

**Buckingham County  
2011  
Redistricting Committee  
February 24, 2011**

At a meeting of the 2011 Redistricting Committee held on Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the County Administration Building the following members were present: E.A. "Bill" Talbert, Chairman; F.D. "Danny" LeSueur, Vice-Chairman; John D. Kitchen; Brian D. Bates; Joe N. Chambers, Jr.; Danny R. Allen; Rozalyn Goin; Steve Finan; James Jones; Richard Austin; Acie Allen; Karl Carter; Rebecca S. Cobb; Jamie Shumaker; Margaret Thomas; and E.M. Wright, Jr. I. Monroe Snoddy; Rebecca Carter and Jennifer Lann were absent.

**Re: Establishment of a Quorum**

Chairman Talbert certified there was a quorum-six of seven members were present.

**Re: Call to order, invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Talbert called the meeting to order. A silent prayer for Rebecca Carter and family was held. Supervisor Chambers gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all who were in attendance.

**Re: Redistricting Committee Plans**

**Karl Carter:** Last week we had the task of coming up with some plans that we are going to look at tonight to see what we are dealing with. As you will see it is a difficult process. Stipulations you have to follow and where to put the lines at. It's a lot more than just drawing the lines where you think it's going to be. I'll let E.M. get into it.

**Mr. Wright:** If you don't mind, I told you last time I get to do the easy part and talk about it and again I'm going to give credit to staff, these three people here and Karl have just been absolutely diligent in trying to get this done. We told you last time that we just had gotten the information together and just had got the software up and running so it's been a learning curve on that part of it but they have really stuck with it. Everybody should have in the back of the book some additional tabs. What you have there is what's going to be on the screen. Some of it's going to be a little difficult to see so, you will be able to follow with your tabs and take it home with you.

When we sit down to work on this, we have such, I wouldn't say easy time but not a difficult time as previous time but we sort of expected that to happen this time. When we began to look at it we just couldn't make things fit and so the first part tonight is really important to understand the demographics of what has happened to the population in this county. That is going to be driving what is going to be happening here. Once we came to a grip on that, then we said well,

we are charged or tasked with the responsibility of coming up with three plans. We have come up with three plans. One is a little wobbly because as you remember I asked you to take the temperature of the group about the prisons. We had so much difficulty trying to adjust things, we actually, one of these plans will be a plan to not include the prison in any of the districts. With that said, we were talking to Margaret this afternoon, she said well, staff, the people who have developed this, what's your favorite plan, what do you advocate? This is really what I want you to understand. I have made the response, we don't have a favorite, it's like a puppy, you take a puppy home and get attached to it, it's awfully hard to give it back. So, what this is, this is a work in progress, this is really to promote discussion tonight and to give you, the committee's input on where you want staff to go next. You are not going to offend any of us when you say well, here's some ideas we want you to play with and we don't expect this plan to be adopted tonight. I've heard today through the grapevine that Prince Edward finished their redistricting today. But that's neither here nor there. So, the first part of the presentation, Becca is actually going to do the presentation, she is going to walk you through the population and what's happening here in this County to try to give you some understanding of what we are faced with. Then she's going to run three plans that we've developed and she'll show you the numbers that are associated with that. Anytime, while we are going along, if you have some questions ask and then when we get through with it we'll try to go back and talk about it. We are still playing with the software. We are not in the position tonight that we are going to be able to give you all the fly adjustments and show you a whole lot of detail. Probably by next week, I suspect we'll be back next week, we should be a little bit more able to show you roads and that types of things so that's why tonight is sort of a mobbing thing. To give you an idea of what we are looking at and the problems associated with that, then your input and then come back and next week when we come back with either two or three or whatever you want, we'll be able to monitor it a little bit better for you in terms of the geography of the county. So I'm going to sit down and let Becca take her shot at it.

**Mrs. Cobb:** We'll start with the first slide and you've got this in two different sections here. You might be able to read one better than the other. Either the first page that you've got or the page right after that says Redistricting 2010. It's the same chart there. I will go quickly through, you saw this last time, I just want to highlight some items for you this time.

You will see in 2000, the population was 15,623. In 2010, our population is 17,146. We continue looking at this right hand column with the totals, let's look at the percentages. In 2000, the white alone population was 59%. The black alone population was 39%. The other was 1.83%. Then 2010, white alone is 62.08%, black alone is 35.08% and other is 2.85%. Then also, E.M. has mentioned that the prison, just to think about, without the prison, our population is 14,973. So again without the prison, the white population is 65% and the black alone population is 31.76%. So that gives you a broad picture of how the county has changed the past 10 years.

