Minnesota

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 10:00 A.M. Conducted remotely via Webex due to COVID-19 pandemic

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

- 1. Approval of December 1, 2021, minutes
- 2. Chair's report
 - a. 2022 meeting schedule
- 3. Executive director report
- 4. Enforcement report
- 5. Legal report
- 6. Other business

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Immediately following regular session

STATE OF MINNESOTA CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

December 1, 2021 Meeting conducted remotely though Webex due to COVID-19 pandemic

.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Swanson.

Members present: Flynn (arrived during chair's report), Leppik, Rashid, Rosen, Soule, Swanson

Others present: Sigurdson, Engelhardt, Olson, Pope, staff; Steve Melchionne (for Hartshorn), counsel

MINUTES (November 3, 2021)

After discussion, the following motion was made:

Member Leppik's motion: To approve the November 3, 2021, minutes as

drafted.

Vote on motion: A roll call vote was taken. All members voted in the

affirmative (Flynn absent).

CHAIR'S REPORT

A. 2022 meeting schedule

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

B. Resolution recognizing the service of Daniel Rosen

Mr. Sigurdson presented members with a draft resolution regarding this matter that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Chair Swanson read the draft resolution recognizing Member Rosen's years of service to the Board. Members then expressed their individual appreciation for Member Rosen's service and several specifically noted that Member Rosen's ability to respectfully disagree had resulted in better decision-making by the Board.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

Member Flynn's motion: To approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board recognizes **Daniel N. Rosen** for his service from 2014 to 2021 as a member of the Board, and offers this resolution in appreciation for his investment of time and energy in support of the mission and objectives of the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

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Vote on motion: A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed (Five ayes,

Member Rosen voted nay).

C. Appointment of nominating committee for 2022 officers

Chair Swanson told members that in his role as chair, he had appointed a committee consisting of himself and Member Rosen to nominate officers for 2022. Member Rosen said that the report of the committee was to nominate Vice Chair Rashid to be chair, and Member Soule to be vice chair, in 2022. Member Rosen said that these nominations followed the Board's historical practice of recommending the most senior member who had not yet served as chair to fill that vacancy and the next most senior member who had not yet served as an officer to fill the vice chair vacancy. Chair Swanson reported that he had consulted with the nominees and both had agreed to serve if approved.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

Member Leppik's motion:

To approve the nominating committee's report that

Member Rashid be chair, and Member Soule be vice chair,

in 2022.

Vote on motion: A roll call vote was taken. All members voted in the

affirmative.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Integration of political committees from Hennepin County

Mr. Sigurdson presented members with a memorandum regarding this matter that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Sigurdson first told members about office operations for the upcoming month. Mr. Sigurdson said that staff was busy preparing and mailing the notices for the yearend reports that were due in January for all three Board programs.

Mr. Sigurdson then stated that effective January 1, 2022, the Board would begin overseeing campaign finance registration and reporting for political committees and funds, and party units, that are active in certain elections in Hennepin County. Mr. Sigurdson said that these groups currently register with and report to Hennepin County. Mr. Sigurdson stated that the legislation prompting this change did not transfer any Hennepin County registrations to the Board. Instead, the new law requires these groups to register with the Board after reaching the registration thresholds specified in Chapter 10A. Mr. Sigurdson explained that the Board's authority applies only to financial activity that occurs after January 1, 2022, and that the Board has no authority over financial activity that occurred in 2021 or the reporting of those transactions. Mr. Sigurdson said that although no Board action was necessary at this time, he wanted to bring the matter before the Board because staff time would be required to implement the new provisions. Specifically, staff will need to modify the Campaign Finance Reporter software and Board forms and publications to include the covered local elections and the additional reports that will be required in odd-numbered years from groups with activity in those elections.

ENFORCEMENT REPORT

A. Discussion item

1. Balance adjustment request – Masin (Sandra) Campaign Committee (14857)

Mr. Olson told members that the Masin committee's actual cash balance at the end of 2017, including checks received late in the year and deposited in early 2018, was \$3,783.29. That amount was \$263.63 less than the ending cash balance of \$4,046.92 listed on the committee's 2017 year-end report. Mr. Olson said that the committee's new treasurer did not have a copy of the committee's Campaign Finance Reporter data from 2017 and despite his efforts was unable to determine the source of that discrepancy. Mr. Olson stated that the committee therefore was asking for a downward balance adjustment of \$263.63 to its 2017 ending cash balance.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

Member Rashid's motion: To approve the requested cash balance adjustment.

