

MINUTES of the GREB WorkGroup

December 12, 2016

The GREB WorkGroup met on Monday, December 12, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Director of Elections for Chesterfield County, Chesterfield, VA.

Present: Co-Chair John Hager, Clara Belle Wheeler, Larry Haake, Renee Andrews, Robin Lind, William Bell, Bill Thomas, and Al Ablowich. Members of the public attending included Sussex Director of Elections Bill Jenkins and Nottoway Director of Elections Angela Stewart.

Mr. Hager called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and, at the suggestion of Mr. Thomas, asked Mr. Lind to serve as permanent temporary Deputy Recording Secretary.

On a motion by Ms. Andrews, seconded by Dr. Wheeler, the draft minutes of the November 17, 2016 meeting were unanimously adopted as amended.

Discussion ensued on IT issues in the Department of Elections. Multiple examples were given of continuing duplicate registrations. Mr. Haake, reporting a large volume of online registrations had continued even after the election, recommended a point of origin tag to identify whether the duplicates were coming through the DMV or other state agencies. Mr. Jenkins reported that one of his Electoral Board members had been re-registered after a visit to DMV. Mr. Bell questioned whether there was an incentive program that encouraged DMV employees to register all customers; he commented that unless the issue of duplicate online registrations was fixed, it would have budget impacts at the local level.

Mr. Haake expressed the opinion that the elections community was unaware of many initiatives undertaken by ELECT and was not hearing from the department on what they're doing. Mr. Jenkins concurred saying he felt out of the loop, learning primarily from news releases.

Discussion ensued on the issue of electronic poll book software developed by ELECT which had been tested in Chesterfield County in June (where it did not receive enthusiastic endorsement,) retested in New Kent County in November, and subsequently presented for certification to the SBE where it was tabled for further study.

Mr. Hager said enough comment had been received to recognize challenging IT problems confronted ELECT and asked what might be recommended.

Discussion ensued on a resolution offered by Mr. Lind to incorporate the Chair's query: Resolved that the GREB WorkGroup has received sufficient testimony to recognize that challenging IT problems confront the Department of Elections and strongly recommends that

a WorkGroup be formed, comprised of members nominated by VEBA and VRAV, to identify these problems, assess relations with other state agencies such as DMV, and VITA, and report back to the SBE with specific recommendations. Adopted unanimously. Mr. Ablowich said it was important to identify the problems which included VERIS speed and lack of speed; Online Voter Registration and duplicates; online Absentee applications; overseas voters; and Electronic Poll Books.

Mr. Lind reported that the proposed bill to require 100% reimbursement to localities for GR and EB compensation and expenses had been pulled at deadline and would not be re-introduced in this session. He said more would be known after the Governor's budget presentation on December 15.

Mr. Hager referred to the joint committee's testimony saying the job expected from ELECT is not being done, the elections community was not getting what it needs, voting responsibility is in jeopardy. Concern was expressed that a program audit is sorely needed.

Discussion ensued on a recommendation submitted by Bedford County Director of Elections Barbara Gunter that 24.2-112 be amended to remove population brackets for assistant registrars; moved by Mr. Ablowich, seconded by Ms. Andrews, it was adopted unanimously. Mr. Lind and Mr. Haake were asked to compile and circulate a draft of the WorkGroup's recommendations to be made to the SBE and General Assembly.

The board tentatively agreed to meet again on January 17, following the VEBA Legislative Day at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. There being no further business, the Workgroup was adjourned at 1:18 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Lind, Temporary Recording Secretary