So then the first image for you, this is the county map. You can lightly see the current districts in the background, then in the teal blocks, those are blocks that the population in those blocks are greater than or equal to 100 people. The black lines that you see are the individual blocks, so if you follow those black lines around into each one, that is what you call a block and they total

within that block how many people. They do the white, black, Hispanic, Asian, other. All of those are within those blocks.

**Bates:** Those are blocks that are established by the census bureau?

**Cobb:** yes. They are established by the census bureau. So what I've done is kind of queried and asked the data to show me which of the blocks are greater than or equal to 100 people. So, you can see right off that we have up towards the north, we have Forest Ridge. Over on the eastern part of the county and also around Dillwyn and then the southern, a few here and there. The next image is, we are bringing this number down, see where our population is, where we have big chunks of population, so this is greater than or equal to 50 people. I thought this was interesting because it really almost follows the line showing that is following Rt. 20, it's following Rt. 60 and you know from the numbers in the districts, whose districts had the most growth, which was district 6 and 5. So you can see that really in the Glenmore area and up towards Scottsville, the Forest Ridge Area over on 20, it where a lot of our population is, growth big blocks in the county.

So the next image, when we are doing redistricting one of the things we have to pay attention to is interest groups. One of the interest groups in the county is finding the black majority. This shows black majority and the white is the minority. So in each of these blocks, there is at least one more black person than white person. So it could be 20 people in one of these blocks and it could be one more of those is black than white. Or it could be a wider variety there.

**Mr. Jones:** This is total population?

**Cobb:** Yes this is looking at all the county and just pulling out those blocks that have at least one more black person than white.

Then you go to the next image, we now say, ok black majority and white is minority, but these blocks have greater or equal to 18 people because when you are moving lines, you need a block that has a fair number of people in it to make a difference in the numbers that you are shifting. If you are shifting five people at a time you are not going to be validated it's not going to make a difference in your percentages and it's not going to make a difference in your count. You do have to meet certain numbers so this is saying that these blocks have at least 18 or more people and give the black people majority here. We are looking at our interest group and see where it's located and where we can pull those folks.

The next image is to show you what I was talking about before with the blocks and the kind of information we get. So what I've done here is where you see the red arrow, it's picking out one census block that actually is part of Forest Ridge, that doesn't include all of Forest Ridge but I wanted to pick that one because I think that's one that a lot of people are familiar with and it's also one that has substantially grown in the past ten years. Forest Ridge Subdivision was not there ten years ago. So you will see in this that the total number of people in that block in 181. I'm looking from, you can see the box says identity and the little table there that says total and then it says one race and then it says one race and then white alone is 163 and black alone is 6

and one American Indian, no Asian, no Native Hawaiian and two other, 7 Hispanic. You look at that total and that gives you the 181.

The next image is another block, I selected this block because you will notice this gets swayed a lot in all our proposals because of the populations that are here. This is a big block so it's very usable. It helps sway your percentages and total population counts within the district. This one has a total of 102. The white alone is 38, black alone is 63, no Native American, No Asian, No Native Hawaiian and one other listed.

I just pulled out one more, this is close to Dillwyn. Part of this comes around to the back of the High School and it also touches along 15. Again a big block, a lot of people, when you look at this you can see that this is very equally populated. So you've got 193 total population, the white is 95, black population is 96 and one other and one Hispanic in that block there.

Are there any questions about that so far?

We move into Proposed Plan 1. The first image to the left is the current districts, that's how they are laid out today. The red dots are the location of the school board and board of supervisors. No just Board of Supervisors on there. You can correct this if you think we have you wrong. When you zoom in, you can see yourself a little bit better. This is just a general idea. Then to your right this is our changing the districts around to get one black majority district. In this, I guess I'll start with the major changes; we've taken the prison out of District 2 and put that into District 6. District 4 is running up to the northern part of the County. District 1 is also reaching westward and grabbing some of that large district, that Forest Ridge Subdivision. You will notice District 7 moved up along the Cumberland line and to the north. District 3 on the western side that moves up some. So there's a lot of changes here. So let's go to the next slide and we can look at the numbers within this district.

We've gotten our ideal, or close to our ideal population for within our deviation on these numbers. You can see the percentages of population of each district. District 1 is 63% white, 33% black. District 2 is 63% white and 33% black. District 3 is 72% white and 25% black. District 4 is 64% white and 32% black. District 5 is 76% white and 19% black. District 6 is 43% white and 54% black. District 7 is 50% white and 48% black.