Vote on motion: A roll call vote was taken. All members voted in the

affirmative.

B. Informational Items

1. Payment of civil penalty for exceeding aggregate special source contribution limit

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Neighbors for Jim Davnie, \$200

2. Partial payment of civil penalties for conversion to personal use and false certification

Tamara Jones, \$186

3. Payment of civil penalty for exceeding individual contribution limit

Isaacson (Jason) for SD 42, \$50

4. Payment of late filing fee for 2020 pre-general report of receipts and expenditures

Isaacson (Jason) for SD 42, \$50

5. Payment of late filing fee for 2016 year-end report of receipts and expenditures

Isaacson (Jason) for SD 42, \$25

6. Payment of late filing fee for lobbyist disbursement report due 6/15/2021

David Anderson, \$100

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7. Partial payment of late filing fee for lobbyist disbursement report due 1/15/2020

Marcus Harcus, \$150

8. Payment of late filing fee for lobbyist principal report due 3/15/2021

YWCA of Minneapolis, \$125

9. Payment of late filing fee for original EIS

Jaden Partlow, \$160 (partial payment) Sen. Jason Isaacson, \$5

10. Return of public subsidy due to subsidy exceeding expenditures

Neighbors for Jim Davnie, \$499.34

RATIFICATION OF WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN

Ms. Pope presented members with a memorandum regarding this matter that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Ms. Pope told members that the Board's existing workplace violence prevention plan had been modified to incorporate the formal workplace violence prohibited policy recently adopted by Minnesota Management and Budget. Ms. Pope said that Mr. Sigurdson had approved the plan but that Board ratification was needed. Ms. Pope said that a typographical error in the title of the assistant director on page 5 had been corrected.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

Member Soule's motion: To ratify the workplace violence prevention plan.

Vote on motion: A roll call vote was taken. All members voted in the

affirmative.

PRIMA FACIE DETERMINATION

Mr. Sigurdson presented members with a memorandum regarding this matter that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Sigurdson told members that complaints filed with the Board are subject to a prima facie determination which is usually made by the Board chair in consultation with staff. Mr. Sigurdson said that on October 21, 2021, the Board had received a complaint submitted by Jon Erik Kingstad regarding Doug Wardlow, a candidate for attorney general; the Upper Midwest Law Center (UMLC) and its president, Douglas Seaton; Energy Policy Advocates (EPA) and one of its directors, Matthew Hardin; and Government Accountability and Oversight, P.C. (GAO) and one of its directors, Christopher Horner. Mr. Sigurdson said that the complaint alleged that the UMLC, EPA, and GAO were corporations and that one or more of those entities had made approved expenditures and thereby had given contributions to Mr. Wardlow that were prohibited by Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15.

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Mr. Sigurdson stated that the complaint asserted that the respondent corporations had filed two lawsuits against Attorney General Keith Ellison, in his official capacity, under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The complaint maintained that the corporations' expenses and volunteer services for those lawsuits were approved expenditures because the UMLC participated in each lawsuit, Mr. Wardlow allegedly was a member of the UMLC's Advisory Legal Panel, and, as a member of that panel, Mr. Wardlow allegedly consented to or approved of the lawsuits. Mr. Sigurdson said that the complaint asserted that the purpose of the lawsuits was to support the candidacy of Mr. Wardlow or to defeat the candidacy of Attorney General Ellison. The complaint also appeared to allege circumvention in violation of Chapter 10A and criminal bribery.

Mr. Sigurdson told members that Chair Swanson had concluded that an investigation of the complaint would require the Board to inquire into the purpose with which the specified lawsuits were pursued, that the power to inquire into such motives was reserved to the Minnesota Judicial Branch, and that the doctrine of separation of powers precluded the Board from engaging in such an inquiry. Chair Swanson thereby concluded that the complaint did not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15. Mr. Sigurdson said that Chair Swanson also concluded that the complaint did not state a prima facie violation of the circumvention provision and that the Board had no authority to investigate the alleged bribery. Mr. Sigurdson stated that the prima facie determination was provided as an informational item to Board members and that no further Board action was required.

LEGAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

Members were presented with a legal report that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Because Mr. Hartshorn was unable to attend the meeting, Assistant Attorney General Steve Melchionne attended in Mr. Hartshorn's place. Mr. Melchionne answered questions from members regarding the legal report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Swanson reminded members that the Board had made legislative recommendations in 2021, that the technical recommendations had been adopted but the policy recommendations had not, and that the legislature soon would be convening its 2022 session. Chair Swanson asked staff to prepare a report for the next meeting listing possible technical recommendations for the upcoming session and reviewing the status of the lobbying proposal.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The chair recessed the regular session of the meeting and called to order the executive session. Upon recess of the executive session, the chair had nothing to report into regular session.

