

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

July 27, 2011

Salina and Manhattan Public Hearings

Kansas State University-Salina and Kansas State University

Members Present

Representative Michael O'Neal, Co-chairperson
Senator Tim Owens, Co-chairperson
Senator Dwayne Umbarger, Co-Vice-chairperson
Representative Paul Davis, Co-Ranking Minority Member
Senator Anthony Hensley, Co-Ranking Minority Member
Senator Pete Brungardt
Senator David Haley
Senator Carolyn McGinn
Representative Steve Brunk
Representative Richard Carlson
Representative Forrest Knox
Representative Peggy Mast
Representative Don Schroeder
Representative Scott Schwab (Manhattan Only)
Representative Sharon Schwartz
Representative Caryn Tyson
Representative Brian Weber (Salina Only)

Staff Present

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Craig Callahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Senate Committee Assistant
Cindy O'Neal, House Committee Assistant

Conferees-Salina

Joe Nold, Dickinson County Commissioner
Randy Duncan, Republican Party-District 1 Chairperson and Saline County
Commissioner
Senator Anthony Hensley
Clark Sanders, Salina
Gordon Horst, Salina
Ben Bennett, Geary County Commissioner
Dennis Lauver, Salina Chamber of Commerce

Alan Jilka, Salina

Conferees-Manhattan

Fred Willich, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
Dick Carter, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce
Lee Modesitt, Riley County Republican Party
Jean Lee, Manhattan League of Women Voters
Kathryn Focke, Chair, Riley County Democratic Party
Barbara Withee, Manhattan
Lana Oleen, former Kansas State Senator
Senator Anthony Hensley
Charlie Hosteler, former Republican Chair, Manhattan
Stacy Slagle
Pete Cohn, Wabaunsee County

Salina Public Hearing

Joe Nold, Dickinson County Commissioner, provided the Committee with a map of the current Senate and House districts. Dickinson County has six legislative representatives. While they have good relationships with their representatives, he commented, six might be too many, and may have been detrimental to Dickinson County. The County Commission believes that the population of Dickinson County is small enough it could be remapped into one legislative house district. Discussion centered on some counties wanting as many representatives and senators as possible, because it potentially provides more clout in Topeka, while others want fewer, so they are more familiar with who represents them ([Attachment 1](#)).

Randy Duncan, Chairman, Republican Party Congressional District 1, and Saline County Commissioner, stated he understands it is early in the redistricting process. He has heard rumors of Wyandotte County being brought into Congressional District 1, which currently encompasses 69 counties and needs to grow by 57,000 residents. He does not see that Wyandotte County shares a “community of interest” with the other counties that would be in Congressional District 1, because it is not primarily agricultural in focus, as are the rest of the counties in the district. Another rumor to which he referred says Saline and McPherson counties may be placed in Congressional District 2. He advocated for Saline County to stay in Congressional District 1, while Riley County could be moved into the district where it would be a better match than Wyandotte County.

Senator Anthony Hensley provided a PowerPoint presentation, previously shown at the July 26 Hutchinson Public Hearing ([See Attachment 8 of Wichita and Hutchinson Public Hearings](#)). He reminded the Committee about required compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Baker v. Carr*, relating to the one person, one vote, when legislatures redistrict.

Clark Sanders, Salina, questioned Senator Hensley as to his source for the map. Senator Hensley responded that he received the information from Republicans not living in Kansas. Mr. Sanders stated, since Senator Hensley would not reveal his source, some citizens would wonder if Senator Hensley has created this map on his own and without any sources.

Co-chairperson Owens stated he also had heard from a number of bi-partisan sources of a map being considered by some placing Wyandotte County into the Congressional District 1, but again reiterated it is very early in the process for any map to be considered at this point.

Gordon Horst, Salina, suggested Congressional District 1 include Manhattan due to Kansas State University and a satellite branch in Salina. Mr. Horst also suggested Riley County be included in Congressional District 1, since Riley and Saline Counties have military sites located within the county.

Ben Bennett, Geary County Commissioner, expressed his appreciation for the comments of the county commissioners of the other counties, but Geary County would like to see a Congressional District plan under which Riley and Geary counties are put into Congressional District 1 due to the military being a community of interest shared by those counties.

