

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR, MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
November 9, 2021**

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

Present were:

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

Also present were:

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

 Chairman Baugh called the special meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was delivered by Pastor Dylan Kern, Bradenton Christian Reformed Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Bellamy.

AGENDA 


Revised Agenda with Update Memorandum (dated 11/8/21)

BC20211109DOC001

BC20211109DOC002


- Item 4, Addition to Commissioner Agenda – Chairman Baugh Letter to Governor Ron DeSantis and the Legislative Delegation in Support of the Special Legislative Session, to Commence on November 15, 2021, to Discuss Legislation to Prevent Vaccine Mandates Enacted by Businesses – Request to authorize the Chairperson to execute the letter

1. **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/REDISTRICTING OF COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICTS**


 Dr. Scott L. Hopes, County Administrator, stated that based on last week's meeting, (10/27/21), Commissioners met with John Guthrie, Consultant with Geointel LLC, on the Redistricting maps. One of the issues discussed was overpopulating/under-populating the Districts.

BC20211109DOC003


(Enter Commissioner Satcher)

 Lacy Pritchard, Interim Business Services Support Manager, used the County's GIS System to present a series of map data of final plat approved and in review, final plat approved, final plat under review, commercial and residential permits issued and new residential permits issued with certificate of occupancy and building permits for both single- and multi-family homes. This data indicates a high concentration in both Districts 1 and 5 with an average household of three. Based on these maps, it is advisable to under populate Districts 1 and 5 and over populate Districts 2, 3 and 4.

BC20211109DOC004


 John Guthrie, Consultant, Geointel LLC, showed a slide of Population of County Commission Districts 2010-2020, and stated the population of the 2010 districts were an average of 64,600 people. Based on the 2010 Census, one district was over populated by 3.6 percent and one under populated by -3.3 percent, for a total deviation of 6.9 percent. He reminded the Board of Florida Statute 124.01, Division of Counties into Districts, and to not

exceed the ten percent threshold in order to achieve the Florida Constitutional requirements that the districts be as nearly equal in population as practical. BC20211109DOC005


 Over the past decade, the entire County has grown by 24 percent, and the growth among the districts has not been equal. Districts 1 and 5 have grown by 45 percent, whereas District 3 (coastal district) has only grown by one percent. Based on the 2020 Census, District 1 is under populated by more than 15 percent and District 5 is over populated by more than 17 percent, for a total deviation in the plan based on the Census is almost 33 percent. A question was asked if fast-growing areas could be under populated and slower growing areas be over populated to make the plan more resilient to current growth pressures.

Mr. Guthrie showed a slide of Manatee County Census Demographics 2000-2020, stating the 2010 Single-Race Non-Hispanic White Voting Age Population (VAP) of persons 18 years of age and older was 78 percent as compared to 2020 of 73 percent, and the Non-Hispanic Black is 7.6 percent. As to the African American population, if Black was checked, that person was counted as Black and if Hispanic was checked, that person was counted as Hispanic. The number of Hispanic Black and Hispanic Not Black was 14.2 percent, and the number of Black Hispanics was .4 percent, together for all Hispanic any race was 14.6 percent, and All Black VAP was 8 percent. BC20211109DOC006

District 2 is an historically minority and substantially under-populated District and population must be added to meet State Constitutional requirements. The All Black VAP is 20.6 percent and the Hispanic population of that district is 29 percent. The Black plus Hispanic and all minorities together would be less than half of the VAP of that District.

 He displayed a Benchmark District Plan representing the current district boundaries, along with a demographic chart, adopted November 11, 2011. The Districts in this Plan are hollow and without color to better show the street annotation. However, Commissioners indicated they would want a new Benchmark District Plan posted in the Libraries with defined district boundary lines for the public. Commissioner Whitmore agreed. BC20211109DOC007


Commissioner Whitmore suggested two maps be posted in the Libraries; one overall map and a second, color-coded map identifying the borders of single district boundaries and streets.

 Mr. Guthrie displayed the current District Simulation Map, using ESRI Redistricting On-Line software provided by the Florida Legislature. In looking at this Map and factoring Board input from the last meeting, the western boundaries of Districts 2 and 4 were studied because Districts 2, 3 and 4 were all losing population, and there was no reason to move the boundaries of 2, 3 and 4 where they intersected with one another. District 2 is significantly underpopulated and population would need to be added. If District 3 pushes into District 4, District 4, which is also under populated, would have to push even deeper into District 5. This Simulation Map keeps the western boundaries of Districts 2 and 4 intact. If underpopulated District 3 does not go into District 4, the only place it can extend is north across the Manatee River. BC20211109DOC008

In speaking with Commissioner Bellamy, District 2 could be extended south toward Oneco to fit with its historical minority character. Additional Board feedback was to put the eastern, rural areas of the County into District 1, including everything east of C.R. 675 to Myakka City to U.S. 41.


