AD HOC COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING MEETING MINUTES
April 7, 2011

The Ad Hoc Committee on Redistricting of the Broome County Legislature met on Thursday, April 7, 2011 in the Legislative Conference Room, Sixth Floor, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, Binghamton, New York.

Members Present: R. Keibel (Chair), W. Howard, D.J. Reynolds, M. Whalen, D.D. Reynolds, J. Laughney, M. Turna

Members Absent: M. Johnson, V. Pasquale

Others Present: J. Marinich, J. Black, A. Martin, J. Baumgartner, L. Rogers, R. O'Donnell, Legislature; J. Sluzar, B. Behnke, Law; M. Gerchman, OMB; D. English, GIS; M. Klein, Personnel; J. Fusco, Press & Sun-Bulletin

The Ad Hoc Committee meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 3:03 PM.

1. Mr. Keibel announced that due to personal reasons Mr. Locker will no longer be able to make the time commitment to serve on the Committee and Mr. Howard will be his replacement. He then reiterated the mission of the Committee and stated that he would like the Committee to be finished by the end of May as stated in the formation notice.

2. Corrections to the March 16, 2011 Committee Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Baumgartner stated that after conferring with Mr. Behnke, Broome County is not bound to the provisions of Article 2, section 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law because Broome is a Chartered County. However, the principles should remain intact whenever possible.

Mr. D. J. Reynolds stated that he disagrees with Mr. V. Pasquale's assertion from the last meeting that the best way to proceed with drawing the Legislative Districts is the start within the City of Binghamton. Mr. D.J. Reynolds believes that those districts at the outer corners of the County have fewer options in design and that they should be the first to be evaluated.

3. On request from Mr. Keibel, Mr. D.J. Reynolds made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. D. D. Reynolds to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2011 meeting as corrected.
Carried. Ayes-7, Nays-0

4. Mr. D.J. Reynolds requested that Section 3b of the Standards of Redistricting be reworded to read: "b. New districts, to the extent possible, shall not discriminate for or against incumbents."

Mr. Laughney stated that Section 4 of the Standards of Redistricting should not be a problem for Broome County. Mr. Martin further stated that minority populations cannot be diluted by the redistricting process.

Mr. Whalen motioned, seconded by Mr. D.J. Reynolds to amend and adopt the Standards of Redistricting as amended.
Carried. Ayes-7, Nays-0

The revised Standards of Redistricting is attached.

5. Mr. English stated that the 2010 Census numbers have been released and the Election Districts maps have been updated with the new population numbers. He then explained that to cut down on requests for paper maps the Department of Geographical Information Systems has created an online application for redistricting purposes. Mr. English explained how the application works and the process by which members of the Committee may have their proposed Legislative District maps printed for the Committee's review. The instructions on how to use the application is attached.

6. Mr. Keibel stated that any Legislator who is not a member of the Committee can submit a proposal to him and he will have it printed for the Committee. He also stated that all Legislative District proposals should be submitted to Mr. Baumgartner by April 18th which gives Mr. English time before the next meeting to print the maps for the Committee.

Mr. Whalen stated that some Election Districts might have to be slightly adjusted when comes to getting within the 5% deviation of the average district population. Mr. Marinich stated that the Board of Elections has agreed, if necessary, to split an Election District to help create Legislative Districts.

7. The next meeting date of the Committee has been set for April 21, 2011 at 3:00 PM.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. D.J. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Whalen. The meeting adjourned at 3:37 PM.

ATTACHMENTS
1. Revised standards as adopted
2. Instructions for using the mapping tool.

STANDARDS FOR REDISTRICTING
Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee
As adopted April 7, 2011

To accomplish the mission of this committee to define the new boundaries for 15 legislative districts, the Committee will rely on the following standards in the order presented.

1. The plan shall provide substantially equal weight for all of the voters (1 man – 1 vote). Courts have recognized that variation of +/- 5% from the ideal is a minor deviation and thus permissible.
2. The plan shall provide for newly designed districts, to the extent possible, to be compact and contiguous.
    a. Compact shall mean the inclusion of consideration of existing subdivision lines, topography, and lines of transportation (highway, road and river).
    b. Compactness is further defined but not limited to maintaining common social and economic interests, the ability of the residents of a municipality to relate to each other, and the existence of shared interests.
    c. Contiguous shall mean that a legislative district shall not be segmented. That is the district shall not be separated into parts that are not touching. A district whose parts are separated by water can still be considered contiguous.
3. The plan shall provide, to the extent possible, the preservation of political subdivisions.
    a. New districts, to the extent possible, shall include an entire existing municipality because it represents a community of common interest such as social/cultural/economic.
    b. New districts, to the extent possible, shall not discriminate for or against incumbents.
4. The plan shall provide, to the extent possible, minimal packing or fracturing of recognized minority groups.
    a. Packing is the practice of deliberately combining a minority population into a single district for the purpose of concentrating their vote.
    b. Fracturing is the practice of deliberately dividing a minority population among several districts for the purpose of minimizing their vote.

Broome County GIS
Redistricting Application Help

www.bcgis.com

The Broome County Redistricting Application allows a user to create legislative districts from existing election districts.

Build Legislative Districts

To build legislative districts, select the district number from the 'Set Target District' input on the lower-left. Then select the redistricting button ▓ from the tool bar. Click once on an election district to add it to the target legislative district. As districts are built, population totals and deviation percentages will be displayed on the right. Plans can be saved and loaded using the buttons at the bottom, allowing you to save work in progress and return at a later time.

Help with Tools:

	Zoom-In	Zooms in closer. Left-click and release to zoom in a fixed percentage or left-click, hold and drag to create a box to zoom to.
	Zoom-Out	Zooms out further away. Left-click and release to zoom out a fixed percentage or left-click, hold and drag to create a box to zoom out to.
	Full Extent	Zooms to the entire county.
	Previous Extent	Zooms to the last view displayed.
	Pan	Moves the map. Left-click and hold while moving the mouse in the opposite direction you want to view.
	Redistricting Tool	Adds election districts to the target legislative district. Simply select this tool and then click on an election district.
	Undo/Redo Last	Undoes the last action taken by the Redistricting Tool.
	Print	Prints an 8.5 x 11 map of the current view.

Procedure for Committee Members to forward finished Plans for mapping.

Once you are satisfied with the Plan you created:
(If you haven't already, choose 'Save Plan As:' and enter a name.)

PART 1
1. Select 'View Report' and a new window will open.
2. Right-click on this new window and choose 'Select All'.
3. Right-click again and choose 'Copy'.
4. Open Word, right-click, and select 'Paste'.
5. Save the Word document.

PART 2
1. Select 'View Join Window' and a new window will open.
2. Right-click on this new window and choose 'Select All'.
3. Right-click again and choose 'Copy'.
4. Open Word, right-click, and select 'Paste'.
5. Save the Word document.

PART 3
Attach these two Word documents in an email and send.

Tips and Warnings

1. Do not double-click on the map.
2. When you see the 'Loading...' icon, do not click on the map. Wait until it's finished.
3. Districts can be assigned over other districts. You do not first have to 'unassign' a district to change it.
4. If you double-click an existing plan name in the bottom window, its name will show up in the 'Save Plan As:' box.
5. Plans are saved on the computer as cookies. You cannot open a saved plan on another computer.