I'll pause for a minute and let you look that over and before we move to another plan, if you have any questions about that?

**Kitchen:** Let me ask you one question, Becca, how are these district lines defined by roads, streams, or ...?

**Cobb:** A combination. A Combination of things.

**Kitchen:** According to what I understand, there is supposed to be marked by some...like a road or stream or...

**Cobb:** It will. We have to be able to describe it and be able to write out so you can essentially walk the line.

**Kitchen:** The reason I ask this, on this, the district size on 4, coming from 60 over to 56, there is nothing there at all but just a straight line through the woods. There's no stream, there's no road, there is no power line, there is no way in the world you can define it other than you just put it there. How are we going to define that line?

**Mr. Wright:** That line will never exist anymore. That line is gone. All the new maps right now, we are trying to get a concept of how we are going to do the plan by census block. Most of them are tied to either a river or road or some natural feature. So any of the plans that you see tonight will not have a point A to point B straight line.

**Kitchen:** It will either have a road or stream or something to define it.

**Mr. Wright:** I can't guarantee that right this minute so we know it's not going to be totally tweaked so we haven't gone in to try to describe it but by the time we get down to addressing the fine points of it, it will be a road, a stream or some defined boundary that you can walk that line.

**Kitchen:** Something that you can know that that is the district line.

**Mr. Wright:** Actually we have the advantage, we can do it easier now than we can do it otherwise because these two fellows can walk out to any place in this county and shoot the GPS location and come back in and put it on the map and tell you exactly where it is, but we don't want to go that route. We are going the route of where you can observe it on the ground.

**Kitchen:** That's why I asked that question, because I know that line is just an imaginary line.

**Mr. Wright:** At the end of the day we are going to end up with identifiable things you can see if you walk out there and look at them.

**Kitchen:** That's fine.

**Cobb:** Are we ready to move to Proposal 2?

**Margaret Thomas:** In proposal 1, we might point out that the prisons are in 6 and 7. One prison is in District 6 and one Prison is in District 7.

**Mr. Wright:** We offer these purely for the purpose of discussion tonight. It's a different concept of where we were so it's something to put out there for...to give you a little thought and a different way to look at it and when we finish looking at the others, we come back and yall can give us some guidance on where you want to go with it.

**Cobb:** The next tab will show you Plan 2. Again the current is on the left so you have something to compare with what is on the right. On the right, this is taking three districts and

looking at our interest groups and seeing how close we can get to that black majority. This is three districts, District 6, District 7 and District 2 and keeping the prisons as they are today but making other changes. In District 7, goes up to the north on the Cumberland Border. District 1 moves over to the west towards Scottsville, Forest Ridge. District 3, goes up some on the left and District 4 moves out to the west as well.

So we can go to the next page which will show you the numbers. The majority districts are 2, 6, and 7. You will notice that 2 majority is 49.4%, 6 is at 47.4%; and 7 is at 47.3%. Again, these numbers, the total population within each district is within our range of what we need.

**Talbert:** In other words, like my district, District 3, on Proposal 1 is 2501 if you go west it will be 2,532.

**Cobb:** Right. We have a little bit of play, 122, so we can give you as much of 122 more or take out. So you will see that number vary. But in all the proposals we give you, it's up to standard with what we have to comply with.

**Margaret Thomas:** In Proposal 2, the prisons are in District 2.

**Cobb:** Where they are currently.

If you don't have any questions about, we'll go on to the 3<sup>rd</sup> proposal.

**Acie Allen:** Am I still in my district on these proposals? (paraphrased, could not hear him very well)

**Jamie Shumaker:** I've checked all three proposals; everybody falls within their district with no problem.

**Mr. Wright:** We checked every school board member and they checked every Board of Supervisor to make sure we didn't bunt anybody.

**Jamie Shumaker:** Once you zoom in you can see it a lot better.

**Cobb:** Ok, so we can move to Plan 3. This is without the prisons. This is something just to look at because we were having such a hard time making the numbers work. We just wanted to play and see what happens and see what you thought. This is without the prisons. You will notice a little D8. That's just; we had to say that because the prisons are in a district of themselves. But we are not creating a district there, that's just what we needed to do so the software would understand what we were doing.

