

Final
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

COLORADO REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Date: 08/09/2011

ATTENDANCE

Time: 06:01 PM to 10:01 PM

Place: Red Rocks Community College

This Meeting was called to order by

Witwer

This Report was prepared by

Clare Pramuk

Atencio	X
Berry	X
Carroll	X
Jones	X
Loevy	X
Nicolais	X
Salazar	X
Tool	X
Witwer	X
Webb	
Carrera	X

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, * = Present after roll call

Bills Addressed:	Action Taken:
Introductions	-
Witness Testimony	-

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6:01 PM -- Introductions

Commissioner Witwer opened the meeting with introductions.

Jerry Barry read the introductory statement.

6:12 PM -- Witness Testimony

Beverly McAdam, a 27 year resident of Arvada would like the SD 19 boundaries changed. She stated that the constitutional requirements are not met under the current plan. She related her children's experience in high school and the possibility of being bused out of the community. She sees the same thing happening with the change to the western boundary of the district. Children will be going to school in Westminster schools, living in Adams County in a senate district in Jefferson County. SD 19 is currently overpopulated under the plan and SD 16 is under so it should be fixed that way. She clarified that the piece east of I-95 should be moved to SD 16.

6:18 PM

Jerry Martin said that the Jefferson county border should be SD 19 border.

Lisa Rizzo said that Jefferson County is entitled to 3 whole districts plus a large portion of another district but has 2 fully contained and 2 fractured.

Ron Rizzo thanked the committee. He lives in HD 28 and likes the way its put together. He is concerned about the senate map. The area east of Sheridan is in Adams County and the only community of interest is the Walmart. He pointed out the constitutional requirements about counties. He thinks that the district could be tucked into Jefferson County.

Commissioner Witwer asked about the rest of the House map and Mr. Rizzo talked about the wildlife problems in HD 28 of racoons and elk versus those of bears and mountain lions below C-470. Commissioner Nicolais asked about having a non Jefferson County resident representing Jefferson County. Commissioner Carrera asked to see a wider picture of the county. Mr. Rizzo's main concern is with SD 19. He thinks that SD 35 could be put into Jefferson County. Commissioner Nicolais discussed his Jefferson County map.

06:29 PM

James Seaman is a Jefferson County taxpayer and voter. He's concerned with SD 19 and says that it should take school district boundaries into consideration. He thinks its in violation of the county border requirement. He asked the commission to restore the Jefferson/Adams border. He has less areas of concern on the house map.

Commissioner Salazar asked where population should be moved from. Mr. Seaman wants it within Jefferson County. Commissioner Atencio clarified the population issue. Mr. Seaman wants SD 19 wholly within Jefferson County. He recommended that SD 35 be changed.

06:35 PM

Jonah Hearne from North Arvada commented on HD 27. He likes that it makes Arvada whole. HD 29 takes a little chunk of Arvada but makes sense. His concern is with SD 19 which he would not be part of. He doesn't understand why he is out and Adams County is in the district. Arvada should have 3+ senate districts. There could be representatives from outside Jefferson County representing it. Adams County deviations seem to all be low and Jefferson County are on the high side. Adams County has less population and has 3 whole contained senate districts.

Senator Carroll asked about splitting Arvada in the senate. Mr. Hearne wouldn't like it split 3 ways. He pointed out his house on the map. He doesn't have anything in common with mountain communities which are in his new senate district. He lives in the Ralston Valley/Westwoods neighborhood.

06:46 PM

Linda Mackety, a 40 year Lakewood resident, is concerned about the senate map of SD 19 for not considering county first. She'd like SD 19 adjusted with SD 35.

Representative Robert Ramirez, from HD 29 lives in Westminster. He addressed SD 19. He said that Jefferson County has enough population for 3 whole districts so doesn't need to include Adams County. The difference between the two sides of Sheridan are significant. He'd like SD 19 it put back into Jefferson County.

Commissioner Carrera asked about the Broomfield area and Representative Ramirez explained that it is a jail.

06:52 PM

Susan Riebe, a Golden resident, thinks that the house districts follow constitutional requirements. She's an engineer and found that the analysis is lacking. She provided a table for representing data (Attachment A). She explained her analysis process for Adams and Jefferson counties. If a senator has to represent more than one county, there could be conflicts of interest. Adams County districts appear to be over-represented and Jefferson districts under-represented.



