtually)

Attendance - Staff and Others in Attendance at Anchor Location:

Gordon Haight, Executive Director
Aly Escobar, Administrative Coordinator
Beau Bayless
Sariah Morey
Joey Fica
Matt Cannon, Legal Counsel
Cassidy Hansen

Attendance – Public in Attendance

Stuart Hepworth
Travis DeJong
Katie Wright
Richard Jaramillo, Utah Coalition of La Raza, Utah Coalition of la Raza - UCLR (virtually)
Daniel Friend (virtually)
Kevin Jones (virtually)
Lauren Beheshti (virtually)
Chase Thomas, Alliance for a Better Utah (Virtually)

I. Call to Order

Chair Facer began the meeting at 4:03 PM

II. Welcome – Chair Rex Facer

Chair Facer welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the commissioners for taking time from their schedules.

III. Action Item – Approve Minutes of August 27, 2021 and September 3, 2021

Chair Facer moved to the next item and asked for any needed corrections to the minutes from the August 27 or September 3 meetings.

Commissioner Hillyard motioned to approve the minutes as they were distributed.

Commissioner Hale seconded the motion

The votes were recorded as follows:

Commissioner Baker, Aye

Commissioner Durham, Aye

Commissioner Hillyard, Aye

Commissioner Chair Face, Aye

Commissioner Thorne, Aye

Commissioner Hale, Aye

Chair Facer called the motion and the minutes were approved.

IV. Action Item: Amendment to Public Hearings Schedule

Chair Facer turned the time to staff to present the amended public hearing schedule, noting that there had been some requests for additional meetings.

Gordon Haight then presented the changes to the meeting schedule. The schedule presented can be found here: <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/publicbody/7241.html>. Additionally, an up to date schedule with times and addresses can be found on the UIRC website, uirc.utah.gov.

Additional meetings were requested to be held in Mexican Water on September 29 and Moab on October 13.

Changes to existing meetings included a change in venue on October 9 from Saratoga Springs to Eagle Mountain and a change in date for the Herriman meeting from October 22 to October 21.

Gordon asked for a motion to approve the changes after any needed discussion.

Chair Facer noted an understanding that some commissioners may be unable to make some of the changes work for their schedule, and noted that virtual attendance could be an option as well. Gordon clarified that ideally a quorum of commissioners would be able to travel to Mexican Water just in case of any technical issues.

Commissioner Hillyard asked about travel and possible hotel accommodations for the commissioners living in the north for the weekend with meetings in Provo and Eagle Mountain. He also asked about a previous request for a meeting in Park City.

Gordon responded that staff could help facilitate accommodations for the weekend of October 8 and explained that staff had been working with Park City and there weren't currently plans to add a meeting there.

Commissioner Durham asked Gordon for the times for each meeting. Gordon responded that generally weekday meetings would be at 6 pm and Saturday meetings would be at 11 am.

Commissioner Hillyard asked about accommodations for travel to Mexican Water and Commissioner Durham, and Commissioner Thorne discussed the time for that meeting with Gordon.

Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Hillyard asked staff for copies of the schedules with the changes.

Commissioner Hillyard motioned to approve the meeting schedule.

Commissioner Thorne seconded the motion.

Chair Facer called the vote.

Commissioner Baker, Aye

Commissioner Durham, Aye

Commissioner Hillyard, Aye

Commissioner Chair Face, Aye

Commissioner Thorne, Aye

Commissioner Hale, Aye

The motion carried.

Gordon explained that staff would add all the changes to the website the next day.

V. Action Item: Budget Amendment

Chair Facer turned the time to Gordon for discussion of a budget amendment.

Gordon explained that he would like to withdraw the item and address the budget at a later date.

Chair Facer explained his understanding that the amendment would consist of moving money from one item to another and that it could be discussed at a later date.

VI. Presentation: Public Comments – Sariah Morey

Chair Facer then turned the time to Sariah Morey to present on the final format for giving public comments to the commissioners.

Sariah then presented on the public comments received. Please refer to 08:15 in the recording. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting.

<http://www.utha.gov/pmn>

This presentation focused on how comments were organized regarding their source as well as their subject matter. Discussion between staff and commissioners also included verification that staff would be

categorizing comments and comments with little relevance or actionable content would be kept and available to the commissioners but not included in the binder of comments delivered to each mapping team.

Commissioner Hillyard also asked for a section with a transcription of comments given by the public during public hearings.

Sariah also explained that comments were made available to the public through the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission website and personal details from commenters were removed for the website comments.

VII. Presentation: Communities of Interest – Beau Bayless and Joey Fica

Char Facer then turned the time to Beau Bayless and Joey Fica to present on the work to organize and categorize the communities of interest. Joey noted that Beau was unable to attend the meeting that night. He also thanked Commissioner Baker for his assistance in getting things set up for the communities of interest.

Joey then presented on the organization of communities of interest. Please refer to 15:55 in the recording. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting.
<http://www.utha.gov/pmn>

The overall steps presented:

1. Gathering and Refining Data
2. Screening and Sorting Data
3. Bringing in Overlays
4. Making a User-Friendly Map

Joey also explained that community of interest submissions were now available to be viewed by the public at uirc.utah.gov under the participate tab.

Commissioner Hillyard asked about filtering to show comments from individuals such as local officials. Joey responded that he was unaware of any such submissions and Commissioner Baker explained that no analysis had been done to the communities of interest to avoid diluting the voice of the citizens providing input.

Commissioners and staff also discussed how to overlay these communities over drafted maps and how staff can help commissioners understand where areas have been split.

