

Census Review & Redistricting Committee  
Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021@12:00 pm  
Room 114, Wood County Courthouse

**Members Present:** Ken Curry-District 11 Supervisor; Michael Feirer-District 3 Supervisor; Ed Wagner-District 4 Supervisor; Jake Hahn-District 8 Supervisor; Dave LaFontaine-District 1 Supervisor

**Others Present: (In Person)** Jason Grueneberg-Planning & Zoning Director; Trent Miner-County Clerk; Paul Bernard-Land Information Officer; Dennis Polach-District 14 Supervisor; Victoria Wilson-Program Assistant; Jennifer M Gossick-City Clerk, City of Wisconsin Rapids; Sue Schill-City Attorney, City of Wisconsin Rapids; Ann Stevning-Roe-Citizen, Marshfield, WI

**Others Present: (Via Webex):** Lance Pliml-Wood County Board Chair, District 16 Supervisor; Ray Bossert-Village of Port Edwards Administrator; Nancy Quick-League of Women Voters; Diana Planer-League of Women Voters

1. **Call meeting to order.**

Chairman Ken Curry called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

2. **Public Comments.**

Ann Stevning-Roe 209 Columbus Drive, Marshfield WI. She is on the Marshfield City Redistricting Committee and unable to attend the Redistricting Public Hearing meeting on Monday. Marshfield had to scramble and re-do their districting lines after the 2011 redistricting from the state. Hopefully this can be avoided. Last time she was here was for the Fair Maps or Non Partisan redistricting referendum, which passed by over seventy percent here in Wood County. She feels the movement across the state is one where there may be something through the people's map commission or through some court actions, if not federal then state because of the constitutional requirements that the redistricting not divide municipalities or counties, unless it is necessary. If that kind of challenge goes to the courts and it gets redistricted in a way that is consistent with Wisconsin constitution, Wood County and Marshfield may have to re-do some supervisory districts to have the nesting in effect for the simplicity of ballots. We have to be flexible and ready to change if the need arises.

3. **Approve minutes of previous meeting**

Dave LaFontaine made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Jake Hahn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Overview of redistricting process in Wood County**

Jason Grueneberg gave an overview of the redistricting process. Due to COVID-19, this will not be a traditional process. The process was much slower in the past with 180 days to complete the process whereas this time around we are working with about 60 days. The goal is to give the municipalities workable data and as much time as possible to draw ward maps. We will work closely with them to accomplish this.

5. **Review Census population numbers and population shifts**

In the past we have received the census information on April 1<sup>st</sup>, however this time we have received the census information on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. There was a decrease of 542 people in Wood County. The decrease was not consistent throughout the county but more of a population shift in different areas in the county. The current population in Wood County is 74,207. If we were to use current supervisory districts with 2020 population, the plan deviation would be 12.31%. The last plan adopted in 2011 was around 2.89% deviation. Acceptable deviation is less than 10%.

6. **Review traditional redistricting principles**

Equal representation. Each district has the same number of people. This would equate to 3,906 people per district in Wood County.

Keep districts compact, not elongated.

Communities of interest such as school districts or communities split by a waterway.

Political subdivisions.

Contiguous communities.

7. **Develop tentative supervisory districts**

Using the WISE-LR mapping software, Jason created and demonstrated a tentative plan for redistricting lines that would provide a 2.8% deviation. Discussion ensued.

8. **Approval of tentative supervisory district plan for public hearing**

Dave LaFontaine made a motion to approve the tentative redistricting plan. Ken Curry seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Schedule next regular meeting**

The next meeting will be the Census & Redistricting Public Hearing on Monday September 13, 2021 in room 114 with a meeting to follow immediately after.

10. **Adjourn.**

Ken Curry adjourned the meeting at 1:24 pm

Minutes recorded and prepared by Victoria Wilson. Minutes in draft form until approved at the next meeting.