

San Juan County Redistricting Committee

Minutes 12 June 2011

SJ County Conference Room, Orcas Landing

Members present: Allen Rosenberg, David Bayley, Carl Bender, Barbara Bentley, Doug Pearson, Noel Monin

Chairperson Allen Rosenberg opened the meeting at 10:30 am. Minutes from the meeting of May 23, were approved as modified.

Interviews with County Council members Members reported on their meetings with their respective Council members. In general, all Council members were comfortable with the approach of the committee. There was no support for applying the "Bellingham option" to Friday Harbor, but support of including portions of the Eastsound UGA in each Orcas district.

Input from County Prosecuting Attorney Allen had sent a letter to Randy Gaylord, County Prosecuting Attorney, with questions about legal implications of the wording in some of the guidelines. No response yet.

Guiding Principles After appropriate discussion, the committee agreed to the following guiding principles in determining any changes in district boundaries

- The size of the population in any given district should be within $\pm 3.5\%$ of the "perfect" average value (= no more than a 7% total spread between the smallest to the largest) . Allen disagreed and felt that 3.5% might turn out to be acceptable but should not be taken as a guiding principle.
- The enabling legislation allows the committee to reassign individual islands to a different district as populations shift
- The current redistricting process is completely unrelated to the upcoming County Charter review.
- The districts created for the County are legally (and on the ground) different from other local districts such as those for schools, water, sewer, etc.

Outreach meetings The committee reconfirmed that keeping the public informed of the redistricting process is important. Thus public meetings will be scheduled on each of the ferry-served islands as well as on Blakely and Waldron. Content will include a description of the enabling legislation, an outline of guiding principles established by the committee, and two to three "alternative scenarios" illustrating possible change in district boundaries. Insights and opinions from the residents will be solicited and encouraged. In anticipation of these meetings, the committee will continue to work on a "discussion guide"

Developing options – a first go The committee spent the remainder of the time discussing various options, and making an initial effort to examine potential shifts in the high density areas on Orcas and San Juan Islands.

The meeting closed at 12:15 pm

Respectfully,

Barbara Bentley