Chair Facer thanked staff, Commissioner Baker, and the GIS volunteers for their work so far.

VIII. Presentation: Completed maps – Cassidy Hansen

Chair Facer then turned the time to Cassidy to present on completed maps and analysis. Please refer to 31:51 in the above linked recording to view this presentation.

In this presentation Cassidy explained some tools staff can use to learn how many cities and counties are split and how they are split. Cassidy further presented some analysis on completed maps submitted by members of the public. Starting with submitted house maps.

During this portion of the meeting two members of the public were in attendance to present on their drafted maps, Stuart Hepworth and Travis DeJong.

To view Stuart's presentation on his drafted house map and discussion with the commissioners regarding that map please refer to 42:45 in the recording. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting. <http://www.utha.gov/pmn>. In particular during this discussion, road contiguity was something that came up.

Staff notified Chair Facer that Commissioner Bishop was now present online.

After Stuart's presentation, Daniel Friend presented on his house map. To view his presentation and discussion with the commissioners regarding that map please refer to 53:20 in the recording. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting. <http://www.utha.gov/pmn>. Daniel's presentation focused on some discussion of how to split Provo.

After Daniel's presentation staff noted that Travis DeJong was present and had submitted a house map. Travis then presented on his house map. To view his presentation and discussion with the commissioners regarding that map please refer to 1:09:00 in the recording. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting. <http://www.utha.gov/pmn>.

Cassidy then presented analysis on the state senate maps that had been submitted by the public. Please refer to 1:13:49 in the recording to view the numbers and analysis presented. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting. <http://www.utha.gov/pmn>.

Stuart then presented on his senate map. To view his presentation and discussion with the commissioners regarding that map please refer to 01:16:00 in the recording. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting. <http://www.utha.gov/pmn>.

Travis then presented on his senate map. To view his presentation and discussion with the commissioners regarding that map please refer to 01:26:30 in the recording. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting. <http://www.utha.gov/pmn>.

Cassidy then presented analysis on the state school board maps that had been submitted by the public. Please refer to 1:33:33 to view the numbers and analysis presented. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting. <http://www.utha.gov/pmn>.

Stuart then presented on his school board map. To view his presentation and discussion with the commissioners regarding that map please refer to 01:35:25 in the recording. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting. <http://www.utha.gov/pmn>.

Staff then noted that Kevin Jones had joined the meeting virtually and had a school board and a senate map to present.

Kevin then presented on his school board map. To view his presentation and discussion with the commissioners regarding that map please refer to 01:42:15 in the recording. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting. <http://www.utha.gov/pmn>. Kevin noted that he had based his maps on the existing boundaries.

Kevin then presented on his school board map. To view his presentation and discussion with the commissioners regarding that map please refer to 01:45:15 in the recording. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting. <http://www.utha.gov/pmn>. Kevin noted that he had based his maps on the existing boundaries

Cassidy then presented analysis on the congressional maps that had been submitted by the public. Please refer to 1:48:34 of the recording to view the numbers and analysis presented. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting. <http://www.utha.gov/pmn>.

Stuart then presented on his congressional maps. To view his presentation and discussion with the commissioners regarding that map please refer to 01:50:45 in the recording. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting. <http://www.utha.gov/pmn>.

Travis then presented on his congressional map. To view his presentation and discussion with the commissioners regarding that map please refer to 02:02:00 in the recording. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting. <http://www.utha.gov/pmn>.

Kevin then presented on his congressional maps. To view his presentation and discussion with the commissioners regarding that map please refer to 02:04:57 in the recording. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting. <http://www.utha.gov/pmn>.

Daniel then presented on his congressional maps. To view his presentation and discussion with the commissioners regarding that map please refer to 02:07:40 in the recording. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the September 21, 2021, posting. <http://www.utha.gov/pmn>.

The commissioners thanked all presenters for their efforts.

IX. Discussion: Maps to be added to the UIRC Website – Gordon Haight

Chair Facer then moved to the next agenda item and turned the time to Gordon.

Gordon suggested that the commission plan on holding regular meetings until November 1 to more effectively prepare to submit their maps. He suggested that the first meeting to be held in October should focus on narrowing down the drafted maps to the final 12. He also suggested that the meetings be held on a night other than Tuesday or Thursday to accommodate for schedules.

Commissioner Baker suggested that commissioners work to narrow down maps so that mapping sessions can be spent cleaning and refining maps rather than drafting new maps. He explained that he was worried that cleanup efforts would take more effort than expected.

Commissioner Baker, Gordon, and Chair Facer discussed some details and concerns about getting maps fully refined given the deadline approaching.

The commissioners further discussed some scheduling concerns and how to both narrow maps down and effectively add public input to the existing maps. During this discussion it was suggested that meetings might be held on Mondays.

Chair Facer then asked for any additional public comments.

Richard Jaramillo from the Utah Coalition of La Raza then addressed the commissioners via Zoom. His initial question was if the commissioners had a deadline they would no longer accept public maps as UCLR had a map nearly drafted. Chair Facer responded that comments including maps would be accepted through October 23, but the sooner the better. Staff and Richard discussed giving UCLR an opportunity present their maps when they were done.

Commissioner Hillyard asked for clarification regarding whether or not a minority or majority district was needed and asked Matt to report back on that.

Richard then explained that whether or not a minority majority district was required, there was a hope that concentrations of minorities would not be split up. Richard and the commissioners discussed this and how to best analyze the data.

X. Adjourn

Chair Facer asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Hillyard motioned to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 PM