 Mr. Guthrie displayed his Simulation 2 Green Line Boundary Map of adjustments to the Districts, based on Board input and the county's demographics. Enough progress should be made at today's meeting for him to build a district boundary map for Board consideration at a

future meeting. He emphasized The Florida Constitution requires the redistricting of County Commission Districts be completed by December 2021. BC20211109DOC009

 Simulation 2 Map shows the changes to Districts 1 through 3 and without pushing District 4 into District 5. The changes reflect a deviation in Districts 2, 3, and 4 of over populating them by 2,600-2,700 people. Districts 1 and 5 are under populated by 3,800-3,900 people resulting in a total deviation of approximately eight percent, which is more than the Redistricting map adopted in 2011.

Commissioner Kruse questioned how to account for the fact that one of the requirements of drawing the maps is that the Districts be contiguous and adjacent to one another, but they are separated by a body of water.


Mr. Guthrie stated the Constitution requires the Districts to be equal in population and contiguous. The Florida Supreme Court ruled that continuity does not require a bridge over water to have contiguous Districts.

 In looking at the very northern portion of a zoom-in of Simulation Map District 3, Commissioner Van Ostenbridge stated there is a road at the very southern edge of Port Manatee called Del Monte Way. He did not believe it would make a difference in population to have Del Monte Way as the northern border of District 3. BC20211109DOC010

Dr. Hopes encouraged the Board to make decisions at this meeting so Mr. Guthrie could build the district boundary map. The Board should indicate their position to the suggestion by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge regarding Del Monte Way.


Commissioner Satcher stated District 1 has traditionally had access to the water and preferred to keep Port Manatee in District 1.

Motion – District 3 Northern Border


 A motion was made by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge, that the northern border of District 3 be Del Monte Way on the District Simulation Map. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitmore.


Commissioner Kruse questioned why the Board was not looking at real maps instead of fine-tuning simulated maps from Mr. Guthrie.

Amendment


 Commissioner Satcher amended the motion that if this Simulation Map is going to be one of our options, that this option be adjusted to the Del Monte Way.

Dr. Hopes emphasized the Board must present a Redistricting Map for approval by December 14, 2021. This is a special meeting for the Board to make decisions to frame parameters to result in a map or series of maps for consideration for Redistricting and to present to the public. He noted it appears that the 2020 Census was not based on the actual Jail inmate population, but on the Jail's capacity.

 Chairman Baugh stated that by the end of the day the Board should select three map options. Commissioner Whitmore agreed and supported the motion on the floor.

 Commissioner Satcher asked if the motioner could amend the motion to this particular Simulation Map, assuming it ends up being one of our final three being adjusted to include the Port.

Motion Withdrawn

 Commissioner Van Ostenbridge agreed with Commissioner Kruse that the Board move forward with moving boundary lines and looking at maps. Commissioner Van Ostenbridge withdrew his motion, and asked Mr. Guthrie to draw that line on the map.


Commissioner Bellamy stated he was in favor of keeping the western and southern borders of District 2. He suggested that as the Board identifies a border, to then identify a line.

Dr. Hopes stated one approach would be to tweak Mr. Guthrie's base map, address the Commissioner's maps, and come up with three maps for consideration.


Commissioner Servia emphasized the Board start with District 2 and then review the other Districts.

Dr. Hopes stated Mr. Guthrie would bring the Port, Jail complex, and industrial area into District 1 and then look at the boundaries of District 2.

Mr. Guthrie displayed his Simulation Map District 1 and stated the area of the Port up to the County border, following the coastline and including the entire Port Manatee conservation area is a population of 21 persons. In order for District 1 to connect to the Port, the Jail complex must be included. BC20211109DOC011


 Dr. Hopes explained the Jail occupants are referred to as institutionalized populations and considered residents of that District. It was evident the Census included the number of Jail beds (capacity) and not the actual Jail population.