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There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned by the chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Sigurdson
Executive Director

Attachments:

Draft resolution recognizing the service of Daniel N. Rosen

Executive director report – Integration of political committees from Hennepin County

Memorandum regarding ratification of workplace violence prevention plan

Workplace violence prevention plan

Prima facie determination

Legal report



Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2021

Meetings are at 10:00 A.M. unless otherwise noted.

2022

Wednesday, March 2

Wednesday, April 6

Wednesday, May 4

Wednesday, June 1

Wednesday, July 6

Wednesday, August 3

Wednesday, September 7

Wednesday, October 5

Wednesday, November 2

Wednesday, December 7



Date: January 26, 2022

To: Board Members

From: Jeff Sigurdson, Executive Director Telephone: 651-539-1189

Re: Executive Director's Report – Board Operations

Year-end Reports

All three major program areas; campaign finance, lobbying, and economic interest statements have year-end filing requirements in January. A brief update for each program follows:

Lobbying Program. The lobbyist disbursement report covering the period of June 1 through December 31, 2021, was due on January 18, 2022. Of the 2,181 reports due 2,162 (99%) were filed by the deadline. The use of the online reporting system remains high with 93% of lobbyist disbursement reports filed electronically.

Campaign Finance Program. The year-end report of receipts and expenditures for 2021 is due on January 31, 2022. Notification of the filing deadline was sent to over 1,350 candidate committees, political party units, and political committees and funds.

Economic Interest Statement. The annual certification by public officials for 2021 is due on January 31, 2022. A letter providing information on the need to file a certification was sent to 3,054 public officials.

Personnel

Effective March 1st, Jodi Pope is retiring from state service. Ms. Pope has worked for the state for almost 33 years. During that time she worked for the History Center, the Senate, the Office of the Attorney General, the Court of Appeals, the Office of the Secretary of State, the Department of Education, the Department of Human Services, and finally with the Board for the last ten years. While with the Board Ms. Pope has been responsible for drafting administrative rules, developing and administering the economic interest program, developing training material for the Board's clients, and leading many Board investigations to resolve violations of Chapter 10A.

Perhaps most importantly, Ms. Pope has been a great coworker. She has mentored new staff and provided invaluable training on program requirements as well as being a role model for working with the public to achieve the Board's disclosure and compliance mission. Unfortunately, the Board will probably note a decline in the quality of the executive director's written material as Ms. Pope has served as an important sounding board who helped me develop clear content and used a sharp editor's pencil to save the Board from innumerable fractured sentences and rambling paragraphs.

The position will be posted in March.



Date: January 26, 2022

To: Board members

Counsel Hartshorn

From: Andrew Olson, Legal/Management Analyst

Subject: Enforcement report for consideration at the February 2, 2022 Board meeting

A. Consent Items

1. Approval of administrative termination of lobbyist Faarax Dahir Sheikh-Noor (4845)

Mr. Sheikh-Noor died in July 2021. He was the sole lobbyist registered on behalf of the Business Advocacy Services Corporation. He reportedly did not incur any lobbying disbursements after May 31, 2021, the end of the period covered by his most recent disbursement report. Board staff terminated Mr. Sheikh-Noor's lobbyist registration effective May 31, 2021.

2. Approval of administrative termination of lobbyist Steve Peterson (4611)

Mr. Peterson is gravely ill, is no longer engaged in lobbying, and is unable to complete a disbursement report or termination statement. He was one of two lobbyists registered on behalf of the East Itasca Joint Sewer Board. His last disbursement report covered the period ending on December 31, 2020. Because Mr. Peterson is unable to complete a disbursement report or termination statement, Board staff terminated his lobbyist registration effective December 31, 2020.

B. Discussion Items

1. Administrative termination of lobbyist Jordan Craig (4536)

The American Forest & Paper Association requested that the lobbyist registration of Mr. Craig be terminated as he ceased to be employed by that principal as of September 16, 2021. The principal attempted to contact Mr. Craig asking him to file a termination statement, but he has not done so. Mr. Craig is the principal's sole lobbyist registered with the Board. The principal has stated in writing that no lobbyist disbursements occurred after the period covered by the lobbyist disbursement report filed in June 2021. The Board does not have valid contact information for Mr. Craig. Staff is asking the Board to deem the statement from the principal as sufficient to satisfy Mr. Craig's reporting obligation and approve terminating his registration effective May 31, 2021.

