

Green Party of Michigan: MINUTES of the State Membership Meeting
Sept. 26, 2015, Ramada Inn, Grayling Michigan

Attending all or most of the meeting: Sherry A. Wells, Art Myatt, Doug Campbell, Rita Jacobs, Paul Homeniuk, Sylvia Mitchell—new member, Tom St. Mary—renewed member, Linda Cree, Aimee Cree-Dunn, Harley Mikkelson, Merry Mikelson, Lou Novak, Priscilla Dziubek, Derek Grigsby, Celeste Bondy, Lloyd Clarke, Tom Mair, Susan Ogders, Eric Borregard, 2 preschoolers—Derek and Celeste's son and Aimee's son.

CALL TO ORDER 9:28 a.m. by Sherry A. Wells, Co-Meeting Manager. Sherry showed a 5 ½ inch article about our meeting that a local paper printed from her press release.

CREDENTIALS: Doug Campbell proposed that the two new members be allowed to vote, supported by Lou and Paul; passed by consensus.

AGENDA approved by consensus with the addition of six new items.

OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS—see packet; additions will be noted here.

1. Treasurer's report for June 6 to Sept. 26, distributed by Lou Novak. Expenses: None. Administrative: \$200 SMM rent; \$94.30 postage and rubber stamp. Income: Dues and Donations: \$1151.89, Designated for Roll the Vote: \$100. Balances: Political Account: \$6206.61; Admin. \$280.11. Total: \$6486.72. Lou explained the State rules for political party accounting and usage of funds.

2. Meeting Manager additions: Sept. 22 at Ferris State University in Big Rapids. Sherry found a member who is a Ferris State University student; he is willing to work to establish a Young Greens organization there prior to the meeting.

GPMI Convention: extensive discussion. Proposed by Art, Supported by Lou and Paul. Consensus to have it July 30-31, the weekend prior to the GP-US convention Aug. 4-7 in Houston. Noted that Dem. Party Convention to be July 25-28. Our state candidates must file with the state on August 1 or 2.

RE: Recruitment of candidates for 2016 convention: Tom Mair suggested we address this issue before March.

3. Secretary. Doug PROPOSED: Distributed Digital Archive(a/k/a "Green Cloud")

Summary: The GPMI accumulated a substantial digital legacy, important parts of which have been lost or become inaccessible. The current "archive" is fragmented, poorly indexed and poorly secured. My solution—and proposal—is to create a distributed, robust, private and secure digital archive so that no part of GPMI's digital legacy will be lost or inaccessible.

Duties of the Secretary/Recordkeeper: Each month, this officer will determine which digital files have been updated or introduced during the previous month, and e-mail them to every member of the State Central Committee. Optional: And deliver them to the webmaster to be archived in a password-protected, members only portion of the website (less private & secure, more accessible.)

Duties of the individual committee members: Upon receipt of said files, each person will save them in the /GreenParty/GPMI/GreenCloud/ folder on their own personal computer.

Start-up concern: There will be quite a few files to be placed into the distributed archive initially. It will be a busy first month or two.

Discussion: PDFd files and locked spreadsheets; confidentiality and protection of

personal information.

Support: Sherry and Harley; passed by consensus.

4. Locals Report: Tom Mair/North—Traverse Bay Watershed Greens is 3 or more counties, monthly meetings for 10-15 years since 9/11/2000. Successful meetings: July speaker, Green Roofs builder; Penny Poll to illustrate federal spending—most passersby rank education and health care first. He directed us to the national budget site at <http://oneminuteforpeace.org/> Art displayed a War Resisters League graphic piece.

Tom sees 3 tiers of members: the faithful, those attracted by speakers, those supporting candidates and actions. A need is for candidates to run who interact with the press and attend candidate forums, which also helps spread Green awareness.

Although approval of new locals was on the agenda, the new By-laws do not require approval; new locals are recognized when their Registration and By-laws are turned in. Rita Jacobs furnished Tom Mair with those of the Capitol Area Greens.

5. Membership Manager: Paul Homeniuk discussed his ideas for a public ad campaign. His example was the Michigan Radio Network which charges \$1800 for 25-35 spots on about 27 stations, within a time frames and format choice; He suggested we consider university papers and pointed out that MSU's State News has the widest circulation of nay university paper in the U.S. Paul was not yet ready to make a formal proposal as he wanted to get more information.

6. NATIONAL PARTY Report—Linda Cree announced that a Latinx Caucus was formed earlier in September.

Our Committee reps. are: Platform Committee—Doug, Lou and Linda Cree. (Co-chairs are two men.) EcoAction—Doug, Lou, LuAnne Kozma; International: Derek.

Aimee Cree-Dunn volunteered for a position as National delegate to replace one who resigned. Passed by consensus. She offered to be on the International Committee with Derek and Priscilla.

Harley asked to be replaced on the PCSC (Presidential Candidate Search/Support Committee); Paul volunteered to replace him, supported by Rita and Harley, passed by consensus. Fred wishes to be/remain on it and will complete the GP-US questionnaire based on our votes today.

PROPOSED by Paul that delegates to the GPUS National convention be selected at our March SMM and be instructed how to vote at the GPUS convention in July. Supported by Linda and Doug. Passed by consensus.

PROPOSED: amendment to Platform by Rod Reamer. Support: Paul and Sherry. Passed by Consensus.