District 1

 Mr. Guthrie displayed his modified Simulation Map District 1 to include that entire area stated, which results in approximately 1,800 people being moved from District 3 into District 1. A metes and bounds description would be prepared to split the one north/south block of Del Monte Way. The legal description of District 1 is to follow Del Monte Way west to the coastline and head north to the county line. BC20211109DOC012

William A. Clague, County Attorney, commented on how the Voting Rights Act has historically worked. It looks at specific populations that have a history of voting together as a group in order to elect representation.

District 2


 Mr. Guthrie displayed his Simulation Map District 2 and chose to not exclude any of the current populations from Districts 2 or 3, but to add additional population. For District 3, a good place to add would be going north of the Manatee River. For District 2, a good place to add population would be to extend south toward Oneco. BC20211109DOC013

He displayed a zoom-in of his Simulation Map District 2 and stated the current boundary of District 2 comes across Cortez Road, extends north on the eastern side, across and back down. District 4 boundary never goes above Cortez Road in this simulation. To make up population needs in District 2, District 2 heads south on U.S. 301 to 63rd Avenue West, across to 5th Street, west on 61st Avenue East to a borderline back drainage canal between

First Street East and Second Street West, then back to the east on 57th Avenue and north back up to the boundary.

BC20211109DOC014


The portion of District 2 that is currently in District 4 is an area south of Oak Trace, south of 38 Avenue East. That territory north of Cortez Road, plus the area just described south of Cortez Road, would all go into District 2.

 Commissioner Van Ostenbridge stated District boundary lines are clean, should not look like a jigsaw puzzle, and the boundary map should be defensible.

Chairman Baugh stated Mr. Guthrie is trying to keep the minority population in place in District 2.


District 3

Mr. Guthrie stated District 3 would be extended north of the Manatee River.


 Mr. Clague stated the issue of jigsaw puzzling or gerrymandering is a much greater concern at the State level where there are standards about gerrymandering for partisan advantage. For local redistricting, the Florida Supreme Court views this as an issue of the Board exercising reasonable discretion for making less than smooth lines, then it is legally defensible. Mr. Clague stated it was a legally defensible reason but, does not want to supplant his judgment for the policy judgment of the Board.

Commissioner Servia stated District 2 has to grow south and the Oneco boundary of 63rd Avenue West made sense.

In drawing District 2 in this manner, Dr. Hopes asked Mr. Guthrie if he has been able to maintain the racial mix of the District as it was drawn in 2010.

 Mr. Guthrie stated his Simulation Map District 2 preserves the historical minority character of District 2 and, by adding the population, these particular areas south of Cortez are more heavily Hispanic than African American. His simulated map actually has a higher combined African American plus Hispanic percentage of the population than the Benchmark District Plan and it addresses the 12 percent under population of the current District. His boundary changes meet the continuity standard and is compact for a Section 2 analysis of the Voting Rights Act.


Chairman Baugh stated she could not tell where District 4 is going into District 5, but suggested the Board address District 2 before her comment is addressed.

 Mr. Clague stated two standards must be met, The Florida Constitution and compliance with the Voting Rights Act, and, the Board must make good faith effort to comply with both.

It was restated that, District 2, based on the 2020 Census, is under-populated by 12.5 percent and cannot be left as it is; it must comply with the Constitutional requirements to be as nearly equal in population as practical.

At this point, District 3 has grown north, and District 2 has grown south into District 4.


District 4

 Inasmuch as District 4 was already under populated, and upon losing territory to District 2, District 4 becomes even more under populated and has nowhere to go but east into

District 5. Mr. Guthrie displayed his Simulation Map District 4, stating his chosen boundary is to go down to Braden River to Honore Avenue, south to the edge of the County, extending up into District 5 and stays on the Braden River all the way up to the Manatee River and around the boundary on S.R. 64 then south on C.R. 675 east. BC20211109DOC015

Mr. Guthrie displayed a zoom-in of Simulated Map District 4 to the south, which brings in all of Tara Subdivision. BC20211109DOC016

Chairman Baugh heard from constituents, who do not want to be moved out of District 5.


 In looking at the GIS map data of plats and permits, District 3 is to grow in population due to construction activity, picking up 4,000-5,000 people with the Aqua-by-the-Bay development. BC20211109DOC003

RECESS/RECONVENE: 10:28 a.m. – 10:39 a.m. All Commissioners were present except Chairman Baugh. First Vice-Chairman Kruse was presiding.