C. Informational Items

1. Partial payment of civil penalties for conversion to personal use and false certification

Tamara Jones, \$372

2. Payment of civil penalty for exceeding aggregate special source contribution limit

Neighbors for Dan (Wolgamott), \$350

3. Payment of late filing fee for 2020 pre-primary 24-hour notice

Athena Hollins for State Representative, \$50

4. Partial payment of late filing fee for lobbyist disbursement report due 1/15/2020

Marcus Harcus, \$300 (\$150 x 2)

5. Payment of late filing fee for 2020 Annual EIS

Chris Gerlach, \$20

6. Partial payment of late filing fee for original EIS

Jaden Partlow, \$320 (\$160 x 2)

7. Forwarded anonymous contributions

Caitlin Cahill for Minnesota House, \$30

Lobbyist Faarax Dahir Sheikh-Noor (4845)

 From:
 Sagal Sheikh-Noor

 To:
 Ross, Erika (CFB)

 Subject:
 Deceased Lobbyist

Date:Friday, January 14, 2022 4:06:12 PMAttachments:Faarax Sheikh-Noor Death Certificate.pdf

This message may be from an external email source.

Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

Good afternoon,

We recently spoke regarding the deceased lobbyist Faarax Sheikh-Noor, Business Advocacy Services Corporation. Unfortunately, he passed away on July 28, 2021. There were no disbursements that occurred during this last period. Will a report need to be filed? What is the next course of action to take regarding this matter?

Attached is a copy of the death certificate.

Thank you so much for your help.

Lobbyist Steve Peterson (4611)

From: <u>Steve Peterson</u>
To: <u>Ross, Erika (CFB)</u>

Subject: Re: Reminder - Lobbyist Disb. report due Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Date: Friday, January 14, 2022 10:38:38 AM

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Erika, steven v peterson has become ill an will not be lobbying anymore. He has a terminal brain cancer an cannot send any kind of report so if you will resign him from this. I think he lobbied for east range sewer. If you have any questions please call me at 218-780-3245 chris peterson, his wife

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 13, 2022, at 8:35 AM, Ross, Erika (CFB) < <u>Erika.T.Ross@state.mn.us</u>> wrote:

January 13, 2022

To: <u>svpeterson1970@gmail.com</u>

Peterson,

Steve

Subject: Reminder for the Lobbyist disbursement report due January 18, 2022

The Minnesota Campaign Finance Board would like to remind you that the next Lobbyist Disbursement Report is due **Tuesday**, **January 18, 2022**. We are hoping this reminder will help you coordinate your schedule and tasks, to be sure this filing is on your calendar.

The Lobbyist Disbursement Report for the period of June 1 through December 31, 2021 is due Tuesday, January 18, 2022. At the date and time of this email, the Board has not received your disbursement report.

Please file your report on or before the due date. If you have questions, please contact me.

Erika Ross Program Administrator Campaign Finance Board 658 Cedar St Ste 190 St Paul MN 55155 651-539-1187 651-539-1196 Fax



November 22, 2021

Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board 190 Centennial Office Building 658 Cedar Street St. Paul, MN 55155

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the American Forest & Paper Association, I am writing to request an administrative lobbyist termination for Jordan Craig. Effective September 16, 2021, Jordan Craig ceased being employed by our association, and therefore, his lobbying activities on behalf of our association were terminated. If you have any questions relating to this matter, please feel free to reach out to Debbie Kipps at <u>Debbie kipps@afandpa.org</u>.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Jan Poling

Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary

jan_Poling@afandpa.org

(202) 463-2590

From: Kipps, Debbie < <u>Debbie Kipps@afandpa.org</u>>
Sent: Monday, December 06, 2021 12:20 PM

To: Ross, Erika (CFB) < Erika (CFB) <a h

<megan.engelhardt@state.mn.us>

Subject: RE: Jordan Craig

Hello Erika and Megan,

I have confirmed with Abigail Sztein, Director of State Government Affairs, that there were no MN lobbying expenses during that time period.

