

# WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

212 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE, 3RD FLOOR  
POST OFFICE BOX 7984  
MADISON, WI 53707-7984  
(608) 261-2028  
ELECTIONS@WI.GOV  
ELECTIONS.WI.GOV



COMMISSIONERS

BEVERLY R. GILL  
JULIE M. GLANCEY  
ANN S. JACOBS  
JODI JENSEN  
DEAN KNUDSON  
MARK L. THOMSEN, CHAIR

INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR MEAGAN WOLFE

**Wisconsin Elections Commission**  
Wisconsin Elections Commission Offices  
212 East Washington Avenue  
Madison, Wisconsin  
9:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 2, 2018

## Open Session Minutes

Present: Commissioner Mark Thomsen, Commissioner Ann Jacobs, and Commissioner Jodi Jensen (in person), Commissioner Beverly Gill, Commissioner Julie Glancey and Commissioner Dean Knudson (by telephone)

Staff present: Michael Haas, Meagan Wolfe, Nathan Judnic, Richard Rydecki and Reid Magney

### **A. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Mark Thomsen called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

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

Interim Administrator Michael Haas informed the Commissioners that proper notice was given for the meeting.

Chair Thomsen thanked Mr. Haas for his letter of February 26 asking Commissioners to appoint a new interim administrator, as well as for his years of service to the state.

Mr. Haas thanked the WEC staff for their hard work and said he appreciated the Commission's confidence in him.

### **C. Public Comments**

**Eileen Newcomer** of Madison appeared on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin and read a statement from Debra Cronmiller thanking Mr. Haas for his service to the state.

**Marilyn McDonald** of Madison appeared on her own behalf and spoke about her experience at an early voting site in Madison where poll workers had difficulty finding her name on the voter list because her birthdate had been changed in the WisVote system.

**Dane County Clerk Scott McDonnell** appeared on his own behalf to speak in support of Mr. Haas and to comment on the ERIC postcard list maintenance process.

**Martha Lanning** of Madison appeared on her own behalf to speak about her husband's experience of being removed from the active voter list after he did not respond to the ERIC postcard because he had not moved.

#### **D. Commission Administrator Appointment/Tabled Motion**

Commissioner Knudson discussed his proposal to appoint Meagan Wolfe as interim administrator and begin a national search for a new administrator so the successful candidate is someone who can be confirmed by the Senate. He proposed advertising the position for 60 days, narrowing the field of candidates to three finalists, meeting again to interview the finalists, and making a decision within 90 days.

**MOTION:** Appoint Meagan Wolfe as Interim Administrator and commence a national search for a permanent administrator. Moved by Commissioner Knudson, seconded by Commissioner Jensen.

Discussion.

Commissioner Jacobs spoke in favor of appointing Wolfe permanently in the interest of efficiency and continuity. Commissioner Jensen said that from her discussions with Senators, they are looking for someone who knows Wisconsin elections, who the clerks trust and who can tackle the issue of election security, which Wolfe can do. Commissioner Gill spoke in favor of maintaining continuity. Commissioner Glancey also spoke in favor of continuity.

Commissioner Knudson discussed amending his motion to reflect the wishes of the other Commissioners, but said he wanted a vote on whether to do a national search. Chair Thomsen called the question on Commissioner Knudson's original motion.

Roll call vote: Gill:	No	Glancey:	No
Jacobs:	No	Jensen:	No
Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	No

Motion failed 1-5.

**MOTION:** Appoint Meagan Wolfe as Interim Administrator and submit her name to the Senate within 45 days for confirmation. Moved by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Jensen.

Roll call vote: Gill:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
Jacobs:	Aye	Jensen:	Aye
Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

Chair Thomsen thanked Commissioners for their unanimous vote.

## **E. Elections Security Update**

Mr. Haas made a presentation based on a written report starting on page 8 of the March 2 Commission meeting materials regarding election security planning, noting that staff will make a more complete report at the regular March 13 meeting.

Mr. Haas discussed the classified security briefing he and Ms. Wolfe received recently from Homeland Security and other federal agencies at a meeting of the National Association of State Election Directors. He also discussed recent national news media reports about election security issues.

Ms. Wolfe discussed election security planning for local election officials, including tabletop training exercises, which staff will learn about at an upcoming event hosted by Harvard University's Belfer Center.

