



## OFFICE OF THE COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

**Thursday, March 17, 2022, 4:00 PM**

**Present:** Chair Patrice Horstman, Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez, Supervisor Judy Begay, and Supervisor Matt Ryan were present virtually via Zoom meeting technology.

**Absent/Excused:** Supervisor Lena Fowler

**Also Present:** County Manager Steve Peru, Deputy County Manager Sue Brown, Public Affairs Director Trey Williams, Management Analyst Claire Harper, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Manager Margo Neff, GIS Analyst Nate Renn, and Clerk of the Board Lindsay Daley were present virtually via Zoom meeting technology.

Chair Patrice Horstman called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

The Supervisors introduced themselves. Chair Horstman explained that the redistricting process occurs every ten years. She also spoke about the five map scenarios being on the county website for review and comment by the public. She explained that staff will go over the scenarios being considered and that the Board is present to listen. Chair Horstman went over the guidelines used by the Board to create the scenarios. Chair Horstman introduced County Manager Steve Peru.

County Manager Steve Peru presented a powerpoint and went over the agenda for the meeting and topics that will be discussed. He explained that the redistricting process occurs every ten years and that the Board of Supervisors is responsible for creating supervisory districts following guidelines established by state and federal law. He also explained that the Coconino Community College and the Board of Supervisors share the same five districts. He stated that the 2020 population of Coconino County is 145,101 and that with the redistricting process that each district will need populations of 29,020 with a 5% plus (30,471) or minus (27,569) range. County Manager Peru also explained that all of the information is on the website at: [coconino.az.gov/redistricting](http://coconino.az.gov/redistricting) and that comments can be emailed in. He explained that they will capture the information provided today and that it is important to use that email to capture all comments.

County Manager Peru explained the chronology of the redistricting process. He spoke about the delay in the process due to the delay in the census. He also explained that the Board will

take action to approve a map scenario on April 12.  
Vice Chair Lena Fowler joined the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

County Manager Peru went over the background of the redistricting process. He explained that Census data is used by states to create legislative, congressional districts and that counties also utilize county-level data to create redistricting plans that comply with constitutional and federal mandates.

County Manager Peru went over the Laws that have been and that are part of the redistricting process, including Arizona Revised Statute 212 that states that the Board of Supervisors shall meet at the county seat on or before December 1 following the release of the U.S. Census data to conduct the redistricting process and define the boundaries of each district. Manager Peru also spoke about the Equal Protection Clause ensuring one person one vote and how it ensures balance in terms of population and representation. He further explained that the County is no longer required to submit changes to the Department of Justice as previously required under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act; however, section 2 of the Voting Rights Act does apply to the County, which states, “No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.”

County Manager Peru explained that the County adopted its guidelines for redistricting back in 2011 that was precleared by the Department of Justice in 2011. These included:

1. Draw districts, of equal population, based on census data, to ensure “one person-one vote.” A deviation from that standard by 5% is permitted, but less deviation is better.
2. Do not dilute the voting strength of racial and language minority groups. Preserve the ability of majority-minority districts to elect representatives of their choice. When considering the ability of districts to elect minority representatives, the voting age population should be considered rather than just census population numbers.
3. Preserve communities of interest. County Manager Peru explained that this is a community with same interests
4. Districts must be compact and contiguous. Use census block boundaries as district boundaries and do not split voting precincts.
5. Maintain traditional geographic and political boundaries.
6. Do not create a substantial, long-term negative effect on a specific political party. Political parties should have a fair chance to influence the political process.
7. Base the new plan on existing district, to the extent possible.
8. When drawing district boundaries, take into account current incumbents.

County Manager Peru went over the protocol for providing public comment during the meeting, providing public comment anytime through the email and website and provided the dates of additional outreach meetings.

Deputy County Manager Sue Brown narrated the five scenarios while GIS Analyst Nate Renn showed the map scenarios on the screen. She explained that the demographics are shown next to the map of each scenario, which detailed the populations for each of the five supervisor districts within each scenario. She began with presenting Scenario C and went through the

changes that occurred to create scenario C and also went over the demographic information of the five supervisor districts within Scenario C. Deputy County Manager Brown then went through the rest of the scenarios, D1, D2, E and F and for each scenario described the changes that occurred among the precincts to create each map scenario and went over the demographics of each Supervisor district within each scenario.

County Manager Steve Peru showed how anyone can go on the County's redistricting storyboard website and showed where one can find frequently asked questions and the timeline. County Manager Peru asked if anyone in attendance had questions or comments.

Public Affairs Director Trey Williams stated that Joan Jamison who lives at 4668 Windsong, Flagstaff, 86004 provided a comment in the chat box. County Manager Peru read the comment that asked why Inscription House and Navajo Mountain precincts switch with Cameron and Grand Canyon precincts. County Manager Peru explained that they attempt to balance the population and that it is mainly due to population but also due to the criteria explained.

Joan Jamison spoke and explained that in looking at the criteria, population was the first one mentioned by that there is also traditional geography and that in looking at the maps, Inscription House and Navajo Mountain is contiguous but seems closer to the rest of group 5, where Cameron is closer to the rest of 4. She stated that it seems like in terms of the community of interest or whether they are contiguous or traditional geography it seems odd to her. County Manager Peru thanked her for her comments.

County Manager Peru explained that the public can watch the meeting back on YouTube. Public Affairs Director Trey Williams explained where that can be found.

County Manager Peru explained that the comments received will be posted on the website and that the Board will be capturing the comments, questions and concerns and taking into account the feedback provided in their deliberation when they make a decision on April 12.

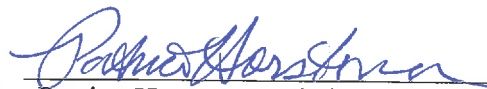
County Manager Peru read a comment in the chat from Joan Jamison suggesting to define vertical lines on charts when hovered over and County Manager Peru stated that they will take that into account.

Chair Horstman thanked the Supervisor and staff as well as those who attended the meeting.


Chair Horstman adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.



## COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

  
Patrice Horstman, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

