

**MINUTES**  
**Approved by the Commission**  
**Commission for Reapportionment**  
**Thursday, September 23, 2021**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**Council Chambers, Moscow City Hall**  
**Moscow, 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): Daniel Anderson, Dee Blain, Don Burnett, Matthew Casberg, Peggy Gottschalk, Kristopher Grows, Jennifer Henricks, Jim Hermann, Jacie Jensen, Dulce Kersting-Lark, Maureen Laflin, Tom Lamar, Bill Lambert, Elizabeth Laudis, Valerie Lee, Hailey Lewis, David Morse, Louise Regelin, Dan Schoenberg, William L. Spence, Chris Storbuk, Jesse Sumpter, BJ Swanson, Henrienne Westberg, and Zach Wilkinson

**The meeting was called to order by Cochair Schmidt at 7:00 p.m. A silent roll call was taken.**

**Opening Remarks**

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

**Public Testimony**

Cochair Schmidt invited the public to testify.

- Bill Lambert spoke in support of Plan L01 because of the close relationship between Latah and Nez Perce Counties. He listed a number of ways in which the two counties cooperated and relied on each other, including the shared health district.
- Kristopher Grows spoke in support of Plan L01. He believed that L01 would create stronger communities of interest for Latah and Benewah Counties by putting them in separate districts. Mr. Grows commented that L01 was an improvement over the legislative district plan adopted in January 2012 because those two counties do not have much in common; the new plan would divide them in a way that would allow people with similar needs to be in the same district.
- Jacie Jensen testified that L01 was appropriate because of the agricultural ties between Latah and Nez Perce Counties. She stated it would be good for south Latah County.
- David Morse testified in support of L01. As a citizen of Latah County, he relied on Lewiston as an economic hub to get things that were unavailable within his county. He shared his belief that districts would ideally always go along county lines; but, as it was necessary to divide some counties, it made sense to include that portion of Nez Perce County with Latah County.
- Dan Schoenberg, representing the Latah County Republicans, was concerned about having Lewiston in two legislative districts. He suggested keeping Latah and Benewah Counties in the same legislative district, which would create a district 6.57% shy of the ideal population number. He suggested extending the southern boundary of Latah County to the River Canyon edge, which would include the Genesee School District in Nez Perce County. He also proposed combining Latah and Benewah Counties with most of Clearwater County. He would take the portion of the Nez Perce Reservation in Clearwater County and put it in the Nez Perce County district. This would include Orofino and would put the population of the district that included Latah and Benewah Counties to be 5% over the target population. He commented that it was important to keep Lewiston in one legislative district.

- Maureen Laflin testified regarding Plan L01. She shared that the proposed configuration of L01 was much better than the configuration that was currently in use because it allowed communities of interest to be together. She suggested including Lapwai with District 6 from Plan L01. She also highlighted how closely linked Moscow and Lewiston were to each other.
- Matthew Casberg shared that he was in support of Plan L01. He spoke about the ways that Latah and Nez Perce Counties were dependent upon each other. The proposal would be a drastic improvement over the old plan that connected Latah and Benewah Counties. Mr. Casberg noted that Benewah was reliant upon Couer d'Alene while Moscow and Lewiston relied on each other, therefore, the proposed L01 configuration would be a better solution for these communities.
- Jim Hermann supported Plan L01 and stated it was a common sense solution. He commented that Nez Perce County should be included in District 6 because the citizens of Latah County were far more likely to spend time in Lewiston than anywhere in Benewah County.
- BJ Swanson spoke in favor of Plan L01. She discussed the great working relationship between Moscow and Lewiston. She worked as the treasurer of Latah County and spoke about how much she worked with the Nez Perce County treasurer. She said that the two counties already relied on each other and shared many similar interests, so to share representatives made sense.
- Dulce Kersting-Lark testified in favor of Plan L01. As a Moscow resident, she mentioned how much she traveled to Lewiston to shop. She stated her job was working for a nonprofit and it involved cooperating with organizations in Nez Perce County. She also spoke to the historical ties of the two counties, mentioning that they were once a part of the same county.
- Jesse Sumpter, from Moscow, spoke about Plan L01. He liked Mr. Schoenberg's proposals. He stated that dividing Lewiston was problematic. He also spoke of the connection between Latah and Benewah Counties, pointing out the geographic divide between Latah and Nez Perce Counties.
- Tom Lamar, a Latah County commissioner representing himself, spoke in support of Plan L01. He mentioned that Latah, Nez Perce, Lewis, Clearwater, and Idaho Counties all worked together closely. Those counties shared a regional connection, and Benewah County was rarely involved in discussions. He urged the commission to recognize the regional connections of north central Idaho by adopting L01.
- Chris Storbuk testified in support of Plan L01. He expressed that, culturally, Latah County was closely aligned to Nez Perce County. He said that it was a mistake for Benewah County to be joined together with Latah County and that there was not a beneficial relationship between the two. He also spoke positively about Plan C02. He thought that having Boise as a whole district instead of split into both congressional districts was a great change, as the rest of the state doesn't necessarily agree with Boise.
- Hailey Lewis spoke about the incorporation of the Couer d'Alene Tribe. She mentioned that Plan L01, which seperated Benewah and Latah Counties, could lead to the tribe being better represented by one district, rather than being split among three as in the current configuration. Cochair Schmidt replied that the commission felt it was important to try and keep tribal populations in one district, but the chairman of the Couer d'Alene Tribe mentioned that the tribal population felt it could actually have better representation by being in multiple districts.
- Henrienne Westberg spoke, representing herself. She was the Latah County clerk and mentioned that she had a lot of dealings in Lewiston. She mentioned that Latah and Nez Perce Counties shared a plethora of commonalities and for that reason Plan L01 should be adopted. Cochair Davis asked whether Latah County precinct lines would have to be changed after the new district plan was adopted. Ms. Westberg replied yes. Commissioner Pence asked Ms. Westberg's opinion on splitting Latah County. Ms. Westberg said she was not in favor of splitting Latah County. Commissioner Pence asked if splitting the southern part with Nez Perce County and keeping the rest with Benewah County was a good idea. Ms. Westberg opposed that idea. Commissioner Dayley asked if she had

any suggestions for the commission relating to precinct boundaries and communities of interest. She replied that she did not, but shared that she had little to do with anyone in Benewah County and believed it made more sense to incorporate some of Nez Perce County with Latah County in drawing legislative boundaries.

- Elizabeth Laudis suggested using handouts at the meetings and wanted to alert the commission of the need to improve display of the plans on the livestream.
- Daniel Anderson told the commission that a lot of people who live in northern Latah County have a stronger relationship with Benewah County, mostly commuting there to work, and suggested the two counties should be in the same legislative district.

**With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.**