This one again, similar changes with District 1 and District 7; District 4 and 2 here are a bit different; District 7 also is a little further west and north. Just to run through the numbers, District 1 white is 64.8%, Black is 31.5%. District 2 is white 62.1%, Black 34.9%; District 3 white is 70.3%, Black is 26.9%; District 4 is white 70.7%, Black is 27.1; District 5 is 78.7%

white, 16.9% for black; District 6 is 67.5% white and 39% black; District 7 is 52.7% white and 45.5% for black. Those are the districts, just very briefly, very quickly for you to look at. Take some time now and let us know how you feel about it and if you have any questions.

**Talbert:** I'd just like to add, the rest of the people between Brian's District and mine, you've got over 11,000 forest. Nobody lives on but the game, that's it. There's never going to be any buildings or nothing.

**Mr. Wright:** Jamie, can you go back to 1 and put the District 1 over there. This, we are going to look at real quickly so you've got it front of you. Now put 2 up there. Then the prison. In looking at these there's been some, I guess we need to go there because in 1 and 2 particularly, look at those districts, and you will see that voters from one end of the district, the way the voting places are currently established, there is a long travel period for those who would be in 1 and those who are in 2. So the discussion among the committee, and we spoke with Margaret about this, there will probably need to be established additional precincts. That means that you can not require and you don't want the voters to drive forever to get to a poll. You wouldn't want somebody living at the tip of Scottsville, to have to drive to this courthouse to cast a vote. We feel that is too far to do that. So this plan and the next plan, because of the districts...you also wouldn't want somebody living in Scottsville to have to drive to Arvonnia, that would be a pretty good hike. One of the things we are going to have to look at as we modify these plans is the establishment of additional precincts.

**Austin:** How many?

**Mr. Wright:** At least 2. Margaret, you want to talk about that. She has some ideas and she thinks we might be able to implement in terms of...we might not have to have 2 locations, you can vote outside your district. I will use the analogy of Dillwyn. People in the Town of Dillwyn, for example, for their town elections, vote outside the limits of the Town of Dillwyn. They come up to the fire house to vote. As the rules are explained to me, that if your voting place is within a mile of your district, you can establish that.

**Margaret Thomas:** In actuality, all of District 2 vote in District 4.

**Mr. Wright:** So if we need to adjust something for this one or either for District 4 and 1, you might have the possibility of there being three districts, District 1, 6, and 4 voting at the same physical location. So that will not require a new building, that's one of the possibilities.

**Bates:** That do that over the Randolph Fire House in Cumberland, don't they?

**Mr. Wright:** Yeah, the notion, we are open to ideas here, as you travel north on 20, the objective I'm told is to try to keep your voting place on a main road and to put it in a handicap accessible building. If you think about the one north on 20, there's not many places that meet that criteria. There have been a couple identified but we don't have any arrangements for those but there are a couple possibilities. You can keep it at the Masonic Lodge where they vote now, but there is some thinking that it may be a little confining for the number of people that would

have to go out there. That is more of a side issue right now, but it is in most of the proposals, we probably are going to be looking at the establishment of additional precincts which means possibly another physical location and it means some additional voting machines.

**Margaret Thomas:** This is what the code says about having more than one precinct in the same location. It says, “if more than one polling place is located in the same building, each polling place shall be located in a separate room or separate and defined space.”

**Mr. Wright:** So you need some barriers that you can establish where which one is which. That’s for informational purposes right now; we don’t think that should necessarily drive where we are going with the districts.

**Margaret Thomas:** But separate polls, additional polling places will cost more money because you will have to hire additional officers of elections.

**Talbert:** Plus machines.

**Margaret Thomas:** Plus machines. We have a problem with machines. We can’t find anymore. We can use them for their natural life, but we can’t purchase additional. So that’s another issue.

**Goin:** People from one polling place to another, you can’t just move the machines.

**Margaret Thomas:** Possibly but you have to have a minimum per precinct. We probably would have enough.

**Mr. Wright:** We can work that out. I did want to make you aware that that is one additional thing.

Does anybody want to talk about Plan 1 now?

If you remember from what Rebecca put up in the beginning showing the demographics. The plus about this is it creates one clearly distinctive black district. That’s district 6. Because the prison is in there, if you back that prison population out, then it’s truly not a black voting district in terms of population. We are not trying to play hide the pea on anybody, ok.

Go to 2, this has not distinctively clear black majority district. What it does...it does have the prison in it, which inflates that number; understand that if you pull the prison out the black population in district 2 drops. District 6 does not have a prison in it in this scenario and comes very close and not too far off, in giving the number of people that have moved into District 6, that’s a fairly decent number. This has the prison in it, and if you back the prison out, that’s an artificially high number in terms of being a black majority district. I’m going to put it out there, we are not going to try to play hide the pea or any of that stuff. That’s the information.

