

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
STAFFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA
REDISTRICTING WORK SESSION
MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2022

CALL TO ORDER – A work session of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Crystal Vanuch, Chairman, at 5:03 p.m. on Thursday, January 27, 2022, in Conference Room ABC, George L. Gordon, Jr. Government Center, 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford VA.

ROLL CALL – The following members were present: Crystal Vanuch, Chairman; Pamela Yeung, Vice Chairman; Tinesha Allen (arrived at 5:10 p.m.); Meg Bohmke; Thomas C. Coen; Darrell English; Monica Gary.

Also in attendance were Frederick J. Presley, County Administrator; Rysheda McClendon, County Attorney; Cheryl Giles, Deputy Clerk; various staff members; and other interested parties.

Ms. Vanuch called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Giles to call the roll. Ms. Giles called the roll and noted that there was a quorum.

CLOSED MEETING

At 5:05 p.m., Ms. Yeung motioned, seconded by Mr. Coen, to adopt Resolution CM22-05 to authorize a closed meeting.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea:	(7)	Allen, Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay:	(0)	

Resolution CM22-05 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Board desires to hold a Closed Meeting for consultation with legal counsel employed by the Board regarding the timeline for Redistricting, which is a specific legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A)(1) such discussions may occur in Closed Meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 27th day of January, 2022, that it be and hereby does authorize discussion of the above matters in Closed Meeting.

CERTIFY CLOSED MEETING

At 5:16 p.m., Ms. Yeung motioned, seconded by Ms. Bohmke, to adopt resolution CM22-05(C) to certify the closed meeting.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Resolution CM22-05(C) reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO CERTIFY THE ACTIONS OF THE STAFFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN A CLOSED MEETING ON JANUARY 27, 2022

WHEREAS, the Board has, on this the 27th day of January, 2022, adjourned into a Closed Meeting in accordance with a formal vote of the Board and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act provides for certification that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with the law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stafford County Board of Supervisors does hereby certify, on this the 27th day of January, 2022, that to the best of each member's knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the Motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened, were heard, discussed, or considered by the Board.

REDISTRICTING WORK SESSION

Mr. Anthony Toigo stated that there were no new public comments for the Board to review this week, and staff had issued a county news story that redistricting has begun in earnest. The story has links to how citizens can make public comments, the redistricting form on the county's website, and a direct link to the proposed four map options. He noted that there were some laminate 8.5 x 11" maps at the Board's places, and they are free to draw on them—but the records need to

be preserved, so staff recommends marking them by digital means. He mentioned that they could take a photo and hold onto that.

Ms. Yeung asked staff to provide some background on why redistricting is underway.

Mr. Toigo explained that the Board of Supervisors and any local governing body in Virginia has a responsibility to redistrict, so every 10 years, there's a census in which the U.S. takes a count of the population, which is delivered down to the local block as well as the state block; population numbers are adjusted every 10 years. He said that at the local level, the census population numbers are about 126,000; they divided that number by seven, which is about 22,500 people, and they are seeking to redistrict the seven election districts in Stafford County to have as close to equal population as possible. He noted that the purpose of the work session is to come to Board consensus on the maps.

Planning and Zoning Director Jeff Harvey stated that at the last work session, there were two questions asked by Board members: one dealing with Aquia Harbor and the other pertaining to House districts relative to Map C. He said that Ms. Allen had asked for background on Aquia Harbor neighborhood and how it's located in two different election districts. He noted that in that situation, Aquia Creek is the election district boundary, and staff has gone back and reviewed minutes for meetings where redistricting was done—with the earliest trackable back to 1981—and the creek has been the boundary since at least that time.

Mr. Harvey said there were also questions as to whether there were any board members in office at the time when the district boundaries were set. He said that in 2001, there were two supervisors who lived in the Aquia Harbor neighborhood: Mr. Kenneth Mitchell, who lived in the Aquia District; and Mr. Jack Cavalier, who lived in the Griffis-Widewater District. He noted that when redistricting occurred, there was no change in the boundary at that point in time; there was discussion about changing the boundary in 2011, but that was not activated. He stated that there was a question about changing the boundary between the Griffis-Widewater and Aquia districts in proposed Map C, specifically asking if the boundary between House Districts 23 and 64 could be accommodated whereby all neighborhoods along Route 1 in the area south of Garrisonville Road could be put into Griffis-Widewater. He noted that staff has modeled and mapped that, as reflected in Map E.