Thank you,

Debbie Kipps American Forest & Paper Association 703.314.3396 (cell)

From: Ross, Erika (CFB) < <u>Erika.T.Ross@state.mn.us</u>>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 4:43 PM

To: Kipps, Debbie < <u>Debbie Kipps@afandpa.org</u>>; Engelhardt, Megan (CFB)

<megan.engelhardt@state.mn.us>

Subject: RE: Jordan Craig

Hi Debbie,

Can you please confirm that there were no lobbyist disbursements made by Jordan Craig or the American Forest & Paper Association between June 1, 2021 and September 16, 2021? I'm including Megan Engelhardt, our Assistant Executive Director, on this email because I will unavailable after 4:30pm today until next Wednesday. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Erika Ross Program Administrator Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (651) 539-1187



Revised: 1/24/22

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD February 2022

ACTIVE FILES

Candidate/Treasurer/ Lobbyist	Committee/Agency	Report Missing/ Violation	Late Fee/ Civil Penalty	Referred to AGO	Date S&C Personally Served	Default Hearing Date	Date Judgment Entered	Case Status
Sandra (Sandi) Blaeser		2018 Public Official Statement of Economic Interest	\$100 LFF and \$1,000 CP	9/11/20	6/3/21	2/3/22 (summary judgment)		
		2019 Public Official Statement of Economic Interest	\$100 LFF and \$1,000 CP					
Chilah Brown Michele Berger	Brown (Chilah) for Senate	Unfiled 2016 Year- End Report of Receipts and Expenditures	\$1,000 LFF \$1,000 CP	3/6/18	8/10/18 1/8/21 2/18/21	11/15/21 (summary judgment)		Judge told Brown and Berger he would rule in 30- 90 days.
		Unpaid late filing fee on 10/31/16 Pre- General Election Report	\$50 LFF					

Candidate/Treasurer/ Lobbyist	Committee/Agency	Report Missing/ Violation	Late Fee/ Civil Penalty	Referred to AGO	Date S&C Personally Served	Default Hearing Date	Date Judgment Entered	Case Status
Marcus Harcus		Original Statement of Economic Interest, due 6/16/20	\$100 LFF \$1,000 CP	10/5/20	4/27/21			Harcus agreed to a payment plan with a final payment February. The
		Lobbyist Disbursement Report due 6/15/20	\$1,000 LFF \$1,000 CP					Board requested hold status until fees and penalties
		Lobbyist Disbursement Report due 1/15/20	\$1,000 LFF \$1,000 CP					are paid.
		Late Filing of Lobbyist Disbursement Report due 1/15/19; filed on 6/16/19	\$1,000 LFF					
		Late Filing of Lobbyist Disbursement Report due 6/15/18, filed on 6/27/18	\$200 LFF					
	MN Campaign for Full Legalization	Annual Lobbyist Principal Report, due 3/16/20	\$1,000 LFF \$1,000 CP					
Steve Laitinen		2018 Public Official Statement of Economic Interest	\$100 LFF and \$1,000 CP	9/23/20	6/14/21	1/27/22		
		2019 Public Official Statement of Economic Interest	\$100 LFF and \$1,000 CP					

Candidate/Treasurer/ Lobbyist	Committee/Agency	Report Missing/ Violation	Late Fee/ Civil Penalty	Referred to AGO	Date S&C Personally Served	Default Hearing Date	Date Judgment Entered	Case Status
Jaden Partlow		Candidate Statement of Economic Interest due 6/15/20	\$100 LFF \$700CP	9/23/20	6/18/21			Partlow agreed to payment plan with final payment in February. Board requested hold status until fees and penalties are paid.
Jenny Rhoades		Candidate Statement of Economic Interest due 6/15/20 was filed, however Ms. Rhodes continues to owe outstanding civil penalty and late fees to due untimely filing.	\$100 LFF \$1,000CP	9/23/20	6/29/21			Case removed from hold due to lack of payment. Default judgment motion filed and served 1/21/22.
Jae Hyun Shim		Statement of Economic Interest due 1/25/2021	\$100 LFF \$1,000CP	9/7/21				Summons and complaint drafted. Staff requested hold on service until 2/1/22 to permit Shim to address filing, fee, and penalty.

CLOSED FILES

Candidate/Treasurer/ Lobbyist	Committee/Agency	Report Missing/ Violation	Late Fee/ Civil Penalty	Referred to AGO	Date S&C Served by Mail	Default Hearing Date	Date Judgment Entered	Case Status
Beau Hullerman		Candidate Statement of Economic Interest due 6/16/20	\$100 LFF \$1,000CP	9/23/20	6/18/21	12/28/21	1/11/22	Default judgment entered ordering Hullerman to file statement and pay \$1,218.