Three if you would, this is 7 and it does have no prison. We've taken the prisons out, comes close to being...as close as any. But then the others drop off substantial. Now, from the other factors that we have to look at and they are in that booklet we gave you last time of things you have to consider, in terms of compactness of districts. This is the most compact. I have to tell you, with much opposition, we would have a tough time making this fly with Justice. Now, the question is the committee has debated, is whether is any desire to pursue this type of plan of throwing the prison out and redefining the districts. So as we talked about last week, as I say, some of the committees in the legislature, when you don't want to take a formal vote, you have to take the temperature of the group. So what I'm asking, I'm trying to take the temperature of this group to get a feel for whether there is any interest in revisiting the notion of whether we want to include or exclude the prisons.

**LeSueur:** Is it worth the committee's time, E.M.? If we know there is a potential that Justice won't accept it to start with.

**Mr. Wright:** I'll say this, I won't mince the words, don't take it...it's just the way it is. If there is opposition from the minority population of this county, I can tell you right now, it will not get approved. Not because of that but because this clearly dilutes as much as any of the plans, the black vote in this county.

**Bates:** The population of Buckingham now is 17,120 something. My understanding is when your population gets to a certain number; you can't exclude the prisons at any regard.

**Mr. Wright:** If we had reached 18,000 this year, we wouldn't have been able to.

**Bates:** So even if we went through this exercise taking the prisons out this time, the next census we'd have to put them right back in.

**Mr. Wright:** That was the discussion that I had heard the last time, most of the discussions that I have been involved in, said there is no need to take them out to have to put them back in. So is it the temperature of the group that we do not want to pursue this?

**Kitchen:** I think it would cause too much interference trying to make the district lines if you take them out. My personal opinion is to leave them in.

**Chambers:** Look at the different ratio's of the black and white, though. That's what you have to look at. That's going to be the problem right there.

**Mr. Wright:** That is the problem. If there is objection to it at all, this would not stand Section 5 clearance. I don't believe.

**Bates:** Mr. Chairman, I believe rather than take the temperature, we need to get on record on this. I make a motion that we include the prisons in the consideration of redistricting this year.

**Mr. Finan:** What constitutes the prison...explain that to me about that by population.

**Bates:** The prison...the way the districts are drawn now and the way they have been drawn since the prisons were in the county, is the prisoner's count is in the population.

**Mr. Finan:** But there's no voting right.

**Mr. Wright:** Children are counted in the districts but they can't vote.

**Talbert:** You are getting tax money from the state based on number of citizens you have in this county and that is why they count them.

**LeSueur:** Also, law enforcement numbers and all that is calculated.

Talbert: They are going to have to work around it to get it to work out.

**Chambers:** Those prisons can make a big difference. I don't want to fool with it to be honest with you.

**Mr. Wright:** You don't want to fool with them. Depending on what you are meaning, don't want to what?

**Chambers:** This is what I'm saying is this right here. To take proposal three, there is no way in the world a black person could get elected in either one of those districts.

**Mr. Wright:** That's what I'm saying. We are not playing with that plan. That plan will disappear.

**Bates:** The motion is to leave the prisons in for redistricting.

**Supervisor Bates moved, Supervisor LeSueur seconded and was carried by the Board to leave the prisons in for redistricting.**

**Mr. Wright:** When we pitch this to Justice, it is also driven by the feelings of the committee and the community. So if it's not out of line, can we go on record as far as having those numbers of those serving on the committee vote on the elimination of the prison.

**Bates:** My motion was a motion for the committee to vote on, not a motion of the Board.

**Supervisor Bates moved, Supervisor LeSueur seconded and was carried by the committee to leave the prisons in for redistricting.**

**Mr. Wright:** Let's go back to 2, take a look at 2; again staff are not attached to any of these plans. This was to do what we are doing here to develop some discussion about how we want to proceed from this point. Now Becca, tell us again the big differences between two and what we have now. This puts them side by side so you can get a notion of where the changes occur. It's subject to a whole lot more tweaking.

**Cheryl White (public):** Is there any way we can put up where the current polling places are?

**Mr. Wright:** No, not right now.

**Margaret Thomas:** We can tell you.

**Cheryl White:** No that's okay.

**Margaret Thomas:** That's a factor if you want to know.

**Mr. Wright:** By the next time we come back, if we refine tonight, our hope will be to show you roads, we'll be able to show you streams, and we will be able to show you incumbents for both boards and we will be able to show voting places if you want them on there.