Mr. Harvey stated that staff had received numerous comments from various Board members, and in answering those, staff had to prepare other map options and can develop others to see if they could make them work. They can be pulled up on the screen for discussion.

Ms. Vanuch stated that since the questions and answers are part of the agenda packet, the public can access them through that online information. She suggested that staff review with the Board the changes that have been made, because they made changes to Griffis-Widewater and Aquia, but they significantly impacted Rock Hill on the Map E option. She said they could get input as to what the Board likes and what they don't.

Mr. Harvey responded that there are also other options based on comments from supervisors, and staff is seeking direction from the Board. Staff pulled up Option E and noted the area that was previously Aquia on prior map options that would now be part of Griffis-Widewater. He stated that they ran it against the tests, and it still meets all the requirements as far as percentage of apportionment, contiguity, and compactness.

Ms. Allen commented that at the last work session, she had requested a configuration that allowed them to stay within the deviation without going into the Rock Hill District, unless she didn't realize what they were doing.

Mr. Harvey responded that they modified the Option C map to generate this, as that was the request.

GIS Manager David Capaz confirmed this.

Mr. Harvey explained that this may be the difference when they are thinking of Option A versus Option C, and Rock Hill is likely different.

Ms. Allen said she agreed to the Aquia Harbor and taking the Route 1 part, and she recalled that it was taking it from Option A—with the only changes being Aquia and Griffis-Widewater swapping out the harbor and Route 1.

Ms. Gary commented that the one odd vertical portion should not be in there, but north of 610 going to Griffis-Widewater from there and the rest of the harbor coming to Aquia was what they had discussed previously.

Ms. Allen said she thought they had done that, and that piece is just Aquia Town Center, so it falls within the deviation.

Ms. Vanuch commented that this would give Ms. Allen Aquia Town Center.

Mr. Harvey clarified that the area where Aquia Town Center is includes Aquia Town Apartments;

as you go further down Route 1, there are houses along Derrick Lane and houses associated with the Foreston Woods neighborhood—so it does pick up more than just Aquia Town Center.

Ms. Gary commented that it picks up a good bit.

Ms. Allen asked if it was just the post office neighborhood.

Mr. Harvey confirmed this.

Ms. Gary emphasized that it would significantly change the composition of the district, as it is pretty dense and would alter the political composition. She said that she did not like it and did not want it in there, so she suggested taking it out and just going north of Route 610.

Ms. Allen commented that they had to figure that piece, but if they just did that, it would not fall within the standard deviation of five.

Ms. Gary said she was okay making some adjustments on the southern end as well, which is what she had sent to Mr. Toigo, as they have some flexibility on the southern boundaries for Aquia as well.

Ms. Vanuch stated that it may be more effective to do one issue at a time, and this might be the biggest issue because it will have trickle-down effects to the other districts depending on what they change, because of the standard deviation. She purported the idea of adjusting this on GIS and cut it at 610, with anything south of that staying in Aquia, per Ms. Gary's example.

Mr. Harvey asked what the base option was, noting that staff started with Map A because it was the least amount of change from the current situation, but they can start from another base map if the Board has a preference.

Ms. Vanuch suggested starting with A, as there was a lot of consensus with that after the Board meeting.

Mr. Coen asked if the change of moving all the harbor into Aquia in equal number from Aquia District to Widewater was doable in all the options, and that's why A was pulled up in the first place, but that could be looked at in any of the four options.

Mr. Harvey responded that they could make modifications, and sometimes there are impacts to other districts, depending on where they are with the standard deviation—and they may have to add or subtract from another district that's not involved in these two. He emphasized that it depends on where the population resides and what number of people are in that area.

