

At a regular meeting of the Cumberland County Redistricting Committee held at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd day of March 2011 at the Commonwealth Regional Council Building, Farmville, Virginia:

Present: Carter Harrison, Chairman of the Committee and District 1 Representative
William F. Osl, Jr., District 1 Supervisor
Timothy Kennell, District 2 Supervisor
Van H. Petty, District 3 Supervisor
Elbert Womack, District 4 Supervisor
Robert Oertel, District 5 Supervisor
Deana Lacy, District 2 Representative
Carol Miller, District 4 Representative
Harry Donahue, District 5 Representative
James Johnson, District 3 Representative
Harry P. Marshall, Chair, NAACP

Absent: John Sanderson, Chairman, Democratic Committee
Melissa Zook, Chair, Cumberland Republican Party

Also

Present: Sarah Turner, Electoral Board
Judy Ownby, County Administrator
Marlene Watson, County Registrar
Howard Estes, County Attorney
Stephany Johnson, Deputy Clerk
Andrew Sorrell, County Planner
Megan Harris, *The Farmville Herald*
Pat Allard, Citizen

1. Call to order

The Chairman called the meeting to order. After a roll call of the members of the Committee present or absent, The Chairman established that there was a quorum. Mr. James Johnson arrived at 9:05 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Chairman suggested that this part of the agenda be bypassed in order to allow for additional items other than those on the

agenda to be discussed if necessary. It was the consensus of the Committee to strike this item on the agenda.

3. Approval of minutes

On duly made motion and second, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

4. Redistricting Update – County Attorney Estes

County Attorney, Howard Estes, stated that districts three, four & five, currently meet or exceed the deviation threshold for a model district. Districts one and two are recommended to be reconfigured to move population from district two into district one in order for those to improve the deviations for model districts. Mr. Estes stated that during the 2000 Census, the County decided to create a majority-minority district in district three. With the current population analysis, district 3 is no longer a majority-minority district. If you only compare the black population in the district, it is 49 percent. If you consider all races other than white, then, it is above fifty percent.

One standard for review under the “Voting Rights Act” is retrogression which looks for changes that disparately impact voting populations that are protected under the Voting Rights Act. An example would be changing the population in a majority-minority district so that it reduces that population in a majority-minority district. Looking at the current maps, the Committee is not making a change, the population itself has changed. Thus, if the County makes changes that constitute district three as a majority-minority district once again, this could be in violation, as the Committee would be using race as a primary reason for the change. On the other hand, the Department of Justice will question the Committee as to which other factors were considered in making the change. Mr. Estes stated that he is of the opinion that it is not a retrogression issue, and it is up to the Committee as to what district representation the Committee wants.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the purpose of the meeting today was to create three options to recommend to the Board of Supervisors.

The Chairman then recognized Ms. Melody Foster, Regional Planner for the Commonwealth Regional Council, who began the Geographic Informational System software and reviewed the population numbers in the census blocks.

Three options that the Committee recommended to change are 1) make changes solely to district boundaries between districts one and two, 2) Keep district three as a majority-minority district, and 3) keep all district boundaries the same.

The Committee discussed moving census blocks from the northeast side of district two into district one. Currently, the District boundary in this area follows a creek. This change will allow the district line to follow a named road. The Committee also moved census blocks in the northwest area of District2 into District 1.

On a motion by Supervisor Oertel and carried unanimously, the Committee moved to recommend changing the boundary line between districts one and two as option one to the Board of Supervisors:

VOTE:	Mr. Osl – aye	Mr. Kennell – aye
	Mr. Petty – aye	Mr. Womack – aye
	Mr. Oertel – aye	Mr. Harrison – aye
	Ms. Lacy – aye	Mr. Johnson – aye
	Mrs. Miller – aye	Mr. Donahue – aye
	Mr. Sanderson – absent	Ms. Zook – absent
	Mr. Marshall - aye	

The Committee wanted to keep district 3 as a majority-minority district. In an effort to increase the minority representation within the district, the Committee looked at adding census blocks from the surrounding districts to district 3; to include census blocks which were two blocks away from district 3. The Committee also looked at removing census blocks from district 3 and adding them to the surrounding districts. These efforts increased the minority population slightly, and the Committee agreed that this was the best result that could be achieved to accomplish the goal of keeping district 3 a majority-minority district.

On a motion by Supervisor Kennell and carried unanimously, the Committee moved to recommend keeping district three as a majority-minority district as option two to the Board of Supervisors:

VOTE: Mr. Osl – aye Mr. Kennell – aye
 Mr. Petty – aye Mr. Womack – aye
 Mr. Oertel – aye Mr. Harrison – aye
 Ms. Lacy – aye Mr. Johnson – aye
 Mrs. Miller – aye Mr. Donahue – aye
 Mr. Sanderson – absent Ms. Zook – absent
 Mr. Marshall - aye

On a motion by Supervisor Osl and carried unanimously, the Committee moved to recommend no changes as option three to the Board of Supervisors:

VOTE: Mr. Osl – aye Mr. Kennell – aye
 Mr. Petty – aye Mr. Womack – aye
 Mr. Oertel – aye Mr. Harrison – aye
 Ms. Lacy – aye Mr. Johnson – aye
 Mrs. Miller – aye Mr. Donahue – aye
 Mr. Sanderson – absent Ms. Zook – absent
 Mr. Marshall - aye

The Chairman directed staff to compile information on the three proposed changes, and distribute to all Committee members.

5. Unfinished Business

N/A

6. New Business

N/A

7. Adjourn

On a motion by Supervisor Womack and carried unanimously, the Committee adjourned until the next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Commonwealth Regional Council Building located at 1 Mill Street, #101, Farmville, VA 23901:

VOTE: Mr. Osl – aye Mr. Kennell – aye
 Mr. Petty – aye Mr. Womack – aye
 Mr. Oertel – aye Mr. Harrison – aye
 Ms. Lacy – aye Mr. Johnson – aye
 Mrs. Miller – aye Mr. Donahue – aye
 Mr. Sanderson – absent Ms. Zook – absent
 Mr. Marshall - aye

Chairman

County Administrator