REDISTRICTING OF COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICTS (continued)

Commissioner District Maps


(Enter Chairman Baugh)

 Dr. Hopes stated several Commissioners submitted maps early in the process, but withdrew them from consideration after working with Mr. Guthrie. Commissioner Baugh submitted her map version today for discussion purposes. BC20211109DOC017

Mr. Guthrie imported Chairman Baugh's map entitled Manatee Minority from Dave's Redistricting Application into the Florida Legislature's Esri Redistricting On-Line software and merged the map with his template for Manatee County Commission Districts in the Redistricting Plan.


 Chairman Baugh stated she met with Mr. Guthrie yesterday and the main objective was to not take away from District 2. She tried to make sure District 2 stayed as a minority District.

Commissioner Servia stated the first thing that stands out is the western boundary and Bayshore Gardens would go into District 3. Chairman Baugh stated it was an oversight that she forgot to change the District numbers on her map.


 Chairman Baugh stated her focus was to balance district populations as equal as possible, while preserving the historical minority character of District 2. She was unsure of the total minority population for District 2 in Mr. Guthrie's map, but her map resulted in a 50 percent minority population.


Dialogue continued among Commissioners while Mr. Guthrie corrected the District numbers on Chairman Baugh's map.

 In looking at Chairman Baugh's map, Commissioner Van Ostenbridge stated he was not happy with IMG Academy going into Commissioner Servia's District and Terra Ceia was not in his district. He also wanted to make sure Commissioner's homes remained in their Districts.

 Commissioner Servia stated she liked District 3 having the coastline and liked straight boundary lines. She did not like the diagonal line through her District to I-75. The urban core has historically been divided between Commissioner Bellamy's and her District. While it was portioned on the first simulation, it is now zig-zagged between the two Districts.

Commissioner Satcher stated he liked the map prepared by Chairman Baugh.

 Discussion ensued that the district boundary lines on Chairman Baugh's map may need to be adjusted, Manatee County should have map options to consider; keep the Port in District 1, keep rural together; Bayshore Gardens and Trailer Estates are still in District 4, Chairman Baugh's map is a good baseline map for discussion, none of the District Commissioners will be completely satisfied as each Commissioner has people they want to keep in their District, Commissioner Servia did not realize she was to offer a suggested map, and Commissioner Servia could submit her map after lunch.

 Mr. Guthrie displayed a spreadsheet of population data from District 2 based on various census demographics, using his initial District Simulation Map and Chairman Baugh's map with suggested boundary re-alignments. In the Benchmark, the Black VAP was 20.6 percent, and the Black VAP in the simulation map viewed two weeks ago was 20.7 percent. The Black VAP in this simulation map is 19.8 percent, and the Black VAP in Chairman Baugh's map is 18.0 percent.


BC20211109DOC018


Commissioner Kruse stated the Benchmark District Plan numbers are higher for the Black and Hispanic using Chairman Baugh's map.

Mr. Clague stated each of the two maps increased the minority population in District 2 with the Chairman's map a little less than the District Simulation Map. The differences do not seem to be that great, but the Board should wait to see the final product.

Mr. Guthrie stated that for purposes of determining minority representation, the VAP must be looked at and not the total population.

Chairman Baugh thought her map was close to 50 percent minority representation, as she mistakenly drew her boundary lines based on total population and not the Voting Age Population (VAP).

 Mr. Clague advised that, under the Florida Constitutional standard, it is population and not VAP and not Voting. Mr. Guthrie referred to the Voting Rights Act, the Federal standard, which does not allow overlooking the VAP. Both documents were written not taking each other into consideration. Manatee County is making a good faith effort to comply with both standards.

 Upon request by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge, Mr. Guthrie stated the total minority population of District 2 is 48.9 percent, of which the Black-American VAP is 20.6 percent, the Hispanic VAP is 29.0 percent. In looking at Commissioner Baugh's proposed map, to have those same three percentages, Mr. Guthrie took the Black VAP percentage and Hispanic VAP percentage, and subtracted the ones that were double counted, which takes away 0.66.


Commissioner Van Ostenbridge stated Mr. Guthrie provided the VAP numbers; he clarified that he wanted both the total population and the VAP numbers.


Mr. Guthrie stated he did not have the benchmark for the total population.

Dr. Hopes explained that the redistricting software, because it is intended to give the data to determine compliance with the Voting Rights Act, only looks at the VAP.

Mr. Guthrie stated he would calculate the total population numbers during the lunch break.

Upon request for the VAP breakdown for Commissioner Baugh's proposed map, Mr. Guthrie stated the total minority population is 47 percent (a difference of 1.9), total African American is 18.0 percent, and Hispanic is 29.5 percent.