Ms. Allen commented that she had mentioned to Mr. Capaz to mimic House District 2, which ends in the portion of Aquia that's affected—but if Ms. Gary's concern is population size, she wondered how many households would be affected from Aquia Town Center to Foreston Woods.

Mr. Capaz zoomed in on the area on the map shown.

Mr. Harvey said that from Aquia Town Center where the apartments are, there are 148 in this one block and 253 in another block. He said there were a bunch of zeros because that's where the commercial part of the area is; there are 25 homes along Derrick Lane; moving further south into Foreston Woods, there are 874 in one block, 111 in another, and 132 in another—so over 1,000 people in that swath.

Ms. Vanuch asked staff to demonstrate the effect if they started with Map A and made the change that Ms. Allen had suggested but cut it off at 610, and she asked if it met the criteria.

Ms. Gary commented that she would be okay with that as long as they were not dividing subdivisions and could shift more to the southern end. She added that she is okay with A or B on the south, but she doesn't like how C and D cut through and take Andrew Chapel, and you would have to drive out of Aquia to get back into the southeastern end because of the way the roads are laid out. She noted that she had emailed that in.

Mr. Harvey responded that staff had modeled it and was able to get a map that worked; staff confirmed that it was Option J.

Ms. Yeung asked if they got the criteria being used in the algorithm from the state, or if it was done by Stafford, because she wanted to make sure they were not in violation of Section 2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Toigo responded that the software auto-populates census data for Stafford, so it has various integrity checks. He explained that when a map is drawn, for it to be accepted in the system, it must pass those auto-populated integrity checks, so it is already programmed into the software.

Ms. Bohmke asked for clarification of where Ms. Gary wanted to come down south, as she assumed that was into the Falmouth and George Washington districts.

Ms. Gary clarified that she had requested staff to configure what it would look like for her district to do what they talked about on the north end, and then for the southern boundary, to reflect more of A or B.

Mr. Harvey confirmed that they drew that option up and found that they also needed to lose more population out of Aquia, so part of Hartwood ended up moving east into that existing Aquia area. He said that Hartwood was now west of I-95, and in the area to which he was pointing, they moved it on the other side of Route 1 to the powerline that crosses Courthouse Road, in proximity to Hospital Center Boulevard. He noted that they had to do that to pick up more population from Hartwood and take population away from Aquia. He said that as is evident from the southern boundary, which is the same used for options A and B, Accokeek Creek is part of the southern boundary that follows along Brooke Road and some other creeks; it keeps Crows Nest in the Aquia District.

Ms. Gary asked if that were the only way to get the numbers right for Aquia, as she feels that keeping it away from chopping up the major roadways would be less confusing for people.

Mr. Harvey responded that part of the problem is that the census blocks aren't regular, and Crows Nest was low population and would take out a huge swath of area to try to balance the population.

Ms. Allen asked about a swath in the Map E option from Eskimo Hill to Brooke Road.

Mr. Coen said that was already Falmouth.

Ms. Allen stated that she was looking at E because it wasn't visible on A.

Ms. Vanuch said that to do what Ms. Allen and Ms. Gary want for Aquia, it impacts Falmouth and Hartwood, so she would want input from Ms. Bohmke and Mr. English.

Ms. Bohmke stated that in thinking back to the guidelines they were given, it doesn't make sense for Hartwood to come back across the interstate, and she asked Mr. English if he concurred. Mr. English confirmed that his district was, but Ms. Bohmke noted that those issues were what they were trying to fix—and it didn't make sense to keep Hartwood over the interstate. She suggested possibly giving part of Falmouth off of Enon Road over to Hartwood, Route 653.

Mr. Harvey confirmed that this census block has 92 people in it; it currently is in the Hartwood District, but the mapping proposals put it in Falmouth.

Ms. Bohmke clarified that the block at the top would come to Falmouth, and the one at the bottom off of Enon would go to Hartwood, which is where it is currently.

Mr. Harvey confirmed that the census block with 92 people would go to Hartwood.

Ms. Vanuch stated that this would not accomplish the balance intended, and that district would need more people.

