



# Wisconsin Elections Commission

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**Wisconsin Elections Commission**  
Special Teleconference Meeting  
212 E. Washington Avenue, Third Floor  
Madison, Wisconsin  
4:00 p.m. May 27, 2020

Open Session Minutes

**Present:** Commissioner Dean Knudson, Commissioner Marge Bostelmann, Commissioner Julie Glancey, Commissioner Ann Jacobs, Commissioner Robert Spindell Jr., and Commissioner Mark Thomsen, all by teleconference.

**Staff present:** Meagan Wolfe, Richard Rydecki, Sharrie Hauge, Robert Kehoe, Nathan Judnic, and Reid Magney, all by teleconference

**A. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Dean Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and called the roll. All Commissioners were present.

**B. Administrator's Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice**

Administrator Meagan Wolfe informed the Commission that proper notice was given for the meeting.

**D. Discussion of Federal CARES Grant**

Administrator Wolfe, Chief Financial Officer Sharrie Hauge, Staff Attorney Nathan Judnic, Technology Director Robert Kehoe, and Deputy Administrator Richard Rydecki each presented on their respective parts of a WEC staff memorandum beginning on page 2 of the meeting materials packet. This memorandum describes a reformulation of the CARES Act spending plan, as requested by the Commission at its May 20, 2020 meeting.

Questions.

**MOTION:** WEC staff are instructed to prepare and send a mailer, enclosing an absentee ballot request form and instructions along with a return envelope -- said envelope to be returned to the Elections Commission for processing -- to all registered voters, with the exception of voters with absentee applications on file and those on the ERIC possible-movers list, for a total cost not to exceed \$2,252,000.

Moved by Commissioner Jacobs. Seconded by Commissioner Thomsen.

*Wisconsin Elections Commissioners*

Dean Knudson, chair | Marge Bostelmann | Julie M. Glancey | Ann Jacobs | Robert Spindell | Mark L. Thomsen

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Administrator  
Meagan Wolfe

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:** That \$400,000 be added to the spending cap grand total to allow for the usage of intelligent mail barcodes on this absentee ballot informational mailer.

Proposed by Commissioner Thomsen. Accepted by Commissioner Jacobs.

**AMENDED MOTION:** WEC staff are instructed to prepare and send a mailer, enclosing an absentee ballot request form and instructions along with a return envelope -- said envelope to be returned to the Elections Commission for processing -- to all registered voters, with the exception of voters with absentee applications on file and those on the ERIC possible-movers list, for a total cost not to exceed \$2,252,000. An additional \$400,000 is to be allocated to facilitate the usage of intelligent mail barcodes on this mailer, bringing the spending cap grand total to \$2,652,000.

Discussion.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	No	Glancey:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	No
	Knudson:	No	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion failed 3-3.

**MOTION #1:** The Commission directs WEC staff to administer a CARES Act sub-grant to local election officials at the rate of \$1.10 per registered voter, plus a \$200 base grant, not to exceed a total cost of more than \$4,126,528.

Moved by Commissioner Knudson. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Discussion.

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:** That Commission staff forgo sending a mailer entirely and that these funds be reallocated to municipalities.

Proposed by Commissioner Thomsen. Accepted by Commissioner Jacobs.

Discussion.

**MOTION #2:** To table motion #1.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobs.

Roll call vote on motion #2:

	Bostelmann:	No	Glancey:	No
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	No
	Knudson:	No	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion #2 failed 4-2.

Roll call vote on the friendly amendment:

Bostelmann:	No	Glancey:	No
Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	No
Knudson:	No	Thomsen:	Aye

Friendly amendment failed 4-2.

Roll call vote on motion #1:

Bostelmann:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
Jacobs:	No	Spindell:	Aye
Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	No

Motion #1 carried 4-2.

**MOTION:** The Commission directs staff not to pursue the redesign of the absentee ballot certificate envelope in 2020 and to issue best practices to local election officials on how to maximize the usability of the current envelope design. The Commission further directs staff to incorporate intelligent mail barcodes into this existing design, that \$400,000 be allocated to this end, and that any remaining funds be reserved for April and May Elections Commission costs not yet billed.

Moved by Commissioner Knudson. Second by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

**MOTION:** The Commission directs staff to prepare a draft mailer for the Commission's review and approval at the June 10 meeting. The Commission further directs staff to prepare for the mailing to be sent to all voters except those with an absentee ballot application on file or those on the ERIC potential-movers list, and that the total cost for this mailer is not to exceed \$2,252,035.

Moved by Commissioner Bostelmann. Seconded by Commissioner Glancey.

Discussion.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

**MOTION:** When the database for this mailing is created on June 25, excluded from this database shall be voters who have already submitted an absentee ballot application in 2020 or who plan to submit an absentee ballot application in 2020.

Moved by Commissioner Knudson. Seconded by Commissioner Spindell.

Discussion.

Withdrawn by Commissioner Knudson.

**E. Discussion of ERIC Mailing to Eligible but Unregistered Voters**

WisVote Specialists Jodi Kitts and Connie Shehan presented on the WEC staff memorandum beginning on page 14 of the Commission materials packet that outlines the “Eligible but Unregistered” mailing, which is required as part of the ERIC membership agreement.

Questions.

**MOTION:** The Commission approves the recommended plan and expenditures outlined in the staff memorandum to fulfill the required EBU mailing by sending the postcard mailer to voters prior to June 30, 2020.

Moved by Commissioner Knudson. Seconded by Commissioner Thomsen.

Voice vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

**F. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

Moved by Commissioner Bostelmann. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobs.

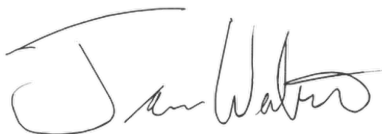
Voice vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

The Commission adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

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May 27, 2020 Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes prepared by:



Jacob Walters, Operations Program Associate

May 4, 2021

May 27, 2020 Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes certified by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marge Bostelmann".

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Marge Bostelmann, Commission Secretary

June 2, 2021