**Cobb:** District 1 moves to the west, kind of along 652, goes up to Scottsville. Includes Forest Ridge. District 7 moves along the eastern border along Cumberland up to the north. District 4 moves out to the west. District 3 will also move to the north. You will notice District 2 moves out and touches the border of the County where it did not previously.

**LeSueur:** In District 2, that line is going to probably the Cumberland line.

**Mr. Wright:** The prisons stay in the current districts that they are in. The prisons stay in 2 and 7.

**Chambers:** Forest Ridge, that's going to be where it comes up 652 somewhere and turn and go down 20 or how does that work?

**Mr. Wright:** Forest Ridge up 20, that's going to be in district 1.

**Chambers:** That's what I'm saying what the dividing line going to be? Rt. 20 going, 652 up 20?

**Mr. Wright:** Yes

**Chambers:** Ok

**Cobb:** This line right here is Rt. 20. This is going to be Forest Ridge here, and let's see...

**Chambers:** Where is 611 at?

**Flippen:** That's about where that dips down. It may be a little further, but 611 comes off 652.

**Chambers:** Right at 671 down at Slate River Bridge.

**Cobb:** I can see a little bit of a reference maybe. This is along 652 and this is where the school board representative lives. It's right in there.

**Bates:** This is kind of a your sense of the Justice Department question, I'm talking about the shape of District 1 that you have to draw in there...

**Mr. Wright:** We probably stand a better chance of getting around shape when we have the right numbers. If I had a choice, I'd rather argue numbers than shape. I can argue these numbers.

Understand as we said earlier, these are...we knew that this was not the animal we were going to end up with but this is something we could put out there to do the types of discussion that we are engaging in now. If the other thing I want to discuss, if you look at the percentages, there is no clearly black majority district. The prisons are in 2 and 7. If we pull the prisons out of these, it drops substantially this black population. But we are at a stand alone district that has near black majority. Now, y'all have spent as much time or more time on trying to adjust the numbers. It is, go back to the black/white ratio, the first one that was put up back up there, the demographics part. Look at this chart, this helps you understand what's going on. If you remember, she said the ones that have this, whatever color you want to call that, those are black majority districts. It doesn't necessarily a whole lot more, it could be one more, but the ratio is more than one. If you compare that map with the map that we have with that 7 district, except for populations down in here and a few isolated populations, they are included already in 2 and 7. This is where they have census...there are 18 people in that block. Which means there is at least one more black in that than there are white. So it may be a 10/8 split or it might be a 11/7 split. Again if you look at where they are, they are already in 2 and 7 so again, we can't physically, these don't connect to those districts, we can't get them up there in terms of doing that part. That's the difficulty we have trying to make that work.

**Cobb:** Did you mention that in District 1, the need for population is kind of why we are...So you will see what he's talking about along District 6 and 1, you can see those highlighted ones, so if we are keeping the black majority in District 6, then where are we going to pick up population in district 1. That's where you see we start along the edge of 652 and go up to the north in Forest Ridge where there is large population of whites so we can get enough population in District 1 without disturbing where we do have some black majority.

**Mr. Wright:** To keep percentages in 7 which you currently have to make it somewhat comparable in that, and one already needed people. One is shy of people, so if we take more people out of 1 and put them in 7, which is what it does along the eastern edge of the county, then we need to expand 1 in some other direction to bring people into it. So we drive back west and we go as far as Forest Ridge Subdivision to bring in that which is 160 some people if I remember correctly and the ratio there is about 157 to 6, I think. So that picks up a big block of population. That's the kind of thing...go back to plan 2 with the numbers on it...so the façade is the notion of excluding the prisons, they become a fact of life that we've got to deal with. If we leave them in the same districts, we somewhat match the numbers that we had in 2000 particularly in light of the growth of the population. 6 becomes a pretty much stand alone, not

truly 50% black district, but fairly close that we may be able to do a little bit more tweaking. Bare that in mind, go back to 1 now,

**Talbert:** While you got 2 up there, District 3, going up north, what route is that one? What does that consist of, the Andersonville Area?

**Cobb:** I believe Andersonville is a little to the right.

**Bates:** it looks like it goes the other side of 640, that's what it looks like.

**Mr. Wright:** In the interest of full disclosure, we really tried to stay away from roads that we particularly do so that way you wont get caught up in did we put this person on this or did we do that. We are just trying to make numbers work with some discussion.