Ms. Bohmke asked how much Mr. English would need.

Ms. Vanuch responded that it was about what Ms. Bohmke would have to give away, because she was over the deviation. She said that the other option would be to not give Ms. Bohmke all of what Ms. Gary had in the north.

Ms. Bohmke asked about giving Ms. Gary the small triangle part above Hospital Center Boulevard to Courthouse Road.

Ms. Vanuch asked what that would do to the numbers.

Mr. Harvey responded that the map option works if all the districts are within +/- 5%, and you cannot exceed that in any option, per staff's calculations. He said that in what they just proposed, the population exceeds 5%, and the deviation is 5.4%.

Mr. Coen noted that the small areas between Route 1 and I-95 will be problematic to the model, even if no one is living in those little lines.

Mr. Harvey stated that when staff runs the map simulations and has little pieces of road that are a census block but are noncontiguous, the software will flag it and say it's not working.

Ms. Bohmke suggested taking a piece in the south off of Route 17 in the Carriage Hills area, which is currently in Mr. Coen's district, and she asked about taking that out.

Mr. Harvey confirmed that George Washington is 2.17%, and Falmouth is 4.51%.

Ms. Vanuch pointed out that it was in his district right now, and staff already changed that.

Ms. Gary asked staff to clarify the roads in the Hospital Center Boulevard area they had adjusted previously.

Mr. Harvey clarified that the boundary lines would be Route 1 and Hospital Center Boulevard, and the powerline that runs perpendicular through that part of the county down to Accokeek Creek.

Ms. Vanuch noted that the block added only had 27 people.

Mr. Harvey said there were homes along that section of Courthouse Road.

Ms. Gary noted that all the schools had stayed in Aquia, and they lost the apartments on Route 1 south of the hospital, so she was good with that change.

Ms. Bohmke asked what Ms. Gary's deviation number was.

Staff confirmed that it was within the acceptable deviation range.

Ms. Bohmke said that for now, she was good with that.

Mr. English agreed.

Ms. Vanuch asked Ms. Yeung if she was okay with this.

Ms. Yeung commented that she wanted to ensure that the public understood the drawing of district lines, as they appeared gerrymandered.

Ms. Vanuch said that she would like to look at Rock Hill a bit closer, then they could revisit the other options. She stated that the option staff configured had her picking up everything from Rock Hill Church Road, Tacketts Mill, down through Poplar Estates on Poplar Road, then losing the Glens and Doolittle Farm, and anything south of Stefaniga Road to the Hartwood District—with her district picking up the other tracts. She asked if there were a way to get to the same numbers by picking up on the west end, which they had originally discussed, trying to align with the House district on Heflin Road and Skyline Drive.

Mr. Harvey responded that staff had tried that and called that Option H, noting that staff had done 10 different scenarios based on the four they started with and the comments received from supervisors. He said that the option was able to work, but they would have to modify from Option A to keep it all together, and he asked if the Board would like to see that on the screen.

Ms. Vanuch suggested that they keep what they have on the current map and work with that for now.

Mr. Harvey noted that when staff did Option H, they followed Ms. Vanuch's recommendation to keep the Rock Hill District as it is today, so the area with Rock Hill and Griffis-Widewater with Suburban Estates in Oak Ridge and Raintree neighborhoods are split. He said they kept that split

as it exists today, but they could model it if the Board wants to look at keeping that all in the Griffis-Widewater District as in Option A.

Ms. Vanuch commented that Ms. Allen could have it if needed for her district, and she asked what the census block there had.

Mr. Harvey confirmed that one block has 273, plus 72 and 35—so about 350 people.

Ms. Vanuch asked how it would look on the Rock Hill side if they made those adjustments, which would mean undoing the changes on Poplar.

Mr. Harvey said they would have to add from Rock Hill in one area and take away in another; when they did Option A, they added area to Rock Hill that had more population and gave Hartwood an area that had less, to try to balance things out. He noted that Ms. Vanuch was talking about adding a neighborhood back into her district the way it currently is, and to do that, they would need to make some additional adjustments.