Attachment A.pdf

06:59 PM

Jerry Roach, current resident of Wheat Ridge, has lived in Jefferson County since 1962. He wants SD 19 to follow county borders. He thinks the adjustment needs to be made between SD 19 and SD 35. Senator Carroll explained that a different county split was considered. She asked him about splitting Denver vs. Jefferson County. He thinks it would be easier to make the adjustments between SD 19 and SD 35. Commissioner Jones pointed out that it reduced the Arvada City split.

Commissioner Nicolais disagreed with Jones and Carroll. He asked about having half of Jefferson County residents represented by people outside of Jefferson County. Mr. Roach doesn't want that to happen.

Shirley Seitz is a Jefferson County resident and likes the house map. She recommends thinking west to change the map. She wants the map to be constitutional.

07:12 PM

Larry Merkl likes the HD map. With regards SD 19, he agrees with other speakers

Sherry Collins from Lakewood, Jefferson County agrees with everyone. She stated that Jeffco needs 3 senators.

Mike O'Connell, a resident of Arvada, brought up competitiveness. He thinks the commission should look more at election results than registration. Prof. Loevy suggested that the registration numbers in Colorado are good. Commissioner Nicolais asked about sample size for performance. Mr. O'Connell thinks the commission needs to look at a range of races. Mr. O'Connell continued to address the map. He commented on the jagged lines on the house map. He said it makes sense to have districts as compact as possible. SD 19 makes sense to him since it keeps Arvada together.

Commissioner Carrera addressed the competitiveness issue and keeping Arvada together and asked Mr. O'Connell to expand on that. Mr. O'Connell would like a competitive district so representatives are more responsive and not decided on in the primary. Commissioner Nicolais asked about a 50/50 split. Commissioner Loevy suggested setting a range for determining competitiveness. Commissioner Jones asked about races with 3 parties. Mr. O'Connell said the commission needs to look at in totality.

On HD 27, Mr. O'Connell said that it was drawn strangely and a radical change. He would like it revisited. It is less competitive than current HD 27. Prof. Loevy sees it as a swing district. Commissioner Salazar asked about the Arvada lines.

07:29 PM

Mary Janssen, really likes the HD 10 map and keeping Lakewood whole. She's lived in Jefferson County her whole life. She agrees with others concerns on SD 19.

Craig Jameson spoke on SD 19 and SD 20. He is being moved out of SD 19. He noted that the portions being moved out are Republican and the parts moved in from Adams are Democratic. He commented that Arvada, Belmar and Lakeside have similar interests.

Jack Van Ens from Arvada has worked on chamber of commerces. His concerns are about the plans for HD 27 and HD 29. He doesn't think there is a north and south Arvada but rather an east and west. Wadsworth is the community dividing line and he wonders why the divide is north south.

Senator Carroll asked about growth patterns and Mr. Van Ens explained the growth. East of Wadsworth is more industrial with residential communities. West of Wadsworth is more residential.

Bob Zachman is a retired school teacher from Jeffco. He likes the Lakewood senate map. He thinks HD 23 and HD 10 need to be changed to promote competitive districts. Lakewood should be divided east and west along Kipling not north and south. Belmar is right at split. The Alameda Gateway Association is trying to develop Alameda and this would split that up. Commissioner Nicolas and Jones asked about competitiveness. Commissioner Carrera asked about specific lines.

7:45 PM

Skyler McKinley lives in Green Mountain and is a college sophomore. He is concerned with the house map and the creation of a safe seat that will discourage young people from voting. He stated that Lakewood needs 2 competitive districts to engage more citizens.

Joel Leventhal from Lakewood addressed HD 10 and HD 23. He's been put into a district in North Lakewood. He lives east of Wadsworth but most of what he does is west of Wadsworth. Housing on both sides are similar. Alameda High School draws from east and west but is on the district line. He pointed out that unaffiliated voters decide elections. Commissioner Nicolais pointed out that changing the lines would dilute Hispanic votes and asked if it was okay with him to do that.