This would require, at a precinct for 1 probably. That would require one new precinct I would think. We'd have to look at it a little carefully. But the trade off is, what to me I think we need to be thinking about is are these numbers here with that being only about as good as it gets percentage wise, understanding that these on paper look one way, going back, because of the prison population, it's not those numbers.

**Austin:** So you can base all of this but if the ideal population and voting population are not the same, it's not a black district.

**Mr. Wright:** Actually there's no black district and if you use that criteria, there is no black district in the county right now.

**Mr. White: (public)** Complicating this is trying to get some kind of identifiable barriers for the district.

**Mr. Wright:** I think we are going to do that. Once yall tell us which of these you want us to refine or if you want us to refine two and refine one, when we come back next time, we will have it tweaked where we will show you the defined boundaries. We didn't know...this has turned out to be a lot more difficult...what I believe is said, this is my opinion and among the committee, that this county has become, and the discussion we've had is whether it is homogenous(pronounced differently) or homogenous county. Except for a very few areas of the county, we have blended in terms of neighborhoods. That's where it gets to be difficult.

Put 1 back up there if you would, now the question that Brian asked about geographical compactness, the only thing I can say is if you look at 5 and look at 4 and look at 1 they all have something in common, they are weird. Ok. But that displaces more voters than anything else you've looked at tonight. The numbers, that 54%...we put this out here to get some notion of what happens if we start changing the prisons around. Again, the committee is not advocating any of these, please understand that. We are not advocating any of these.

**Mr. White:** Has any legislation been put forward to say that in effect, count the prisoners for other types of funds coming in, but since these folks can't vote, that they are counted out of this.

**Mr. Wright:** We don't have to count them. That's why we have three up there. They don't have to be counted this time. If we grow by 900 people, or 1,000 people between now and the next census and assuming the prisons are still in business which is pretty good job security for me, we will have to count them. We won't have a choice. It's a 5% threshold.

**Talbert:** What people don't understand, with those prisons being there, you are getting tax dollars from the state that they count.

**Mr. White:** I realize that.

**Mr. Wright:** Coming back to 1, do we want to try to refine that in any way to try to work with that or do we want to narrow it or is it too early to tell or do you want us to play with 1 and 2 and bring it back next week.

**Chambers:** I would like to see you play with those lines on 1 and 2 and bring it back.

**Mr. Wright:** In other words, leave the prison in 6.

**Kitchen:** I like the way you've got District 4.

**Mr. Wright:** Other comments folks, come on because we are struggling here to try to make it happen.

**Acie Allen:** I'd like to commend the committee. I think you've done an awful lot of work.

**Mr. Wright:** They are the heavy lifters, Karl, Jamie, Becca and Kevin. I told you last week that they worked hard and they needed to be lazier. I was willing to be the example of that logic. I had one of them say to me today in one of things they've done they had used a little different way to get to that end, they said well, we are taking it to heart that we should be lazier so... I feel like I've had some good influence on them. They have put an amazing amount of hours.

**Acie Allen:** I sat down this afternoon trying to look for a couple hours at these things and trying to figure out what you could do and the only thing I could come up with was get rid of District 2.

**Mr. Wright:** Supervisors that it has...in looking at that it affects all the supervisors honestly but it really changes the make up of District 1 and both of the changes affect District 1. District 7 is going to be somewhat because of that corner that runs up there and obviously District 4 is an entirely different creature.

**Mr. White:** Mr. Wright, what about at large districts?

**Mr. Wright:** Use to not like that but now going back to some of that.

**Talbert:** When me and Sprouse, we said put prisons with at large but voted out.

**Mr. Wright:** That is what has happened tonight.

**Kitchen:** Show us where the lines are and what you do with the figures and then I think we will know where to go with it.

**Mr. Wright:** I'm not trying to put words in anybody's mouth, particularly the committee's mouth, but when you sit down to do this it's good to understand the task you have in front of you and what we are trying to accomplish. First you want to see 1 and 2 tweaked. You want to see us come back with able to show you where voting precincts are, where incumbents are, and you want us to be able to show you roads, rivers on the underlying map.

Let me get a little consensual notion from you here, 2 leaves the prisons where they are, and because of the paper numbers we are able to show on paper three districts approaching a larger percentage. Let's just leave it at that. Now we all know for the purposes of voting or even in terms of non prison population, 2 and 7 are going to be different numbers. Do we want to hold that type of balance, go back to the 1 numbers, Jamie, or do we want to try to...6 has a prison in it, 7 has a prison in it, there is no truly natural constituency of a minority in that and that has the effect in my estimation of retrogression where we will have to tweak it but it's going to be something like that or something like 2 so, do I have any comment on that.

