

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**APRIL 19, 2011**  
**MINUTES**

**LOCATION:** Staunton MEDP Office

**PRESENT:** Board Members: Chairman Manar, Dragovich, Gay, Schwallenstecker, Thomas, Vojas; Guests: Payton Bernot, Michelle Zippay, Stephanie Dragovich, Mayor John Willmon, Deanna Taylor, Dave Ambrose

**AGENDA:**

1. Background on County Board Redistricting Process in State Statute
2. Review Population Statistics from the 2010 Census provided by the U.S. Census Bureau
3. Review results of public referendum from the November 2008 General Election
4. Public Comment

Chairman Manar called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and distributed five hand-outs to be used during the meeting: a) Timeline for Board Reduction Proposal, b) chart outlining population change by precinct, c) chart outlining population change by county board district, and d) a map of current County Board districts.

Public hearings are not required for County Board redistricting but the Board believed that public hearings would be a prudent step to take.

Chairman Manar reviewed State Statute that directs each county board in the State to redistrict every decade. Statute states that each district shall be equal in population, shall be contiguous and compact, may divide townships or municipalities only when necessary to conform to equal population and shall be created in a manner so that no precinct shall be divided between 2 or more districts.

Statute also states that prior to reapportionment, each county board shall first determine its size and make-up (i.e. single or multi-member districts). A reapportionment plan must be passed by the July meeting of the county board.

The Committee reviewed the reviewed the materials. The Committee discussed the results of the 2008 advisory referendum to reduce the size of the county board from 27 members to 18 members.

Under the population figures provided, the target population for each district is 5,307 people. The County lost population in the Census going from 49,019 to 47,765. Districts 1,2 and 5 have more than the target population and Districts 3,4,6,7,8 and 9 have less population than the target population figure.

Chairman Manar explained that the "official" census results are not accurate for population figures in the County because the Census Bureau did not use current precinct boundaries to determine population. Board Member Lee Lobue determined the correct population figures for each precinct in the County by utilizing software provided by the State Senate for public access in

Springfield. The chart being used by the Committee shows both the "official" population figures by precinct which are incorrect and the "unofficial" population figures by precinct which are accurate. Manar said that he has spoken with County Clerk Pete Duncan regarding the error by the Census Bureau to get the problem fixed.

The Committee discussed updating precinct lines to reflect population shifts in certain townships. The Committee also discussed the consolidation of some smaller precincts as a cost savings measure for election administration.

Mayor Willmon asked why the referendum that the county Board voted to place on the ballot in 2008 was not binding. Chairman Manar said that the Board researched that option following the mine closures and determined that a binding referendum under State law is not possible for determining the size of county boards. Therefore, the Board chose to place an advisory referendum on the ballot. Chairman Manar stated that the Board still has to vote to institute a reduction.

The Committee discussed the possibility of instituting single member districts as opposed to the current three member districts that are in place today. Chairman Manar told the committee that the County Board has the ability to determine both its size and how districts are determined and that all of those possibilities should be discussed.

Chairman Manar reminded committee members of the additional hearing schedule for Palmyra and Carlinville.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

Prepared by: Chairman Manar  
Prepared on: May 1, 2011