Ms. Vanuch asked if Robinson Farm, Poplar Estates, and Lexington Farms were all back in Hartwood now. She clarified that instead of the changes that staff was proposing, she was suggesting keeping all of that in Hartwood—so her changes would just be on Heflin, etc., and she didn't understand why that impacted Mr. English's population so much.

Mr. Harvey noted that blocks 102, 206, 112, 107 or 84, 97, 80, 101, and 223 would have to go back into Hartwood; going back to Rock Hill would be 326, 53, 189, and 95. He said when staff did their map option, they put 48 back into Hartwood.

Ms. Yeung asked if the system gave an alert when they split the neighborhood.

Mr. Harvey responded that it would not give an alert because it does it by census block—and that neighborhood has more than one census block—but it was a recommendation from the Board that they not split neighborhoods.

Mr. Coen [inaudible, mic off].

Mr. Harvey responded that in this case, Hartwood is under 766 people, and Rock Hill is under 1,160 people. He noted that this was based on Option A because they had the entire neighborhood on Garrisonville Road; they did not split in the Griffis-Widewater District.

Ms. Vanuch clarified that the House district does and uses it as a line.

Mr. Harvey noted that the red line shown is the new district line and follows Garrisonville Road in that area, so some of that district would be in Rock Hill and some in Griffis-Widewater.

Mr. Coen [inaudible, mic off].

Mr. Harvey responded that on the map staff has devised thus far, the Hartwood District is 766 people below the standard deviation; Rock Hill is 1,160 lower than the standard; Garrisonville is 450 above the standard; Griffis-Widewater is 951 below the standard; Aquia is 877 above the standard; Falmouth is 1,056 above; and George Washington is 495 above. He reiterated that you could deviate +/- 5% from that, with the standard being approximately 22,500 people.

Mr. Harvey confirmed for the Board that some of George Washington took over Hartwood at Berea Church Road, with 116 people in one block and 29 in the other.

Mr. Vanuch asked what it would do if those went to the Hartwood.

Mr. Harvey confirmed that it would get it into compliance.

Ms. Vanuch asked Mr. English if he had any concerns, stating that she would like to see this printed—as it seemed to have consensus.

Staff confirmed that it had no flags per the integrity check.

Ms. Bohmke commented that the George Washington District currently comes down Brooke Road, and the extension area created in her district coming down Brooke Road down route 608 “seems kind of ridiculous.”

Mr. Coen clarified that this was in Aquia.

Ms. Bohmke said that the hook looked weird.

Ms. Vanuch pointed out that it was the census block.

Mr. Coen stated that Ms. Bohmke meant all the way down to the stream, and Ms. Bohmke agreed that this is what she meant. He said that it is being suggested that the whole piece that goes up Brooke Road was in Aquia but is now being suggested for Falmouth.

Ms. Vanuch asked if it could go back to Aquia.

Ms. Bohmke responded that it would have to go to George Washington.

Ms. Vanuch suggested that they put it back to Aquia, as it keeps Ms. Gary in compliance.

Mr. Harvey noted that it's probably a better boundary, as it's following the road and is easier to identify. He added that Garrisonville has not changed at all throughout this effort.

Ms. Yeung [inaudible, mic off]

Ms. Vanuch responded that no one was creating their own map; they all talked about impacts to their own districts.

Ms. Allen explained that they were not trying to gerrymander; this was where the development and the census happened. She said that if they were trying to keep neighborhoods together, have the census make sense, and have the fewest split precincts, it just so happens that this is how the census falls. She emphasized that especially in the western part of the county, Widewater, and even parts of Brooke, it may appear to be a large census block, but the bulk of the population was in certain areas. She stated that they weren't trying to gerrymander—it was just how the population was growing.

Mr. Harvey stated that staff started with Map A and made adjustments based on various comments received at this meeting, so what was shown would in effect be another map option: the "Board Map Option."

Ms. Yeung commented that she was just trying to share for the public what she thought looked contiguous and rural, suburban, etc., and to demonstrate to the public that they tried different options.