 Commissioner Servia also asked Mr. Guthrie if he would create a map during the lunch break that keeps Terra Ceia in District 1 and also brings the minority population at over 50 percent for District 2, and show the Board what this would look like to make this a third map option.


 Upon request by Commissioner Satcher for the total number of Voters for each district on Chairman Baugh's map, Mr. Guthrie stated Chairman Baugh's map equalizes the population based on the 2020 Census. Commissioner Satcher noted that every district total is close to 80,000.

BC20211109DOC003


(Note: The Redistricting of County Commission Districts was continued later in the meeting)

RECESS/RECONVENE: 11:16 a.m. – 1:35 p.m. All Commissioners were present.


2. **CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU/CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION AND PREMIER SPORTS CAMPUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE**

 Elliot Falcione, Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director, stated today's objectives are to provide Convention Center expansion and renovation, and conceptual Premier Sports Campus Capital Improvement updates related to future economic impact, conceptual design, scope of projects, Sheraton Hotel update including hotel construction timeline, and options to finance the projects.

A slide presentation was shown of a breakdown of revenues generated by Leisure, Sports, and Group/Corporate, current annual direct economic impact estimated at \$6,859,400, projected annual direct economic impact once the hotel is built and open for business estimated at \$20,249,800, the Convention Center Hotel is projected to generate \$17 million in tourism tax dollars over a 20-year period, an additional multi-purpose room/ballroom to accommodate breakfast/lunch and keynote speakers, and a sales partnership for cross promotion with Ambridge Hotels to target new business.

 Tony DeRusso, Managing Partner, Network Developers (Sheraton Hotel Developer), continued with slides to highlight the \$75 million investment, horizontal and vertical construction timelines, project slated to open the fourth quarter of 2023, exterior rendering of the eight story 190,000-square-foot, 252-room full-service luxury hotel with a VIP roof-top lounge, 8,000 square feet of ballroom space, 10,000 square feet of meeting space, a parking deck, the theme is a world gathering place, a resort-style zero-entry pool and 32,000 square feet of flexible outdoor event space to partner with the Convention Center to accommodate different groups, the space will act independently for other events, a Redevelopment and Economic Opportunity Grant is tied to this project, hotel operations will create 250 jobs, 230 construction jobs and result in a massive economic impact, job creation is crucial to securing an economic development grant for the 7th Street Extension, the Florida State of Economic Opportunity has provided a \$1.5 million economic development grant to extend 7th Street and the grant is tied directly to this job creation.

Commissioner Whitmore stated this facility would be the largest meeting space from St. Petersburg to Naples, Florida.

 Mr. Falcione stated the Tourist Development Council is very supportive of this project and recommended \$2 million for design services, which will be on the agenda November 14.

Mr. Falcione displayed a slide of the Conceptual Venue Enhancements and noted there will be an easement for using the loading dock as well as shared parking. Two outparcels will be shops and restaurants as well as other retail uses.

Mr. Falcione concluded with slides of the multi-purpose room/hotel connector, conceptual parking deck with ability for an additional parking level, the parking lot would hide the worst side of the Convention Center, and the existing Convention Center, landscaping and outside appearance must be renovated to resemble a resort.



Mr. Falcione showed slides to give an overview of the Premier Sports Campus at Lakewood Ranch with an approved budget of \$6,460,850, a 6,500-square-foot permanent framed multi-use tent with amenities to accommodate 400 people banquet style, capital enhancements, enhance current and increase parking by 400 spaces, Convention Center projected procurement and construction timeline, Premier Sports Campus projected procurement and construction timeline, and Lakewood Ranch branding will be used.



Jan Brewer, Financial Management Director and Deputy County Administrator, showed slides of Tourism Development Tax (TDT) Revenues budgeted versus actual TDT Revenues, Debt Service Options, 20 percent Reserves of approximately \$2.9 million, additional revenues from FY 21, with an assumption of \$2.1 million increase in revenue not included.



Discussion ensued on using extra Reserves to pay down debt, the goal to maintain debt service at a lower level, take cash pay down and bond less, there has never been a better time to bond, review options with financial advisor, Reserves only reflect TDT Revenues, the second floor of Convention Center expansion could be funded by the Tourist Development Council Funds, the pool is designated in General Fund Reserves, there are two separate projects here, looking at debt service for the hotel project only, hotel parking deck design is only conceptual with another option for adequate parking, parking deck associated costs, parking deck design could be considered as a prototype for beach parking, what has been approved, and how much money has been allocated up to this point.

