



ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

Alaska Redistricting Board Meeting March 6, 2021 | 3:30 p.m.

The Alaska Redistricting Board virtually met on March 6, 2021. Present participants are below:

John Binkley
Melanie Bahnke
Bethany Marcum
Budd Simpson
Nicole Borromeo
Peter Torkelson
TJ Presley

Chair of the Board
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Executive Director
Deputy Director

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Establish a Quorum
- Adoption of Agenda
- Discussion: Legal Services RFI Responses (*brief executive session if needed*)
- Select Legal Representation
 - Delegation of Contract Negotiation Duties
- Meeting Request Protocol
 - Staff Handling of Incoming Meeting Requests
 - Discussion: Meeting Protocol
- Adjournment

Call to Order

Mr. Binkley called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. With all board members present, a quorum was established.

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Bahnke moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Ms. Borromeo seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Legal Services RFI Responses

Mr. Torkelson stated that the Alaska Constitution, Article 6, Section 9 requires that the board contract for independent legal counsel. In December, the board adopted a procurement code and issued a formal request for information (RFI) for legal services in January. Five responses to the RFI were received. Per the board's procurement code, all RFI responses must remain confidential



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until a selection has been made. Upon selection, copies of RFI responses may be provided to the public upon request. Requests can be made on the Alaska Redistricting Board website at www.akredistrict.org on the "Contact Us" page.

A subcommittee of the board reviewed the responses and upon consensus, two respondents were selected to proceed to the interview process which have both taken place.

Mr. Simpson moved to enter executive session to discuss the selection of a potential legal counsel with reference to Alaska Statute AS 44.62.310 (c)(4) regarding matters involving consideration of government records that by law are not subject to public disclosure. Ms. Bahnke seconded the motion.

The board directed Mr. Torkelson to follow up with both law firms regarding financial arrangements and fee structures. These items will be discussed in executive session.

The board entered executive session at 3:37 p.m.

The board exited executive session at 3:56 p.m.

Select Legal Representation

Mr. Simpson moved for the selection of the Schwabe, Williamson, and Wyatt to provide legal services to the Alaska Redistricting Board and this selection is subject to the negotiation and execution of a satisfactory written engagement agreement with this firm. Ms. Marcum seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Simpson requested that the Executive Director draft and send correspondence on behalf of the board to all RFI respondents notifying them that a respondent has been selected.

Meeting Request Protocol

Mr. Torkelson reported that a draft staff meeting request protocol was sent to board members. The public can access this information on notice.alaska.gov and akleg.gov. This protocol states that 1) meeting requests and attachments informing the request will be forwarded to board members and 2) staff members may assist with meeting arrangements and preparation at the request of a board member.

The following items were discussed:

- It was clarified that requests are for private meetings as opposed to public presentations.
- If members of the public request to make a public testimony, they will be directed to the board's next public hearing.
- Staff has contacted the Anchorage Legislative Information Office (LIO), which has a large conference room that is designed for in-person and virtual meetings. The Anchorage LIO



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manager has permitted the board to use this facility as needed for future meetings.

- Ms. Bahnke suggested adding an additional item to future meeting agendas for public comments.

The board agreed to withhold taking action on the meeting request protocol until proper legal review of the protocol has been completed.

Adjournment

Ms. Bahnke moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Borromeo seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.