Barbara Barry from Jefferson County lives in Applewood. She commented on the value of a sense of place. The house map meets the sense of place. The senate map doesn't. SD 20 is good but SD 19 is not. Adams County shouldn't be included in SD 19.

7:57 PM

Amy Hill is a resident of Arvada and works for the Jefferson County Republican Party. She spoke on SD 19. She agrees with most of the speakers. Her analysis shows that the Adams County population could be divided with the other Adams County senate districts (Attachment B). The Adams County piece is not even all Arvada. She pointed out the transparency of voter information in HD 1 and that there are three voters whose voting records are open to the public. She thinks voter privacy should trump contiguity.



Attachment B.pdf

Bob Murphy, Mayor of Lakewood reiterated his requests from an earlier meeting. The commission has honored his requests on the senate maps. On the house maps, he would like two competitive districts. He thinks Kipling, 6th and Alameda are good dividing lines.

Commissioner Witwer, Carroll and Tool asked about competitiveness. Commissioner Nicolais asked about diluting Hispanic voters. Mayor Murphy stated that he refused to fall into a trap about choosing between competitiveness and Hispanic representation. Commissioner Carrera asked about how to define a competitive district. Mayor Murphy commented on their even split between democrats, republicans and unaffiliated voters.

8:13 PM

Keith Grebe, a resident of Lakewood, likes HD 10 and SD 20. He said SD 22 is great. On SD 35, he is concerned about Boulder with Lakewood. He asked about putting 280 Jeffco residents into SD 32. He disagrees with competitiveness as a requirement because its not in the constitution.

Art Onweller from Evergreen is a statistician. He's happy with the house district. He's been doing statistical analysis of Jefferson County voting patterns. He addressed the importance of the unaffiliated voter in elections. He would like 1/3-1/3-1/3 breakdown of voters. He doesn't like Boulder included. In SD 22, there is a lot of unpopulated area. He questioned why the map splits up the buffalo herd.

Commissioner Carrera asked him about competitive districts. Mr. Onweller suggested that the 2008 election results may be distorted. Commissioner Nicolas asked about sampling. Mr. Onweller suggested a smoothing criteria and multiple years. He pointed out that last commission established districts with equal thirds of voters.

8:26 PM

Joan Jacobson addressed HD in Lakewood. She moved from Green Mountain to North Lakewood but nothing changed. She thinks they are one community of interest and should stay together.

Jenny Flanigan from Common Cause discussed their process for reviewing redistricting. She suggested prioritizing additional criteria after the constitutional requirements are met. She said that competitiveness should be considered and that lines should not be drawn to benefit incumbents.

8:34 PM

Josh Liss, Jefferson County Clerk discussed a technical issue. SD 32 includes an island of three voters so reporting always shows how they voted. Bow Mar is okay in SD 32. He recommends moving Jefferson County enclaves and the three voters into HD 1. Sen. Carroll asked about size required for voter privacy. Mr. Liss suggested 25. Commissioner Tool asked about statute for minimum precinct size. Mr. Liss knows of a maximum but not a minimum size. Commissioner Carrera asked about Spanish language ballots. Jefferson County is not required currently under the Voting Rights Act. Commissioner Nicolais asked about multi-county elections.

8:44 PM

Henry Hollender, from Lakewood, addressed HD 10 and SD 20 on the proposed map. From a community of interest perspective, he sees city boundaries as more important than county boundaries. The senate map is okay. The house map splits downtown of Lakewood and the boundaries should be more along Kipling. 6th Avenue would be a better boundary than Alameda.

8:48 PM

Mark Thyne lives outside Morrison. He has concerns about senate plan for SD 35. Most areas don't care about cities. HD 25 goes into Dakota Ridge which is high density and is with low density areas. He'd like to see it in a more urban district.

Amanda Prichard is a teacher in Lakewood. She's having trouble helping her students understand what district they live in. She'd like to see the split along transportation lines. She'd like the districts to be competitive and along school articulation lines.

Lorna Fox from Lakewood thinks it deserves 2 house and 2 senate districts. She thinks they should be competitive. An east/west division makes no sense. The center of Lakewood should remain together. 6th Avenue is a logical division. Home Depot and Walmart have locations north and south.

