

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2011

The Ad Hoc Committee on Redistricting of the Broome County Legislature met on Thursday, April 21, 2011 in the Legislative Conference Room, Sixth Floor, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, Binghamton, New York.

Members Present: R. Keibel (Chair), W. Howard, D.J. Reynolds, M. Whalen, D.D. Reynolds, J. Laughney, V. Pasquale, M. Turna, M. Johnson

Members Absent:

Others Present: J. Marinich, S. Herz, A. Martin, J. Baumgartner, L. Rogers, R. O'Donnell, Legislature; D. English, GIS

1. The Ad Hoc Committee meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 3:04 PM.
2. On request from Mr. Keibel, Mr. D.J. Reynolds made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Whalen to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2011 meeting. Carried. Ayes-8, Nays-0, Absent-1 (V. Pasquale)
3. Mr. Keibel stated that there are currently 12 proposed maps which were created by members of the Committee and other Legislators. He also stated that the maps are posted online at: http://www.bcgis.com/website/gisweb/redist_info.htm. Mr. Keibel thanked Mr. English for all his time and efforts in creating the redistricting tool, printing maps and attending to the needs of the Committee.

Mr. Keibel, answering a question from D.J. Reynolds, stated that the plan is to whittle down the 12 proposed maps to one redistricting map which would be presented to the County Administration Committee in May and then on to the full Legislature.

Mr. D.D. Reynolds stated that the Committee may find that parts of different maps are suitable for the final proposal and asked if the maps would be able to be edited. Mr. Keibel said that was a possibility.

Ms. Johnson requested that Mr. English bring a computer and projector to the following meetings in order to edit the online maps if needed. Mr. Keibel stated that it is not needed; the Committee could edit the paper maps if necessary and Mr. English would make the changes requested.

Mr. Whalen reiterated that according to the Standards for Redistricting, set forth by the Committee, the new Legislative Districts should not alienate any population groups in current districts. He also stated that the Committee should keep consistent with current Legislative Districts as best as possible.

Mr. Laughney stated that not everyone is going to be pleased with the final map due to the fact that four Legislative Districts are being eliminated. He further stated that certain population groups are going to have to be moved into new districts. Mr. D. J. Reynolds shared the same sentiment regarding the downsizing of the Legislature from 19 to 15 members.

Mr. Keibel suggested the Committee members could vote on the proposals in one of two ways, the first option is to have every member vote for their favorite proposal and the three maps which receive top votes will be the final ones to discuss. The second option is have the members vote on their top three maps (3 points for favorite map, 2 points for second favorite and 1 point for last favorite) and again the three maps with the highest vote totals would move on. Mr. Keibel will discuss it committee members to determine a format for selecting the final maps before next Tuesday's meeting.

Mr. D.J. Reynolds asked if there is going to be a public comment period. Mr. Keibel stated that the proposed maps are online and after the Committee selected its final map the public would be notified and the Legislature would accept comments in either written or electronic format up until the May 12th County Administration Committee meeting. He also stated a Public Hearing is not required.

Mr. D.D. Reynolds stated that the Committee may get more public input if a Public Hearing or Committee on the Whole is called for. Mr. Keibel stated that if a Public Hearing were to be held it is not the purview of the Ad Hoc Committee but that of the full Legislature.

Mr. Marinich stated that after conferring with the County Law Department a Public Hearing is not required. He further stated that all the Committee meetings have been open to the public and the documentation of the Committee is online.

Mr. Herz stated that the Legislature will get more comments when the final map has been presented. Ms. Turna stated that the comment period should be after the three maps are selected and before the final map is voted on.

Mr. D.D. Reynolds asked if the Committee meetings were announced to the public. Mr. Baumgartner stated that the notices were sent to the media well in advance of the meetings and the Committee has received media coverage on the meetings.

Mr. Keibel asked if a Public Hearing is called whether it should be at the May Legislative Session, final Ad Hoc Committee on Redistricting meeting, or the May County Administration Committee meeting.

Mr. Whalen stated that having the hearing between the three maps to the final one would give the Committee more credibility. Mr. D.D. Reynolds shared the same sentiment.

Mr. Keibel stated that the Committee should wait and see how the April 26th meeting goes to see if a Public Hearing is merited.

Mr. V. Pasquale was asked if a Public Hearing was held during previous redistricting cycles. He stated that he did not believe so. Mr. Howard stated that the last two cases of redistricting no Public Hearings were held.

4. Mr. Keibel stated that the next meeting date of the Committee has been set for Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at 4:00 PM and the final meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 4:00 PM.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Whalen, seconded by Mr. D.J. Reynolds. The meeting adjourned at 3:29 PM.