

**MINUTES**  
**Approved by the Commission**  
**Commission for Reapportionment**  
**Thursday, September 23, 2021**  
**1:00 P.M.**  
**Marimn Health Medical Center**  
**Plummer, Idaho**

Members: (Commissioners) Cochairs Bart Davis and Dan Schmidt, Commissioners Thomas Dayley, Nels Mitchell, Amber Pence, and Eric Redman; (Commission Staff) Paul Boucher, Elizabeth Bowen, Keith Bybee, and Todd Cutler

Absent/Excused: None

Also present (Signed in): Chief Allan, Tim Hatton, and Phil Lampert

**The meeting was called to order by Cochair Schmidt at 1:01 p.m. A silent roll call was taken.**

### **Opening Remarks**

Cochair Schmidt explained the purpose of the Commission for Reapportionment. The commissioners introduced themselves.

### **Public Testimony**

Cochair Schmidt described how the public could be involved in the process of reapportionment. He invited the public to testify.

- Chief Allan testified on behalf of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and stated that the tribe was working well the way the plan was set up now, with the tribe split between two districts. He explained there has just never been a connection to cities such as Moscow or Clearwater, and he wanted to keep the connection between Kootenai County and the Post Falls area. Chief Allan and Tyrel Stevenson told the commissioners they would be submitting written testimony in the future. Cochair Davis asked the room whether they could make the meeting conversational, noted the 52,500-target population number, and stated that the current legislative plan would not work. Cochair Davis wanted to see if he could keep the tribe as self-contained as possible, such as one legislative district, and asked for clarification on Chief Allan's testimony. Chief Allan clarified that he liked the tribe being split between two districts/counties. He added that lots of tribal members were split between two counties, so a two-county split makes sense. Cochair Davis said he appreciated the testimony, noting he would have gone in another direction without it. Commissioner Redman said the tribe would likely be in Districts 2 and 5 but commented on the room for change in the future.
- Phil Lampert, Benewah County Commission chairman, testified he disliked when Benewah County was stuck with the lower half of Bonner, Shoshone, or Clearwater Counties, stating there was no way to expect a representative to accurately represent a district that wide and diverse. He stated Latah and Benewah Counties work well right now and cited they were resource-based, except for the city of Moscow. Mr. Lampert desired to keep Benewah County intact but also considered the commission would have to combine it to make population numbers work and asked if Benewah County could be combined with other resource-based and rural areas. Cochair Schmidt noted they struggled with this while drawing draft plans, as they ended up with large rural districts. Mr. Lampert noted the current districts' large shape and the difficulty of representing such a large area. Commissioner Pence asked if Plan L01 worked with the preferences he wanted. Cochair Schmidt commented that the area Benewah County currently encompassed on the draft plan was very resource-based. Chief Allan clarified that Mr. Lampert desired to have legislators close. Mr. Lampert repeated the difficulty of redistricting rural districts, and he worried that smaller districts may become less heard. Cochair Schmidt noted the 52,500-target population number and the

deviation number system on Maptitude. He went on to acknowledge Kootenai County was about 1,000 people above, but the commission doesn't want to split counties. Cochair Schmidt then told Mr. Lampert the L01 plan was online, and the commission was aiming to have another draft plan in three weeks. Cochair Schmidt suggested that Mr. Lampert talk with the Clearwater County commissioners to discuss the plans. Cochair Davis summarized Mr. Lampert's testimony, trying to find common points with his testimony and Chief Allan's, and summarized that having legislators in close proximity was beneficial to both the tribe and county. Chief Allan and Mr. Lampert agreed. Commissioner Pence observed that a legislator could live anywhere in the district, just not to the farthest boundary. Commissioner Redman commented that Kootenai County had three internal districts and now, because of growth there, would likely be three internal districts and one external district, likely combined with Bonner County or wherever the commission decided.

- Caroline Troy, District 5 representative, testified that it was important for the tribe to be as together as possible. She believed that having both tribal and county governances together added complications. Representative Troy added it was important to keep industries together and noted a natural tie between Nez Perce and Latah Counties. Cochair Schmidt echoed Cochair Davis's prior comment that the commission had thought the tribe would like to be kept together in one district, but that Chief Allan's testimony stated that was not the case. Representative Troy asked the commissioners if they had seen the draft plan she submitted. Cochair Schmidt said the plans ran into problems as they drew down toward the panhandle, stating they would have to split a county. Representative Troy suggested splitting Latah County and putting rural Latah County with Nez Perce. Cochair Schmidt asked if she was pushing to split Latah. Representative Troy responded she was not but was considering the "balloon effect" with population numbers. Cochair Davis asked where she would put Moscow. Representative Troy stated she would put Moscow with Benewah County and southern Kootenai County. Commissioner Pence asked if Shoshone and Clearwater Counties would be with Idaho County. Representative Troy noted there was a plan that hadn't been submitted yet that detailed that and had 5% deviation and eight splits. Commissioner Redman noted Kootenai and Bonner Counties had to go with other areas and four districts had to come out of Kootenai. Cochair Schmidt pointed to splitting Idaho County on Plan L02, but said it might be possible to try a Latah County split, which could affect Kootenai County.

- Cochair Schmidt asked all who testified if they were going to submit plans.

- Tyrel Stevenson supported the comments Chief Allan made and noted the large population growth in their area. He noted the tribe was largely employed in Post Falls and Coeur d'Alene, and there was a community of interest because of that. Cochair Davis added that he heard the tribe had investments and interests outside of Benewah County and asked about the number of people who don't reside on the reservation. Mr. Stevenson said that most people who were employed live off the reservation, and, at last count, 100 people lived in St. Maries, 20 to 30 lived in Moscow, as well as the history with Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls. He stated that the current district worked well because there was still a connection to Moscow, but the proximity was nice for a legislator for facilitating communication with constituents. Mr. Lampert asked if the final discussion regarding the plan would be done by the commission. Cochair Schmidt explained that the commission would and must pass a plan with four of six votes. Mr. Lampert reiterated the importance that Benewah County stayed intact. Representative Troy noted the tightness of the community in the area.

- Cochair Schmidt noted the commission would be traveling to central Idaho the following week. He advised the commission of the schedule and offered options for dates and times to hold a business meeting. **Without objection, a business meeting was scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on September 30 in Twin Falls.**

**With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.**