Mr. Falcione stated that nothing has gone out for design yet. Next week, the Board would consider up to \$2 million for construction and design work.



Ms. Brewer stated there were two line items for the hotel and Convention Center projects during the CIP process. No formal presentation was made until today.


Chairman Baugh suggested staff schedule individual meetings with Commissioners.

There was discussion that if the Convention Center is not done, the hotel is not coming, a four-star hotel cannot be constructed next to the Convention Center in its present state, Mr. DeRusso is the new project owner, the Convention Center must tie into the hotel project, and the City of Palmetto supports this project.



Tom Yarger, Property Management, stated conceptual design work would begin with a cost estimate, and a high-level estimate would be brought back to the Board.

As to the use of TDT Revenues for this project along with allocated, set-aside funds, Mr. Falcione stated the projects have gone through the County Attorney's office to confirm that they meet the use criteria of TDT Revenues.

 Commissioner Satcher pointed out the Board approved \$6.4 million of General Revenue Funds to build the new Library. TDC Funds are designated for tourist-related activities and this project qualifies.


Commissioner Kruse remarked that Manatee County does not have a hotel with meeting space. People visiting the Convention Center for events stay in Sarasota and at the Beach. This hotel with food and beverage, in coordination with the Convention Center, is a way to get corporate tourists to visit a regional headquarters facility.

Commissioner Bellamy thanked staff for the quick turnaround on pulling this project together. His mindset is to proceed as quickly as possible, and tourist dollars should be used to provide beach parking. The project was slowed down in part by COVID.

Dr. Hopes commented on the approved budget for both projects.

There being no public comment, Chairman Baugh closed public comment. BC20211109DOC019


REDISTRICTING OF COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICTS (Continued)

 Earlier in the meeting, two requests were made by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge for the VAP broken down by race and total population broken down by race. Mr. Guthrie displayed a revised spreadsheet of population data and stated District 2 in the Benchmark Plan in terms of population is 55.5 percent by adding together the non-Hispanic Black population, the Hispanic Black population and the Hispanic persons who are not Black. The VAP for the Benchmark District was 48.9 percent. With population compared to VAP, the minority percentages go up across the board. BC20211109DOC020

With the change of moving the Port and Jail Complex from District 3 into District 1, the total population racial percentage of District 2 was 60.7 percent, as opposed to the VAP, which was 51.1 percent.

Mr. Guthrie corrected his statement, stating the simulation plan he came with this morning had the Port and Jail complex in District 3 and those areas were moved to District 1. He addressed the numbers for minority populations and total population for District 2. Total Black or Hispanic minor population for District 2 is 55.5 percent, broken down to an African American population of 22.3 percent and a Hispanic population of 34.2 percent. These percentages translate into Commissioner Baugh's map to reflect a total minority Black or Hispanic minority population for District 2 of 53.3 percent, broken down to African American of 19.4 percent, and Hispanic of 34.9 percent.

Commissioner Van Ostenbridge summarized the Benchmark total minority population in District 2 is 55.5 percent, while Commissioner Baugh had 53.3 percent; the Benchmark African American was 22.3 percent, while Commissioner Baugh had 19.4 percent, and the Benchmark for Hispanic was 34.2 percent, while Commissioner Baugh had 34.9 percent.

 Mr. Clague explained the Board must comply with both the Florida Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. The Florida Constitution says the Districts must be divided based on population, but when defending that against a challenge under the Voting Rights Act, the County must look at Voting Age Population (VAP) to meet the standard to not dilute any one historically recognized group that has been voting together as a group. It was inadvisable in his opinion, to reduce the VAP of either the Black or Hispanic category in District 2.

Commissioner Bellamy stated he would like to see both numbers next to each other to make sure it is clear not only in the population numbers, but also the District lines.

Commissioner Kruse commented on the benchmark numbers.

Mr. Guthrie stated if a group of minority Voting could persuade a Court that the County has diluted any one historically recognized minority group, this could cause legal issues. He stated these maps do not do this.

Dr. Hopes stated Chairman Baugh's map was submitted during the meeting. He suggested the Board look at district line and consider Chairman Baugh's map, which reflects a 13 percent reduction in the percentage of Black African American Voting. He suggested Commissioner Baugh's map be included with the maps for consideration.



Commissioner Bellamy asked if the Board could return to the initial map, as the Board should not entertain a 13 percent reduction in the African American percentage.

Commissioner Satcher commented that everything seen to date would be the absolute opposite of diluting the vote; the entire county has grown and there is not a direction to go from District 2 that has the exact minority character, but geographically it makes sense. The Board is trying to maintain District 2 as it has been.

