



Wisconsin Ethics Commission

Campaign Finance | Lobbying | Ethics
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Wisconsin Ethics Commission

212 E. Washington Avenue
Board Room
Madison, Wisconsin
June 19, 2018
9:00 a.m.

Open Session Minutes

Present: David Halbrooks, Katie McCallum, Mac Davis, Pat Strachota, Timothy Van Akkeren, Tamara Packard

Staff present: Colette Reinke, David Buerger, Julie Nischik, Rich Bohringer, and Caroline Russell

A. Call to Order

Commission Chair David Halbrooks called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

B. Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice

Staff Counsel David Buerger reported that appropriate notice of the Commission meeting had been given to the public and news media.

C. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

1. Minutes of the April 24, 2018 Meeting

MOTION: Approve the April 24, 2018 minutes. Moved by Commissioner Strachota, seconded by Commissioner McCallum. Motion carried unanimously (Commissioner Packard abstained from the vote).

2. Minutes of the May 25, 2018 Meeting

MOTION: Approve the May 25, 2018 minutes. Moved by Commissioner Strachota, seconded by Commissioner Davis. Motion carried unanimously (Commissioner Packard abstained from the vote).

D. Personal Appearances

There was one personal appearance by a member of the public.

Ann Marie Hynduk appeared regarding Chapter 20, the Professional Code of Conduct for Attorneys, and legal separation.

Since the Commission would not be able to take any action at the meeting today, Commissioner Halbrooks requested Ms. Hynduk submit a letter to the Commission with details of her request, and the Commission staff and chairs will review for consideration of adding to a future meeting agenda.

E. Selection of New Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner Van Akkeren nominates Commissioner McCallum to Chair, and Commissioner Packard to Vice Chair.

Commissioners McCallum and Packard accept the nominations.

Commissioners vote unanimously to elect Commissioner McCallum to Chair and Commissioner Packard to Vice Chair.

MOTION: Change the Chair and Vice Chair terms to begin July 1 in an even numbered year, and end June 30 in the next even numbered year. Moved by Commissioner Strachota, seconded by Commissioner McCallum. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Administrative Rule Update

Staff Counsel David Buerger presented the memo on page 9 of the meeting materials.

The Commission discussed optional timelines for proceeding with submitting ETH 1.

MOTION: For ETH 1, submit the documents to the Rules Clearinghouse and schedule a public hearing on this rule for the August 21, 2018 meeting. Moved by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Van Akkeren.

Discussion of submitting a separate scope statement to include amendments and attribution requirements.

Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Counsel David Buerger also provided a status update on ETH 16 to the Commission.

G. Review of Lobbying-Related Opinions of Previous Boards, Receipt of Items or Services by State Officials, Reimbursement of Expenses

Commission Administrator Colette Reinke presented the memo on page 19 of the meeting materials.

MOTION: Confirm the opinions that are consistent and not recommended for withdrawal. Moved by Commissioner Strachota, seconded by Commissioner Packard. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commission discussed the staff recommendation for Eth. Bd. Op. 05-07.

MOTION: Eth. Bd. Op. 05-07 should be reaffirmed as consistent with statutes. Moved by Commissioner Halbrooks, seconded by Commissioner Strachota. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Eth. Bd. Ops. 03-10, 06-06, and 07-08 are withdrawn due to inconsistent analysis. Moved by Commissioner Van Akkeren, seconded by Commissioner Packard.

Discussion.

AMEND MOTION: Withdraw Eth. Bd. Ops. 03-10, 06-06, and 07-08 due to inconsistent analysis, and withdraw Eth. Bd. Op. 97-16. Amended by Commissioner Van Akkeren, agreed to by Commissioner Packard. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Prohibition of Campaign Contributions by an Individual Performing Lobbying Activities on Behalf of a Limited Lobbying Principal

Caroline Russell presented the memo on page 35 of the meeting materials.

The Commission discussed the facts presented in the memo.

MOTION: Direct staff to disseminate information that limited lobbyists are lobbyists. Moved by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner McCallum. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Biennial Budget Review 2019-21

Julie Nischik presented the memo on page 37 of the meeting materials.

The Commissioners requested for the budget review at the August meeting to include other options for Act 201, as well as a review of the operating budget from the 2017-19 biennium.

J. Staff Report

Commission Administrator Colette Reinke presented the memo on page 45 of the meeting materials.

K. Administrator Recruitment

Commission Administrator Colette Reinke presented the memo from the supplemental materials.

The Commission discussed changes to the position announcement. The Commission also discussed where the announcement should be posted, who will collect the applications, and finalized a timeline for reviewing applications and interviews.

L. Consideration of Future Agenda Items

Administrator Reinke suggested adding to the next meeting agenda a discussion of the future Campaign Finance system, the Biennial Budget, a public hearing for ETH 1, and any updates on ETH 16.

M. Closed Session

MOTION: The Commission went into closed session pursuant to WIS. STAT. §§ 19.50, 19.55(3), 19.85(1)(g), (h). Moved by Commissioner Van Akkeren, seconded by Commissioner Strachota. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Complaints and Investigations
2. Requests for Advice
3. Personnel Matters
4. Litigation Update

N. Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn. Moved by Commissioner Strachota, seconded by Commissioner Van Akkeren. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.


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June 19, 2018 Wisconsin Ethics Commission meeting minutes prepared by:



Julie Nischik, Office Management Specialist August 21, 2018

June 19, 2018 Wisconsin Ethics Commission meeting minutes certified by:



Tamara Packard, Vice Chair August 21, 2018