## **F. Voter List Maintenance**

Ms. Wolfe made a presentation based on a written report starting on page 13 of the March 2 Commission meeting materials regarding voter issues that arose at the Spring Primary in February as a result of list maintenance. She discussed the postcards sent to voters who may have moved, who were identified with the assistance of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), as well as issues that lead some voters who had not moved to be included in the mailing.

Ms. Wolfe discussed the staff's proposal for the Spring Election in April to use a supplemental poll list containing names of people whose voter registrations were deactivated as a result of the postcard mailing. Voters on the supplemental poll list will not have to reregister if they have not moved.

Commissioners and staff discussed the supplemental poll list proposal and issues experienced by some voters in February.

**MOTION:** Approve staff plan described in the meeting materials to handle registrations of Inactive ERIC Movers at the 2018 Spring Elections and direct staff to continue to work with ERIC and DMV to improve the data quality for future list maintenance mailings. Moved by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Thomsen called a recess at 10:29 a.m. The Commission reconvened at 10:37 a.m.

## **G. Approval of Accountant Services Contract**

Chair Thomsen delayed consideration of this item until later in the meeting.

## **H. Request for Review of Voting Equipment Software Components**

Attorney Dan Fischer appeared by telephone on behalf of the voting equipment vendors and attorney Mike Maistelman appeared in person. Debbie Greenberger, David Lebowitz and Chris Meuler appeared by telephone on behalf of the Jill Stein Campaign.

Chair Thomsen discussed the process for finalizing an order regarding the Stein Campaign's request to review voting system software components used in the 2016 General Election recount.

Staff Counsel Nathan Judnic made a presentation based on a memorandum starting on page 28 of the March 2 Commission meeting materials which discussed staff recommendations regarding what software components the Stein campaign's representatives may view, what agreements are in place to ensure confidentiality, and what procedures should be in place to facilitate the review.

**MOTION:** Adopt Version 2 of the Test Report provided by Pro V and V, dated February 12, 2018. Moved by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Jensen. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners and staff discussed the Stein Campaign's proposal to examine the software. Attorney Fischer said the vendors would submit their own proposal by March 9.

**MOTION:** All previous deadlines as to the review plan set for March 2, 2018 are withdrawn. The Stein Campaign and any vendor may submit plans or additional information to the Commission by 4 p.m. CST on March 9, 2018. A decision will be made on March 13 and the Commission's order will be final on that date. Moved by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Jensen. Motion carried unanimously.

## **I. Approval of Accountant Services Contract**

Ms. Wolfe made a presentation based on a memorandum contained in the Supplemental Meeting Materials regarding staff's recommendation to hire an accountant on a contract basis.

Commissioners and staff discussed the agency's difficulties in hiring an accountant through the standard recruiting process and the Department of Administration's suggestion to use contracted staff instead.

**MOTION:** Approve the execution of one, three-year contract for the position of Accountant not to exceed \$170,000 annually, effective March 5, 2018. Moved by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Jensen. Motion carried unanimously.

## **J. Closed Session**

Adjourn to closed session as required by statutes to confer with counsel concerning potential litigation and to discuss a personnel matter.

**MOTION:** Move to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.85(1)(g) to confer with counsel concerning potential litigation and 19.85(1)(c) to consider the employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Moved by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Jensen.

Roll call vote: Gill:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
Jensen:	Aye	Jacobs:	Aye
Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried unanimously. The Commission convened in closed session at 11:27 a.m.

The Commission returned to open session at 12:43 p.m.

Chair Thomsen announced that the Commission has appointed Meagan Wolfe as Administrator and is asking the Senate to confirm her appointment as permanent. He said the Commission has put together a compensation package for Ms. Wolfe and that she has accepted.

Ms. Wolfe said she was absolutely honored and beyond humbled by the appointment. She thanked the team of WEC staff members and pledged to keep doing amazing work.

## **E. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Adjourn. Moved by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Jensen. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commission adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

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The next regular meeting of the Wisconsin Elections Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at the Commission's offices in Madison, Wisconsin beginning at 10:00 a.m.

March 2, 2018 Wisconsin Elections Commission meeting minutes prepared by:

  
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Reid Magney, Public Information Officer

May 7, 2018

March 2, 2018 Wisconsin Elections Commission meeting minutes certified by:

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Beverly Gill, Commission Secretary

May 24, 2018