Chairman Baugh stated the Board needs to be concerned about the total population and the VAP. She did not take the VAP into consideration when she created her map version; her thought was for the residents and citizens of Manatee County.

Commissioner Bellamy asked the Board to return to Mr. Guthrie's map.

In response to Commissioner Servia's request to Mr. Guthrie to create a third scenario map for consideration, that keeps Terra Ceia in District 1, and brings the minority population at over 50 percent for District 2. Mr. Guthrie started the map and could continue this map if it was the will of the Commission.

Mr. Clague asked Mr. Guthrie the extent of his presentation, as the goal was to respond to Commissioners' concerns and to complete the redistricting of County Commission Districts by December 2021. He suggested the Board direct the Consultant to bring back options at the next meeting, as there is more than one way to do this that is legally defensible. Mr. Guthrie would ensure the map options meet the continuity standard and are compact for a Section 2 analysis of the Voting Rights Act.

Commissioner Bellamy suggested three map options: 1) the map submitted by Mr. Guthrie, 2) the map submitted by Chairman Baugh and 3) the last map with adjustments to District 1 regarding Terra Ceia by Commissioner Servia. Once the boundary lines are defined for all three maps, the Board could present them to the public for feedback.

Commissioner Servia agreed with Commissioner Bellamy. Commissioner Satcher wants some coastline in his District, but all three map versions must keep District 2 a priority to balance the populations and make sure the minority votes are not diluted.

Mr. Guthrie displayed the third map entitled, Map Sim 2-B Terra Ceia 1.


BC20211109DOC021


Commissioner Satcher requested staff speak to Commissioners privately.



Mr. Guthrie addressed Commissioner Servia's request to take his Map Plan 2B and move Terra Ceia into District 1 (using a series of ten simulated map screenshots). This involves taking District 1 to the Skyway Bridge and making I-275 the boundary between Districts 1 and

3, which increases the population of District 1 by a few thousand. District 3 needed to add more population. East of 34th Street (old boundary) and south of Cortez Road was moved into District 3. District 3 comes into District 4, District 4 takes back some territory that was to go into District 2, between Districts 4 and 5 stays along the same line and the boundary between Districts 1 and 5 shifted minimally to get the population close to even between those two. Rather than Districts 1 and 5 being under populated by 4,500 people, both districts are now under populated by 2-3,000 people. Mr. Guthrie stated this was not Commissioner Servia's work product, but his work product based on the direction he received in this meeting. The Board should dialogue further on this work product map.

 Commissioner Satcher stated the body of water moved into District 1 was Bishop Harbor and not Terra Ceia. Mr. Guthrie moved Bishop Harbor back into District 1, which is territory south of I-275 and east of U.S. 19, would put the population of District 1 at -1,200. He suggested looking at the border between Districts 1 and 5 to even that out, and look at Districts 3 and 4 to get them both between 1,000-1,500.

 Mr. Clague stated there are some differences in the three maps discussed today, they but are relatively close to each other. He asked Mr. Guthrie to bring these maps back at the next meeting with more detail to explain them as options for Board consideration and approval.

Commissioner Bellamy emphasized the need to greater define the North, South, East and West borders. Once three maps are identified, he suggested Commissioners not reach out any further to the Consultant, so as not to further alter the maps.

Commissioner Van Ostenbridge stated the Board should leave this meeting with three maps, post them in the designated locations and bring them back for approval.

 Mr. Guthrie stated he would clean up Chairman Baugh's map and the work product map he created at the request of Commissioner Servia, so they are understandable to the public.

Dr. Hopes stated Mr. Guthrie would be in Manatee County tomorrow to work on both maps.

Commissioner Servia had no problem with Commissioners contacting the Consultant so long as no further map changes are made and any further changes are done at a public meeting.


Mr. Clague stated the Board should be in the position to choose a map at the next discussion that is ready for approval. The biggest concern is compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

Chairman Baugh stated no further changes should be made to District 2, and the three maps from the Consultant be the final versions for review.

BC20211109DOC003

RECESS/RECONVENE: 3:30 p.m. – 3:42 p.m. All Commissioners were present.

REDISTRICTING OF COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICTS (Continued)

Public Comment 

Carol Manson voiced concern with the 2021 Redistricting process, transparency, public input, accessibility to the proposed maps, and questioned how District 2 would be affected.