**Jones:** When we come back and we have the numbers in 6 and 7 with the prisoners not counted, just to see the numbers.

**Mr. Wright:** Sure, we can do that.

**Acie Allen:** Can you put the maps alone, side by side, can you do that?

**Jamie Shumaker:** I don't have that on slide, sorry.

**Mr. Wright:** Take your book and do that.

**Goin:** The Justice Department is aware that there are two prisons in this county.

**Mr. Wright:** I'll try to remember next week, the last time we submitted to Justice, the packet is thick, in there we report the prison population and whole nine yards.

**Goin:** They have to understand that the numbers are squew from the get go.

**Bates:** Is it correct when we did this ten years ago, District 6 and District 7 were both considered black majority or near black majority districts but that was sort of a false...well actually it was in 2000, but it was a false impression on District 7 because it had a prison?

**Mr. Wright:** Right.

We appreciate you coming and giving up feed back. We sit there and scratch our head and say which way to do we go and we can't guess, we are not mind readers, so what you are telling us to night will help us define where we need to go next with this. Really, it will be a refinement of this in putting on the other layers that you want to see.

Margaret, we will need your to begin to think about which way we need to turn in terms of defining some precincts and that type stuff. Any other questions?

**Danny Allen:** I'm still wondering, you are counting on having 6 and 7 as a majority black or are we having any two?

**Mr. Wright:** It will be...if we follow the two model, there is one. If we follow the one, you've got 6 but those are artificial numbers. So that's going to be a choice for the committee. We will try to tweak this a little bit and see what we can do with it but we want you to understand the significance of it.

**Margaret Thomas:** In all actuality there will be no black majority district.

**Mr. Wright:** No black majority district. Not a true black district. If that's what you're asking. We can make it happen because of the prisons.

**LeSueur:** The prisons just convolute all the numbers.

**Goin:** On the two districts that end up with prisons, can we have a second line on here giving the percentages?

**Mr. Wright:** Yeah we can do that. I've come to the conclusion they can do anything with these numbers.

**Bates:** When you showed us that map with all the census blocks with greater than 18 people in it, the problem when we remove the prisons from the consideration is that you can't stitch enough of those precincts together to get a black majority district.

**Mr. Wright:** I mean, if you figure basically anything below 60% you can't really hook up into the districts that would normally be, which is basically this line right here, so these people down here in basically black majority districts, there is no way to get them into the other districts. It will really be, you think we are showing you some ugly stuff, it would be even worse than that. The other part, this population here has always been part of that ratio that hasn't existed, whereas this population has not and that scenario, historically we need to stay with. You can't stitch enough either way. That's a good way to say it, you can't stitch enough of those up there to change it.

**Talbert:** Does anybody else have anything? Now is the time.

**Margaret Thomas:** In the figure that you gave me earlier, it takes approximately 60 people to change 1 percentage point.

**Jamie Shumaker:** What we figured is it takes, 60 black and no white to just gain 1%.

**Cobb:** For example, the Forest Ridge, I use that because we see that and it's a big one, when we take that out of Joe's district, because that does have a greater white population, it moves his percentage up to about 3% so if gives him about 3% more black population if we take Forest Ridge out. But the thing to remember is that is one block that has a greater white vs. black that is much more equal so when you are moving those blocks out, you are not getting a lot of percentage change.

**Mr. Wright:** I suspect you will have a lot more paperwork next time because I think for the maps to make any sense. If you look at that map, those are census blocks. We have the census blocks but I have seen the beginning of where they put the roads and the streams up, it makes that map look simple. Ok. So, I think when we move to the next level, we are going to have to go to the sheets that have districts in them rather than being able to do an overview so we'll probably have some old news up there but we need to look at it by district which is I suspect what most of you want to see anyway.

**Talbert:** So we will be back here on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. 7:00 p.m.

**Mr. Wright:** The committee appreciates your input, it helps us to figure out where you want to go with this.

By the way, the minutes from the last meeting are in your packets, they are draft minutes which the Board hasn't approved yet.

Chairman Talbert recessed the meeting to reconvene on Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the County Administration Building.

ATTEST:

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Rebecca S. Carter  
County Administrator

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E. A. "Bill" Talbert  
Chairman