

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING; FIFTH FLOOR, MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
August 11, 2021**

Meeting video link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUlgjuGhS-qV966RU2Z7AtA>

Present were:


Vanessa Baugh, Chairman
George Kruse, First Vice-Chairman
Kevin Van Ostenbridge, Second Vice-Chairman (via ZOOM)
Reggie Bellamy, Third Vice-Chairman
Misty Servia
James A. Satcher III
Carol Whitmore

Also present were:

Dr. Scott L. Hopes, Acting County Administrator
William Clague, County Attorney
Robin Toth, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Chairman Baugh called the work session to order at 1:04 p.m.


INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

 The Invocation was delivered by Jay Brinegar, Power Up Ministries, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

BC20210811DOC001

1. **2021 RESULTS FIRST INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**


 Dr. Scott L. Hopes, County Administrator, stated that an Intern from the previous Intern Program developed a business plan for the County to use unmanned, County-owned drones. Dr. Hopes made the decision to implement the drone business plan.


 Makayla Lindecamp, Neighborhood Services Specialist, stated nine interns participated in the 2021 Results First Internship Program. Eight of the nine Summer Interns were present to summarize their projects:


- Elizabeth Baranowicz (Redevelopment and Economic Opportunity Intern) – Whole Child Manatee Database Update and Inclusive Manatee Provider Survey
- Jenna Hass (Public Works Social Media Marketing Intern) – Annual Communications Plan to encourage social media engagement with Public Works-related content and accessibility to the Public Works Annual Social Media Calendar
- Garrett Sollenberger (Human Resources Intern) – Manatee Momentum Program to increase communication between new hires and their department
- Abigail Toth (Emergency Management Services [EMS] Data Visualization Intern) – Emergency Management Services Data Report (Internal Program), and the Community Paramedic Program (External Program)
- Lizbeth Medina (Libraries Marketing and Information Outreach Intern) – Manatee Libraries Marketing Project with services in English and Spanish, and design of an Email drip marketing campaign
- Madeline Stewart (Parks and Natural Resources Intern, Ecological Division Intern) – Master Tracker template to quickly access documents and provide organization
- Alessia Backenstross and Christopher Rapp (Public Works, Stormwater Management

Interns) – Stormwater Infrastructure Data Update with collected geographic and quality data to five historic neighborhoods

(Commissioner Kruse was absent for a portion of the discussion)

 Discussion ensued regarding the County fertilizer ban, create a social media video on preventing pollution from stormwater runoff, and boost public awareness efforts on these important topics.


 Charlie Bishop, Deputy County Administrator, stated the Stormwater Infrastructure Data Program is being used by Geographic Information System (GIS) staff, and priority projects are being identified with associated costs, particularly in tax increment financing areas.


 Darin Rushnell, Stormwater Engineering drone pilot, stated he mapped 1,700± miles of stormwater flow. The stormwater GIS layer is updated as information is received, drones are flown over flood areas, and data is tied into the County’s rain gain systems and shared with the Emergency Operations Center and Ruskin National Weather Service.


 Ms. Lindcamp thanked the Board for support and implementation of the 2021 Results First Internship Program. BC20210811DOC002

RECESS/RECONVENE. 2:10 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. All Commissioners were present with Commissioner Van Ostenbridge via ZOOM.

2. **REDISTRICTING OF COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICTS**

 Dr. Scott Hopes, County Administrator, utilized a slide presentation on Redistricting of County Commission Districts for the 2022 Election and read Florida Statutes 124.01(3), Division of Counties into Districts; County Commissioners. He suggested the words time to time in this Statute may apply to Manatee County due to the rate at which the County is growing, causing differences in population within the Districts as shown in the Population by Commission District Map in the presentation. The County Attorney’s office previously opined that a ten percent or less deviation would be acceptable based on traditional Federal and State case law. BC20210811DOC003
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 William A. Clague, County Attorney, stated the Florida Constitution mandates counties to redistrict based on the Decennial Census and to divide the Districts up as equal in population as practicable, not by voters, but by population. This must be done in an odd year and must be completed by the end of this year.

 District Commissioners participated in an exercise and were assigned colored permanent markers to draw changes to their boundary lines on their Commission District base map posted on the wall, and to also draw the same boundary lines on their colleagues’ base maps (Commissioner Satcher, District 1–Red; Commissioner Bellamy, District 2–Pink; Commissioner Van Ostenbridge, District 3–Lavender; Commissioner Servia, District 4–Green; and Commissioner Baugh, District 5–Magenta). In his absence, Commissioner Van Ostenbridge authorized Deputy Administrator Charlie Bishop to draw District 3 boundary lines. Commissioners were also asked to place a dot to indicate the location of their residence. At-large Commissioners Kruse and Whitmore were asked to review the maps and try to persuade the District Commissioners to draw lines differently than what they may want.