Charles B. Smith, Commissioner Candidate for District 2, suggested the Consultant return with three maps for public review. He questioned why District 2 does not include Rubonia. The Board needs to make sure the laws governing the redistricting process are followed.


Suzie Copeland commented about the Voting Rights Act and Voting Age Population versus actual population. Inasmuch as Districts 1 and 5 are the largest districts, she asked if the population numbers are based on future development and growth, or the data in hand.

Carol Felts questioned if the School Board could follow the same district boundary lines.


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

Discussion ensued regarding this is the Board's third work session on Redistricting; the Board cannot do the redistricting process without Census data, and The Board cannot be involved in School Board Districts. BC20211109DOC003

4. **EXECUTION OF LETTER TO GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS AND THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION IN SUPPORT OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION, TO COMMENCE ON NOVEMBER 15, 2021, TO DISCUSS LEGISLATION TO PREVENT VACCINE MANDATES ENACTED BY BUSINESSES**

 Chairman Baugh stated Representative Michele Raynor needs to be added to the copy list on the letter to Governor Ron DeSantis regarding the Special Legislative Session. She read the letter into the record.

(Gavel to First Vice-Chairman Kruse; presiding)


 A motion was made by Chairman Baugh, and seconded by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge for the Chairman to be able to sign the letter to the Governor regarding the Special Legislative Session.


There being no public comment, First Vice-Chairman Kruse closed public comment.

The motion carried 6-1, with Commissioner Bellamy voting nay. BC20211109DOC022

(Gavel returned to Chairman Baugh; presiding)


3. **DRAFT PARKS MASTER PLAN**


 Charlie Hunsicker, Parks and Natural Resources Director, utilized a slide presentation to review the Draft Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan 2021, Chapters 1-7 and Policies for feedback in order for staff to complete the PROS Master Planning Process.

 Kelley Klepper, Kimley-Horn and Associates, continued with slides on the Master Planning Process and spoke about the philosophy behind the Plan. Chapter 7 of the PROS Master Plan represents a 15-year projection of a combination of infrastructure sales tax projects, both approved and pending, along with projects to be funded through impact fees.

Discussion ensued on starting with a Parks Vision, the need to focus on aquatics, grow athletics as population continues to grow, youth adult and senior sports, high priority actions, Parks capital improvements, major future capital improvements, greenways and trails strategy, preserves strategy, indoor recreation facilities strategy, operations and maintenance, expansion and development of a standalone Trails Master Plan, the need to look at recreational facilities in the east, central and north portions of the county, the Marble facility should be two gyms, start with the Marble facility, what is available north of the river, field sports and The Big Four parks, District parks, priority and strategy actions, prioritization of funding and land where recreational facilities should be, the current Comprehensive Plan and standards, the same level of services the County has relied on from the Comprehensive Plan go back to the mid-80s, facilities should be located not only to serve existing customers but where growth is going to occur, and not tying hands as a community in order to adapt to a new way of thinking.


(Depart Commissioner Whitmore)

 Mark Jaeger, Bradenton resident, spoke of a diversionary program to help train and employ the homeless.

 Carol Felts commented about the Parks Master Plan.

There being no further public comment, Chairman Baugh closed public comment.

Staff seeks approval and consideration to move the PROS Master Plan to a Regular Board meeting for adoption by resolution.

 Commissioner Servia so moved staff’s request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bellamy and carried 6 to 0, with Commissioner Whitmore absent.

BC20211109DOC023

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS 

Commissioner Van Ostenbridge

- Spoke about a recent house fire in Bradenton and his attempt to raise funds for the family by starting of a GoFundMe account

Commissioner Bellamy


- Acknowledged the passing of Henry Biden and Manatee High School Coach Harry Kinnan

Commissioner Servia


- Updated the Board on the recent Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting
- Requested an explanation on the many sources and allocations of incoming Federal Funds
- Plans to ask the County Administrator to hire an outside consultant to rewrite the Land Development Code

(Further Commissioner Comments later in the meeting)

COUNTY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

 William Clague, County Attorney, reminded the Board of the Local Government Law Webinar (11/17/21).

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (continued)

Chairman Baugh 

- Referred to previous Board action on a letter of support to Legislative Representatives for WCIND’s one-time allocation request of \$2 million to construct a new facility (9/15/20; BC20200915DOC079). The letter was never executed by all parties. She presented another letter and stated that without objection, she would sign the letter. There were no objections.

BC20211109DOC024

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Baugh adjourned the special meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Minutes Approved: September 12, 2023