Mr. Harvey asked if she was referring to the map she had sent staff.

Ms. Yeung responded that she wasn't; it would be a different option.

Ms. Vanuch clarified that the majority of the Board had their concerns addressed with the particular map currently shown, and she suggested taking the official action of calling it "Map Option A-2 (the Board Map)". She said that it can be added alongside other map options, and after public comment, she would like them to weed out maps they weren't considering so they can be more targeted for the next meeting.

Mr. English motioned, seconded by Mr. Coen, to name Map Option A-2 (the Board Map).

Ms. Bohmke stated that she was okay with the map as another option, but it was not final in her mind.

Ms. Vanuch said that was fine, noting that they needed to get to two maps that they were okay with and just make tiny changes going forward.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea:	(7)	Allen, Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay:	(0)	

Mr. Capaz said that in speaking with GIS staff, printing and laminating maps would take about 30 minutes, but staff could get them distributed to the Board as was done before, as well as doing some further digging about the specifics of what is in the maps—such as how they align with House and Senate districts, and subdivision questions.

Ms. Gary commented that she liked the process from the previous week in which they sent in their suggestions, so perhaps they could look at this map and further refine and go from there.

Ms. Yeung suggested specific tract movements on the map provided.

Ms. Vanuch clarified that staff does not have the ability to just go through and pick—they have to go through and add and delete options.

Mr. Harvey agreed that they could take her comments, which they have now logged, and create another map.

Ms. Vanuch asked if this were something the Board wanted to consider at their next meeting as a new map option, or if they wanted to pick from what they had now.

Ms. Gary responded that they already have many options and she didn't want to convolute what they have, and she suggested that staff provide feedback to Ms. Yeung. She said that if they keep throwing out more and more map options, it would make it really complex—and they need to refine at this point, especially given their timeline.

Ms. Allen [inaudible, mic off]

Mr. Coen stated that in going back to the timeline, they were looking through the state of having all of the district and precinct things done in one month.

Mr. Toigo confirmed the timeline.

Mr. Coen asked if it were feasible to have that available at their meeting the following Tuesday, so they can at least get comments to expedite the process. He stated that he understood what Ms. Yeung wanted to present, but he is also aware of what they legally must do.

Mr. Toigo responded that staff can give the Board the revised maps that have been requested tonight and provide them at their Tuesday meeting, but the next redistricting work session is scheduled for the Wednesday after that—at which time they'd have more time to work on it.

Ms. Bohmke asked Ms. Yeung to describe again what she wanted to see accomplished.

Ms. Yeung explained that she was looking at parts of Hartwood and going across because that area was more rural [inaudible, mic off]

Ms. Bohmke asked what she meant when she was saying "it goes across" and whether that meant crossing I-95. She stated that she missed the Board's first redistricting meeting because she was sick, but she listened to their meeting and recalled them articulating the goals of keeping things the same and running across the interstate, waterways, etc. She commented that what Ms. Yeung is proposing seems to go against that grain.

Ms. Yeung responded that it doesn't go against the grain of keeping rural with rural and suburb with suburb, but she would love to see it on a map.

Ms. Vanuch asked if the will of the Board was for staff to create another map and bring it back for a decision on Wednesday. She said that she would like for the Board to print the Option A-2 map and allow time for public comment, then start weeding out options—as it seemed that they were already not wanting A, B, C, or D.

Mr. English stated that he agreed with Ms. Gary that they should stay with what they have and add the Option A-2 map, as the more they add, the more confusing it will get.

Ms. Bohmke motioned, due to the essence of time and deadlines that the County Attorney previously addressed, to move forward with the map they have somewhat of a consensus on.

Mr. English seconded the motion.

Ms. Allen said that she was open to listen to Ms. Yeung's argument, at least for the public who was wondering about the rural area, and maybe seeing it in one district might help people. She stated that she didn't know how it would appear in the final product, but being able to say that rural land is all in Hartwood, the southern parts of Rock Hill and George Washington, etc. might be more palatable to some constituents. She reiterated that she was not opposed to seeing Ms. Yeung's map and removing Option D, as it was not being considered.