 Mr. Clague emphasized that all conversations between Commissioners must be audible


for the record during this exercise, and he instructed Commissioners to carry a microphone around the room. Photographs of the wall maps were taken to be incorporated into the record of this work session.

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 Discussion ensued that this exercise is to get a lay of the land, whether a person could challenge the wall maps, and that a Consultant would be engaged to assist Commissioners through the redistricting process.

 Commissioner Satcher indicated he was satisfied with the boundary lines of District 1 currently delineated in the Population by Commission District Map in the slide presentation.

 Dr. Hopes noted the Census Bureau data is expected to be released tomorrow. The target population for each Commission district is approximately 82,000 people.


 Dr. Hopes displayed suggested boundary lines for each district using a Population by Proposed Commission District Map, based on feedback from Commissioners and the base maps. The County Commission and School Board do not have to draw the same boundary lines because the School Board is non-partisan, while the County Commission is partisan.


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 The marked-up maps would be given to Information Technology staff to upload and geo-code them to populate the results of the district lines drawn by the Commissioners. One Consultant worked with the Legislature to allow the public to access the system to draw and submit district lines electronically to the Legislature. Ideally, this is something to consider; however, he emphasized the redistricting process must be complete by December 31, 2021.


 It was noted that the procurement process would be followed to engage a Consultant.


Upon question as to the next step in the process, Dr. Hopes stated the Census Bureau data would be uploaded into Commission Districts, followed by a meeting with Commissioners to address the data. Procurement staff would proceed with a Request for Proposal to engage a Consultant to assist Commissioners through the redistricting process. The Board would be involved in the selection of the Consultant.


 As to whether there are any laws Commissioners should be aware of relating to the size or demographics of Commission Districts, Dr. Hopes stated Senator Bill Galvano could speak to the Board on the realities and complexities of the redistricting process.

 Mr. Clague advised that redistricting is mandatory; however, the law recognizes every county is different and a wide range of issues could be considered. Reliable population data must be used and reasonable steps taken to divide the districts up as equal in population as practicable, not by voters, but by population. Reasonable discretion is allowed under the law, but there must be consistency on how this process is done.


 Commissioner Kruse stated the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) conducted an informational webinar on redistricting earlier in the year, and it is available on their website.


 Commissioner Servia asked Dr. Hopes to put together a timeline of when staff would meet with the Board on the Census data.


 As to the possibility of drawing a Commission district boundary line through a precinct and whether a boundary line would need to match the entire precinct, Dr. Hopes stated the Supervisor of Elections has the authority to change a precinct if a boundary line is drawn through the precinct. He suggested Commissioners look at where the district boundaries should be reasonably drawn to be in a legally defensible position

 Mr. Clague concurred with Dr. Hopes and further advised there is no legal obligation to avoid the dividing of precincts when drawing Commission districts. Precincts are to manage the resources to run an election and not to determine representation.


 Via ZOOM, Commissioner Van Ostenbridge stated Mary Foreman, School Board District 3, shared that the School Board had not yet discussed redistricting, but that it would be difficult for the School Board to mirror the County Commission districts. The School Board would have to adjust their own district boundaries.


 Carol Felts thanked Commissioners for listening to the public at the August 10 meeting. She urged the County Administrator to create a way to motivate public interest to attend County Commission meetings.


 Glen Gibellina stated Commission Districts should be based on the cost of real estate in each district. There is a disparity in the districts and people in the high-end district have no knowledge of the low-end, marginalized districts.

 Shane Wedel encouraged the Board to preserve the essential quality of each district.

There being no further citizen comments, Chairman Baugh closed citizen comments.

 Commissioner Kruse reiterated that the County is mandated to follow strict requirements on redistricting. Work sessions and agendas are posted seven to ten days in advance, and information is published as quickly as possible.

 Via ZOOM, Commissioner Van Ostenbridge agreed with comments by Commissioner Kruse. He disagreed with comments by Carol Felts and Glen Gibellina.

 Commissioner Servia thanked Glen Gibellina and Carol Felts for regularly attending meetings and work sessions. Manatee County has several social media platforms for the public to comment on the redistricting process until it is finalized.

Mr. Clague addressed the comments by Mr. Gibellina.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Baugh adjourned the work session at 3:37 p.m.

Minutes Approved: March 22, 2022