8:57 PM

Lionel Laverty brought a big map on human resource units which show values. He lives in new SD 35 and addressed communities of interest and communities of place. He recommended moving SD 19 over into SD 35 to bring in communities of interest and place. He'll be sending information to the commission.

9:04 PM

Russ Haas from Applewood is okay with his house district. He said that Jeffco needs 3 senators and would like Adams County people returned to Adams County. He would like SD 20 to be more compact.

Linda Cervia is from south Westminster and is happy with the changes.

Dan Willis lives in Denver County but wants correction to HD 1 for voter privacy. HD 38 could be wholly within Arapahoe County by taking Jeffco out of it.

09:14 PM

Carrie Makenna addressed SD 19 and that city lines are followed in the Adams County part. She'd like changes in the house to be more competitive. 6th Avenue and Kipling are more logical breaks. Splitting on Wadsworth is not desirable.

Sue Marinelli was on the Jefferson County school board. She lives in HD 25. The communities of Conifer and Evergreen do have a connection. The Coal Creek part of the district is not connected to the rest of HD 25. They are really connected to the Arvada area. The Lookout Mountain area would work in HD 25. The area around the high school is a community of interest that shouldn't be separated. Kipling is much more of a boundary. The Alameda community should stay together.

Commissioner Nicolais asked about schools. Ms. Marinelli provided an alternate map that keeps school populations together (Attachment C).



Attachment C.pdf

9:28 PM

Ashton Harper likes much about the senate map but is more concerned about keeping Jeffco and Denver separate. The people are vastly different so the current setup is good.

Gretchen Cerveny lives in Wheat Ridge. She thanked the commission for keeping Wheat Ridge together.

Mickail Farrin lives in Evergreen SD 35. She thinks there is a difference between people in the mountains and Lakewood. She thinks we need to keep communities together.

9:34 PM

Senator Evie Hudak talked about HD 25 and SD 19. She likes that Westminster is almost contiguous in SD 19. With regards the Adams County portion, it connects Westminster and Arvada. Most of the Latinos who live in Adams County are in Sheridan corridor. Old Town Arvada is very similar to communities on other side of Sheridan. It puts the new part of Arvada in with parts that are already in current SD 16 (proposed 35). She pointed out that school articulation areas are split among a lot of districts. With regards HD 29, it would make sense to wholly inclose it within SD 19.

9:43 PM

Rachel Zenzinger from the Arvada City Council spoke. With regards the Adams County portion of SD 19, those residents consider themselves Arvadans and it makes sense to have them in SD 19. Old Town Arvada is the heart of the community. It's been in a different senate district and is now included. The new Gold Line transit line will have a station in the Adams County portion of Arvada. East Arvada is very different from western Arvada. It's older and harder to get funding for from the city council. It makes more sense to divide on Wadsworth. All schools for closure were along Wadsworth. She explained the Wadsworth corridor would be about 88 to 52 to Tennyson.

9:53 PM

Johann Cohn lives in Lakewood and spoke to HD 23 and HD 10. He thinks the commission should look beyond ethnicity.

John Bodnar lives in Arvada. In SD 19, the commission violated the constitutional requirement to follow the county boundary but recognized it in house map. He said the commission needs to alter one or the other to be consistent. He added that the City of Arvada doesn't provide services to Adams County portion of Arvada.

10:01 PM

Adjourned.

Compliance w County Requirements Sample

County	# Districts Ideally Apportioned	# of Actual Districts			Variance
		Contained	Shared	Effective *	
Adams	3.0(?)	3	1 (19)	3.18	6%
Jefferson	3.7(?)	2 (20 + 22)	3 (19, 32, 135)	3.68	-0.7%

* The sum of contained Districts + the fraction (based on population) of each shared District

Susan Riebe
8/9/11

143691 534543 3.720087

Jeffco

19	127405	22338	149743
20	142649		
22	145996		
32	280		
35	118213	145998	25478
			534543

Adams

	original	addition	total	overage	deviation	Range:
16	140166	7022	147188	3497	0.024337	7115
19	19278					140112 0.049516
24	140617	6571	147188	3497	0.024337	
25	141542	5685	147227	3536	0.024608	
	441603	19278	441603			

147227 13593

Boulder

147188

17	140949
18	140362
35	13256