Ms. Gary stated that she has no problem looking at it as well but just didn't want to convolute or delay the process, and she had also wanted to see what that map would look like if it were just presented as comments.

Mr. Coen said that he was okay with that approach as well, and they could get rid of maps they know they're not looking at. He also clarified that "gerrymandering" is making districts for political purposes, and everything they have done thus far has been based solely on numbers. He stated that they have done a good job in looking at numbers and balancing the deviations, and there have been discussions about keeping subdivisions whole, not crossing I-95, the Brooke Road and Aquia Creek issues, etc.

Ms. Yeung stated that she understood the plan as an option, but she also wanted them to take one of the options staff had already created.

Ms. Vanuch clarified that the will of the Board is to bring the additional map option back for comment, but it would not be considered an A through I option.

Ms. Allen said that she did not know if it was in good faith to have it for discussion but not as an option—because the Board may want to tinker with it.

Ms. Vanuch stated that amendments can be made to any map.

Ms. Allen said that it didn't sound like it was coming back as a viable option.

Ms. Vanuch commented that it feels to her to be coming very late in the game, and they have gotten to a good place based on one of the map options they've gotten to today, and this map could be significantly different—with the public not even having had a chance to view it.

Ms. Gary said that she understood that the prior Redistricting Committee did not allow for submission of maps, as that would have been a good option, but at this point, she would like to see comments on how to adjust the current maps rather than bringing in an entirely new map.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea:	(6)	Allen, Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch
Nay:	(1)	Yeung

Mr. Toigo stated that on the website and press release, staff has options A through D listed; based on the feedback and motion from the Board tonight, they would need to go back and amend those with Option A-2, as well as Ms. Yeung's proposed map that they would bring to the work session the following Wednesday.

Ms. Yeung read from the agenda for this work session and said she wanted to make sure that this was the one she had delivered, as it was stated in the comments from the previous work session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Katherine Schneider [mic off inaudible for a portion of comments]. She asked if they could make the colors better, because trying to read the maps online and figure out what they were doing was a nightmare.
2. Ms. Fran Larkins stated that she is a Hartwood District resident and acknowledges that the Board is concerned about time—but this happens once every 10 years, and for the last 30 years, Falmouth (and later George Washington) have come across I-95, which they were trying not to do. She said that Falls Run, a sister community to her neighborhood of Celebrate, was separated. She noted that the community used to have three supervisors, which was confusing. She requested that the redistricting do away with the “thumb,” as they are doing the area a disservice by making that area separate.

Ms. Larkins commented that she is delighted that they've done Aquia Harbor, but once they did that, it brought the rest of it down that had to fall in line with Aquia Harbor. She said that she didn't know if the new map would offer solutions to that, but she reiterated the importance of keeping the whole area together on this side of I-95.

There being no further public comments, the Chair brought the matter before the Board.

Ms. Vanuch asked if the Board wanted to take any action to do away with A, B, C, D, E, and H.

Mr. Harvey responded that staff had internally generated options A-J to try to address all Board input, but they did not discuss several of them tonight.

Ms. Vanuch said they probably got most of their comments built off of Option A, and she felt it would be great to get rid of options E, F, G, H, I, J, because they have already been addressed through their comments via Map A-2.

Ms. Yeung asked staff if those other options were online, whether comments had been received, whether staff created large maps of those, and why they were not presented at this meeting. She asked which ones staff had decided not to bring back.

Mr. Harvey explained that staff had not published the other maps because they were not discussed with the Board; right now, the only maps published for the public were options A through D. He emphasized that they tried to address individual Board members' questions and come up with a map option that would work—and they've done that. Mr. Harvey said that it's at the Board's discretion as to whether all of those items would be posted on the website to have public comment.

Ms. Yeung said that she would hate for the public not to get to see those maps, as a lot of work has gone into them and staff already created them.

Ms. Allen asked if they would be able to make those adjustments now, based on public comments already received, or if they had to wait for the next work session.

