



Wisconsin Ethics Commission

212 East Washington Avenue | Third Floor | P.O. Box 7984 | Madison, WI 53707-7984
(608) 266-8123 | ethics@wi.gov | ethics.wi.gov

Wisconsin Ethics Commission

Board Room
212 E. Washington Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin
June 7, 2017
9:00 a.m.

Open Session Minutes

Present: David Halbrooks, Katie McCallum, Mac Davis, Pat Strachota,
Timothy Van Akkeren, and Jeralyn Wendelberger

Staff present: Brian Bell, David Buerger, Richard Bohringer, David Divine, Adam Harvell,
Julie Nischik, Colette Reinke, and Caroline Russell

A. Call to Order

Commission Vice Chair Katie McCallum called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

B. Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice

Administrator Brian Bell reported that appropriate notice of the Commission meeting had been given to the public and news media.

C. Introduction of New Staff Members

Administrator Bell introduced the newest Commissioner, Jeralyn Wendelberger, as well as the three newest Commission staff, David Divine, Caroline Russell, and Colette Reinke.

D. Commission Policy on Succession of the Chair

Staff Counsel Buerger presented the memo starting on page 3 of the meeting materials.

MOTION: The Commission's internal rule is to fill vacancies as follows: Successor shall be selected from the same party of the Commissioner who left the post to fill the remainder of the term. Moved by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Strachota. Motion carried unanimously.

Wisconsin Ethics Commissioners

Mac Davis | David R. Halbrooks | Katie McCallum | Pat Strachota | Timothy Van Akkeren | Jeralyn Wendelberger

Administrator
Brian M. Bell, MPA

MOTION: Nominate Commissioner Halbrooks for Chair. Moved by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Strachota. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Minutes of the March 7, 2017 Meeting

MOTION: Approve the minutes. Moved by Commissioner Strachota, seconded by Commissioner Van Akkeren. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Personal Appearances

There was one personal appearance by members of the public:

Jodi Jensen appeared regarding a follow up letter sent in regards to requested advisory opinion on registration thresholds applicable to section 527 organizations and non-resident PACs, the applicability of contribution limits to each, and the applicability of source restrictions to each. The letter is provided in the supplemental meeting materials.

Discussion with Jodi Jensen.

No action was taken.

G. Administrative Rules Update – ETH Chapters 6, 21, 25, and 26

Staff Counsel Buerger presented the memo starting on page 11 of the meeting materials.

Discussion of suggested changes from the Legislative Reference Bureau.

In regards to ETH Chapter 6, no public appearances, no further comments

MOTION: Approve changes to ETH Chapter 6. Moved by Commissioner Strachota, seconded by Commissioner Wendelberger. Motion carried unanimously.

In regards to ETH Chapter 21, no public appearances, no further comments

MOTION: Approve changes to ETH Chapter 21. Moved by Commissioner McCallum, seconded by Commissioner Van Akkeren. Motion carried unanimously.

In regards to ETH Chapter 25, no public appearances, no further comments

MOTION: Approve changes to ETH Chapter 25. Moved by Commissioner Wendelberger, seconded by Commissioner Van Akkeren. Motion carried unanimously.

In regards to ETH Chapter 26, no public appearances, no further comments

MOTION: Approve changes to ETH Chapter 26 with clarification of item k. in the supplemental materials that the settlement begins on day 16. Moved by Commissioner McCallum, seconded by Commissioner Van Akkeren. Motion carried unanimously.

H. RA-2017-2 Response

Staff Counsel Buerger presented the memo in the supplemental meeting materials.

Discussion.

The Commission requested Staff Counsel Buerger draft an informal opinion on source restrictions (item 4), to include a memo, the draft informal opinion, and letter for the August 22, 2017 meeting.

MOTION: Approve draft informal opinion with respect to sections 1, 2, and 3, and excise section 4. Moved by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Van Akkeren. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Complaint Process Overview Documents

Administrator Bell presented the memo starting on page 59 of the meeting materials.

Discussion.

No action taken.

J. Internal Policies

Administrator Bell presented the memo starting on page 61 of the meeting materials.

1. Public Records Notice and Policy

Administrator Bell presented the memo starting on page 63 of the meeting materials.

Discussion.

No action taken.

2. Internal Staff Policies

Administrator Bell presented the memo starting on page 65 of the meeting materials.

Discussion.

No action taken.

K. Agency Office Space Request

Administrator Bell presented the memo starting on page 69 of the meeting materials.

Discussion.

No action taken.

L. Updated Shared Staffing MOU with Elections Commission

Administrator Bell presented the memo starting on page 77 of the meeting materials.

No action taken.

M. Verbal Update on the 2017 – 2019 Biennial Budget Process

Administrator Bell verbally presented information relating to the Joint Committee on Finance meeting to discuss the 2017 – 2019 Biennial Budget.

Discussion.

No action taken.

N. Agency Operating Budget Update

Ethics Commission staff Julie Nischik presented the memo starting on page 83 of the meeting materials.

Discussion.

No action taken.

O. Administrator's Report

Administrator Bell presented the memo starting on page 87 of the meeting materials.

Discussion.

No action taken.

P. Consideration of Future Agenda Items

Administrator Bell suggested including a draft of the 2016 – 2017 Annual Report at the next Commission meeting, as the report is due by October 15, 2017.

Administrator Bell suggested including scope statements for the remaining Administrative Rules the Commission needs to revise, ETH Chapter 1, 15, and 16.

Q. 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 McCallum, seconded by Commissioner Strachota. Motion carried unanimously.


R. Adjourn

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

The Commission adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

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June 7, 2017 Wisconsin Ethics Commission meeting minutes prepared by:



Julie Nischik, Office Management Specialist

August 22, 2017

June 7, 2017 Wisconsin Ethics Commission meeting minutes certified by:



Katie McCallum, Vice Chair

August 22, 2017