

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Representative Erik Paulsen, Chair of the Redistricting Committee, called the ninth meeting to order at 2:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 13, 2001, in Room 500 North of the State Office Building.

The Clerk noted the roll.

Members present:

PAULSEN, Erik, Chair
RIFENBERG, Michelle, Vice Chair
ABRAMS, Ron
ANDERSON, Irv
BOUDREAU, Lynda
GRAY, Gregory
KNOBLACH, Jim

LUTHER, Darlene
MARIANI, Carlos
PELOWSKI, Gene
SEIFERT, Marty
TINGELSTAD, Kathy

Members excused:

A quorum was present.

Rep. Luther moved the minutes from March 6, 2001. **The motion prevailed.**

Judy Duffy, League of Women Voters Minnesota, presented that organization's views about redistricting, and answered questions from the committee.

Bruce Miller, executive director of Common Cause Minnesota, urged the committee to consider appointing an independent redistricting commission to develop a redistricting plan, and answered questions from the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M..



REP. ERIK PAULSEN, CHAIR



Erik Holmstrom
Committee Legislative Assistant

HOUSE COMMITTEE TAPE LOG

TAPE: 1 of 1

COMMITTEE: Redistricting

START TIME: 2:30pm

DIVISION/SUBC: _____

CHAIR: Rep. Erik Paulsen

SIDE: A

PAGE: 1 of 1

DATE: 3-13-01

REVOLUTIONS:

LOG:

2:33pm
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2:41pm
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Chairman Paulsen: Call to Order
Rep. Luther: Moves for approval of 3-6-01 minutes
Chairman Paulsen: Vote on approval
Chairman Paulsen: Call for witnesses
Judy Duffy, League of Women Voters: 'Redistricting' input
Chairman Paulsen: Call for witnesses
Bruce Miller, Common Cause Mn: 'Redistricting' input
Rep. Abrams: Question
Mr. Miller: Answer
Chairman Paulsen: Question
Mr. Miller: Answer
Rep. Gray: Question
Mr. Miller: Answer
Chairman Paulsen: Comments & Questions
Mr. Miller: Answer
Rep. Abrams: Answer
Rep. Anderson: Question
Mr. Miller: Answer
Chairman Paulsen: Question
Ms. Duffy: Answer
Rep. Seifert: Question
Ms. Duffy: Answer
Chairman Paulsen: Call for witnesses
Chairman Paulsen: Adjournment

COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING
REP. ERIK PAULSEN, CHAIR

MEETING: Tuesday, March 13, 2001
2:30 P.M.
Room 500 North, State Office Building

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order.
- II. Roll Call.
- III. Approval of Minutes: March 6, 2001
- IV. Judy Duffy, League of Women Voters.
- V. Bruce Miller, Executive Director of Common Cause Minnesota.
- VI. Adjournment.

Next meeting: To be announced



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

M I N N E S O T A

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Testimony to the House Committee on Redistricting
March 13, 2001
Presented by Judy Duffy, President

My name is Judy Duffy and I represent the Minnesota League of Women Voters. The subject of redistricting has a long history with our organization and our testimony before the Minnesota Legislature during the past half-century has changed very little.

The League has a history of supporting redistricting on the basis of population for many decades. We believe that districts should be compact, contiguous, should be expeditiously assigned and redistricting deliberations and action should be easily accessible to the public.

In 1980 the League supported a constitutional amendment establishing a bipartisan commission to draw legislative and congressional districts. The amendment was not enacted but we continue to believe that this would be a better way to accomplish the redistricting task.

In 1991 the League testified in favor of the standards that were proposed by the Legislature. They were almost identical to the principles before us today. We would like to remind you now ten years later that the adoption of standards and/or principles does not guarantee an expeditious or successful redistricting outcome. As in previous redistricting efforts, the legislative process was contentious and the final plan was drawn up by a special judicial panel which was further complicated by the federal district court claiming jurisdiction and was finally resolved by a Supreme Court decision giving preference to the state panel. This was not a process that inspired confidence in the Legislature's ability to carry out equitable and prompt redistricting.

While we are appreciative of the preparatory work this committee has undertaken and the promise to accomplish the redistricting task before the conclusion of the 2001 session, we are aware that no statute or resolution to adopt principles or standards has been passed by either house. The Senate subcommittee on Redistricting has already been riven by claims and counterclaims of partisanship. So far as we know no effort has been made by the House and Senate to work cooperatively. We cannot be hopeful that a plan will be expeditiously or easily put in place. The Legislature is too intimately involved in the results of the process to be the best originators of a good redistricting plan that is not subject to lawsuits and delay. The time devoted by the Legislature to redistricting could be much better spent on review and creation of legislation and oversight of state

government. The citizens of Minnesota should not be subjected to another round of acrimony, confusion and upset that followed the redistricting plan ten years ago. It is now up to this Legislature to overcome the poor record of past legislative redistricting. If a redistricting bill has not passed both houses by May of 2001, the Legislature should form a bipartisan redistricting commission composed of legislators, political parties and citizens from various parts of the state to report a plan back to the 2002 session for early adoption.