Ms. Vanuch responded that they would want to wait until the next work session, as it would change those numbers drastically. She noted that the pink portion on the map is heavily populated and would impact Aquia Harbor, Griffis-Widewater, and George Washington—as well as have a trickle-down effect.

Ms. Allen said she just wanted to make sure they didn't lose comments.

Ms. Vanuch said that when the state accepted comments through the Supreme Court, they came back and made some of the amendments brought up during public comment, but others weren't implemented because they changed too many census blocks or didn't meet population criteria—so she would imagine that Stafford would do the same thing with any public comments received.

Ms. Yeung asked if any peninsulas or islands were created in the maps proposed.

Mr. Harvey responded that there were no areas separated, as it all had to be contiguous and compact—but the County has existing peninsulas, as in Griffis-Widewater and Aquia.

Mr. Coen asked if it were true that the extra maps created were hypothetical, with only specific individual elements changed.

Mr. Harvey confirmed that staff looked at all of the comments and mapped them against Map A, unless there were a specific request from Board members to use a different map option.

Mr. Coen said that with that in mind, he didn't feel the other maps all needed to stay on the table, as two of them were just from questions he had—and it just muddies the water.

Mr. Coen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to eliminate maps E through J.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea:	(7)	Allen, Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay:	(0)	

Ms. Vanuch said that they are now down to the original A-D maps, and the newly adopted A-2 map they have today. She asked if they wanted to continue on with all five maps into next Wednesday's work session or rule out specific maps.

Ms. Allen stated that she recalled them agreeing to look at Ms. Yeung's map.

Ms. Vanuch responded that it would not be labeled as a map option, but it was going to be an extra map and would be usable to amend the other maps.

Ms. Yeung motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to eliminate map D.

Ms. Allen made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. English to eliminate maps B, C, and D.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea:	(7)	Allen, Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay:	(0)	

Ms. Vanuch directed Mr. Toigo to update the website with the A and A-2 map options, for the public to continue to provide comment, and those would be the areas of focus for Wednesday's meeting.

Mr. Toigo confirmed that the meeting would be held at 5 p.m. in this same room and would also be recorded.

Ms. Yeung asked that the map to be created would at least be visible on the public website.

Ms. Vanuch responded that it was not one of the Board-considered maps, and in the previous motion, they were directing staff to prepare that so it would be viewable next week but not be an official map. She said that her hesitation was putting out another map that the Board hasn't seen nor agreed upon, with the public commenting on that.

Ms. Allen stated that the Board can always adopt Ms. Yeung's map as an option to present to the public after the meeting, and they can use some of the elements of it and present it on the website.

Ms. Vanuch asked Mr. Toigo if any political parties had submitted maps to staff.

Mr. Toigo responded that he had not received maps from the Democratic nor Republican committees.

Ms. Vanuch said that was not what she had heard.

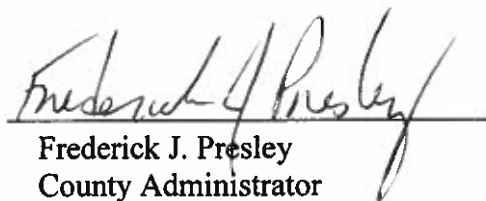
Mr. Toigo said, "Not from the committee."

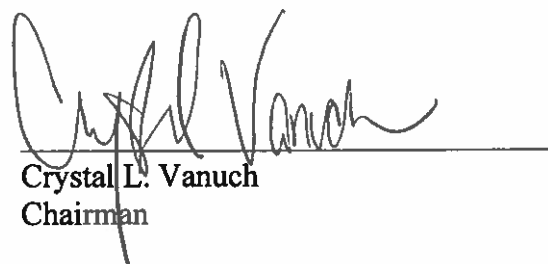
Ms. Vanuch asked if he had received any maps that originated from the committee(s).

Mr. Toigo responded, "Not to my knowledge."

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:41 p.m., Chairman Vanuch adjourned the January 27, 2022 Stafford County Board of Supervisors Redistricting meeting.


Frederick J. Presley
County Administrator


Crystal L. Vanuch
Chairman