PROPOSED by Linda Cree to be approved for forum manager/moderator of the NC votes listserv and the newly reactivated dx discussion list" and "to get a letter of approval from GPMI and have it sent to Jan Martell." Supported by Derek and Aimee. Blocking concern by Doug that Linda has internet access problems and lack of accessing listservs. Some confusion about position name and GPUS listservs, bulletin boards and discussion lists. Passed by hand vote: 13 yes; 1 no; and 4 abstaining.

7. GPMI COMMITTEES Statements of Purpose

PROPOSED by John Anthony La Pietra, not present. His proposals for Media, Platform and By-laws Committees, with the amendment to Platform and By-laws of the last sentence of his for Media Committee, that “members must be members of GPMI, expeditiously approved by the SCC or an SMM were Passed by Consensus.

Sherry tried to list Committee chairs and members. Chairs, if any, shall be chosen by the members of each committee. Once the interested members are listed, then the SCC merely needs to approve them.

Platform: Art, Linda, John Anthony, Linda Myatt (confirmed post-SMM) Doug, Aimee, Tom Mair. Others formerly on it were Eric B. and JALP; the latter confirmed after the SMM that he wanted to remain on all three committees. Doug will be contact person. Art, Doug, JALP are the yahoo group owners. PROPOSAL: by Art that the draft be available by the first SMM in 2016 (March 19 in Lapeer.) Supported by Paul and Douglas. Passed by consensus.

Media Committee: Fred Vitale, John Anthony (KALP), Paul, Eric B. Point of Contact was to be Art.

By-laws: Art, Paul, Doug, JALP, Sherry, LuAnne Kozma; Art will be contact person.

8. Merchandise and Office Manager. No one volunteered. Art offered the GPMI cell phone to anyone who'd like to answer it. He picks up the mail from the Warren PO Box. The merchandise is currently in the meeting manager box. (Some items were sold at this SMM.)

9. Communications Manager: Fred Vitale wants this position; he currently does the GPMI newsletter. Passed by consensus.

Discussion: Per Lou, the GPMI FaceBook page is controlled. The FaceBook group can be joined and tends to be livelier. The former "Social Media Committee" would fall under this as would the website and the blog in it. Art welcomes others to blog, too.

NOTE: Whether discussed at SMM or by SCC after: Sherry is willing to stay on the By-laws Committee for the tweaks that are showing up to be needed now that we're using these new ones; her opinion is that it can then be dissolved until necessary, as it is in most orgs. rather than be a Standing Committee. The Platform Committee also may not need to be a Standing Committee, but would be revived within 12 months before the GPMI even-numbered year convention.

BALLOT ISSUES: Ban fracking petition needs 250,000 signatures – currently has 100,000 with a Nov. 11 deadline. PROPOSED by Linda that GPMI gives \$600 to the Committee to Ban Fracking; Support by Lloyd. Passed by consensus.

[LUNCH BREAK. 12:25 to 2:20. Doug and Sherry took ban-fracking petitions; Linda and a group worked on the Pope press release.]

Press release supporting Pope's efforts for peace, justice and the environment proposed by Linda. No blocking concerns. Passed by consensus. Sherry asked how it was going to get out. Linda stated JALP had been working on it and would do so.

Discussion about candidates for vacated State Legislative seats, Districts 75, 80, 82. Candace Caveny is in Lapeer; one interested person in Lapeer County has been referred to John Anthony, GPMI Elections Coordinator.

Tom Mair is running for Traverse City Commission and needs door-to-door people to help – especially two weeks before the election. He requested matching funds from GPMI. To date he has collected \$225. Lou and Paul supported up to \$300 in matching funds; Tom accepted the friendly amendment (!). Passed by consensus.

Upcoming events: Oct. 3 will be the March for Justice in Detroit. Art gave details. People will gather with their respective groups, including GPMI, and be self-organized with their own signs and banners. Literature tables will be set up at Hart Plaza by noon and tended by nonmarching members of groups.

PROPOSAL by Lloyd Clark that GPMI support the Black Lives Matter

movement. Support by Tom St. Mary and Lou Novak. Passed by consensus.

State and national issues: Priscilla Dziubek informed us about the Detroit water problem: The Detroit Peoples' Water Coalition filed a complaint with the U.N. They took part in a Detroit to Flint water walk, held a rally in Flint (also having water problems), and went to Lansing twice. They urge telephone calls to state representatives about state-wide water legislation.

Funding for the Detroit Water plan fell through. A moratorium on shut-offs is needed. People need to call the Detroit Mayor. A water affordability plan is needed before any votes are taken on legislation. Current legislation being written by Rep. Chang from Detroit. PROPOSAL by Priscilla, for a resolution by GPMI to support a water affordability plan. Supported by Lloyd and Linda; passed by consensus.

Art spoke about Fermi 3.

An international climate treaty is to be formalized in Paris. Candidates need to be questioned on it.

Grassroots Democracy: Detroit People's Platform about community benefits agreements, asset maps.

Sherry educated us about problems with the Detroit schools—the elected board “in exiled” and the Emergency Managers and the debt and destruction.

There is legislation proposed in state legislature to change in the way electoral votes are allocated. The League of Women Voters is one organization working on these kinds of issues and deserve the support of us as individuals.

ADJOURNMENT at 4:55 p.m. followed by a pizza party to which the public was invited. Besides the attendees, one additional person arrived. Paul Homeniuk spoke to us about wasted funds within the state budget that could be accessed to fix roads – establishing that there was really not a need to raise taxes to fix the roads.