Dennis Lauver, Salina Chamber of Commerce, expressed concern about communities of interest and not enough emphasis being put on meeting this requirement. He commented Salina has more in common with the central and the western portion of the state as opposed to the eastern part. Mr. Lauver cited Iowa as a state having addressed similar statewide issues in its 2002 redistricting.

Alan Jilka, Salina, commented he was hoping the public hearings would provide examples of maps and ways to move the lines.

Co-chairperson Owens stated newly adjusted numbers confirm one Senate seat and possibly three House seats will be added to Johnson County and the districts will have to come from some place. However, he noted the adjusted numbers were just received on July 26 and the Committee has not had time to study the effects of the newly released data.

Manhattan Public Hearing

Co-chairperson Owens took over the duties as the presiding Co-chairperson at the Manhattan meeting in accordance with the agreement of the Co-chairpersons of the two committees. Co-chairpersons Owens and O'Neal provided an overview of the redistricting process and staff provided an overview of how the public can be involved in and informed on redistricting.

Fred Willich, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, stated a task force was formed comprised of members of the Chamber Board of Directors, Public Affairs Committee and a representative each from the Riley County Republican and Democratic parties to work to ensure residents of these areas remain together in the Second Congressional District. He stressed the importance of keeping the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility and the Animal Health Corridor together in the Second Congressional District ([Attachment 2](#)).

Dick Carter, a lobbyist representing the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce (MCC), stated one proposed map drawn by the MCC would extend the First Congressional District along the north edge of the state over into Nemaha and Brown counties and across the bottom of the state to pick up Montgomery County.

Lee Modesitt, Riley County Republican Party, echoed the comments of the Manhattan Area Chamber, but a map he prepared would give Kansas more power in Washington, D.C. The map would have the First Congressional District maintaining agricultural base; Second Congressional District focusing on education and universities; Third Congressional District would be based on technology and economic development goals; and the Fourth Congressional District would have an aviation focus ([Attachment 3](#)).

Jean Lee, Manhattan League of Women Voters, advocated for transparent and accountable redistricting (Attachment 4).

Kathryn Focke, Chairperson Riley County Democratic Party, stated, for the past several months, both she and the Republican Chairperson had been working on understanding the redistricting process. Although population numbers guide the process, other concerns should be considered (Attachment 5).

Barbara Withee, Manhattan, expressed her support for the views shared by the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women Voters.

Lana Oleen, former Kansas State Senator, stated the adjustment of military personnel is flawed, because it does not allow, necessarily, for the military personnel who are not counted in Kansas to be counted in their home state. She also expressed a concern relating to the adjustment of the census figures for students at colleges and universities.

Senator Anthony Hensley again presented his PowerPoint presentation to avoid undue influence from Washington, D.C. on drawing of the congressional districts in Kansas (See Attachment 8 of Wichita and Hutchinson Public Hearings). This was the same PowerPoint presentation shown during the Hutchinson and Salina Public Hearings.

Charlie Hosteler, former Republican Party Chair in Manhattan, suggested Senator Hensley was leading the charge to make the redistricting process political. The Manhattan task force met and never even discussed the possibility of Wyandotte County being brought into the First Congressional District.

Lee Modesitt stated the people of Kansas elect those who they believe will serve Kansas the best. He pointed out Senator Hensley's PowerPoint presentation even proved the point. In 2006, Democrat Congressperson Boyda and Democrat Congressperson Moore were elected in primarily Republican districts.

Stacy Slagle, citizen, reminded the Committee the City of Manhattan extends into Pottawatomie County. She also stated it is time the redistricting process be done by a non-partisan committee.

Pete Cohn, Wabaunsee County, stated Wabaunsee County currently has three representatives and one senator. He would like to maintain the current district under which Wabaunsee County has only one senator, because it is easier to determine who to contact when problems arise.

The next redistricting public hearings will be held on August 2 in Chanute and Pittsburg.

Prepared by Cindy O'Neal and Theresa Kiernan
Edited by Corey Carnahan

Approved by Committee on:

December 2, 2011
(Date)