

Minutes DFLEC EX COM April 14, 2019

Convened at DFL Environmental Caucus Ex Com Meeting

Sunday, April 14, 2019 Cloquet Forestry Center, Stine Conference Room

Present Megan Bond, Veda Kanitz, Lawrence Sandoval, Sandy Sandoval, Kristin Larsen, Karl Forsberg, Lorraine Rovig, Heidi Edmonson, Barb Crow, Andy H. Barb C,

1. Adoption of agenda with addition of motion to stand with Ilhan. MSP
2. Credentials report
3. Adoption of meeting minutes MSP with addition of Heidi Edmonson attending, from January 26, 2019
4. We discussed the Annual Membership Meeting with election of Chair, Vice Chair, 8 Executive Committee members to 2-year terms. We decided to ask Sue Monrovic and if she cannot Jules Goldstein for chair of that meeting. Nominations Committee needed – we have the forms and process and an experienced member will need to take it on. Will also need Rules / Constitution committee for rules and revisions. Heidi volunteered to convene Rules /Constitution. We reviewed the makeup of our standing arrangements committee (Barb Crow, Veda, Kristin, Andy) Megan agreed to convene nominations. Andy and Kristin volunteered to help Megan. We discussed membership list work and the need for a majordomo on that task, presently performed by Lawrence, Kristin and John. We discussed Kristin doing a small workshop with the board about our various web tools and systems. We discussed a possible retreat and locations. Consider the Forestry Center for the retreat planned - or Cedar Creek. In Anoka County near Lino Lakes
5. Changes in constitution – we discussed the situation which happens when we have a full caucus meeting and don't get 25 we would have a board quorum and the board has authority to make decisions. We decided we could put out a combined announcement of a board meeting and regular meeting or we could always include a board meeting as an option after a regular meeting and convene if needed.

6. A motion was made to spend 25 dollars to boost a post reading the DFL Environmental Caucus stands in support of Congresswoman Ilhan Omar whom we have previously endorsed. We stand against bigotry and hatred in all its forms and in support of Congresswoman Omar's leadership, courage and perseverance. Lawrence suggested we capture environmental leanings. We added language from Omar's website including: leadership on environmental issues working towards ensuring environmental justice and energy independence, achieving renewable energy, transitioning to green economy and creating zero waste communities. The friendly amendment was accepted. MSP (put on fb/webpage/twitter)

7. Review of goals:

Membership growth : In 2017 we had 341 members and by Dec 2018 we had 600 members. (new membership director will hopefully tighten that list up) We sent out a membership reboot letter and 21 had responded at last check. This probably needs to go out again. We may want to follow up with phone calls. We have done well in memberships.

We discussed the need to inform board members of the coming meetings before or just after election. We discussed a place to hold our annual meeting, Andy suggests a UMN meeting place the metro. We discussed the merits of meeting in the metro vs out in the rural areas. Veda will check to see if holding meetings around the state is the mandate or if there are other ways to reach out. Remote meetings do have difficulty drawing a quorum, while Metro meetings are better for attendance. Outreach and recruitment. We are worried about the issue of appearing metrocentric and thus working to get out into the rural areas. We do consider also, the carbon footprint. Figuring out a way to balance this is a goal, including understanding the direction of the DFL.

Sandy speaks for collecting dues and for calling folks we've not heard from in a long time and she will speak with John about that.

Endorsing and electing environmental champions was another goal. We were very successful (see Veda's report) in endorsing candidates and many of them won. It was an enormous undertaking requiring many hours of work. Andy suggested we make the questionnaire shorter. He suggested that forming relationships with candidates is important – sometimes more than the candidates who seem like they agree. The workload was too much for committee and chair, they need actively engaged cochairs. We need to look at making the interview portion a bigger factor / take more time than the form. This is all very valuable to the viability and strength of this caucus.

We talked about the impact of high quality educational material and folks in an official's district to get through to them. Heidi felt the detailed questionnaire was important and wants to keep it. It was pointed out that we need questions consistent with our platform and priorities and that interviews are needed because forms are often done by others.

Candidates who did not get our endorsement can be very unhappy and it can help to have the written record. We discussed the system for endorsement at the local level. 5 folks from that district who submit a proposal to the endorsement chair is the plan we came up with as a board. It was suggested that we need a new chair appointed and that we need a new committee – with perhaps time for local races before the onslaught of state and federal positions. The committee should plan to appoint a person/s to enter data on the website, it is time consuming. We discussed waiting till after our new board comes on to get a new chair of endorsement. We should discuss it at our board meeting next. Some felt it should be a director but perhaps not a brand new one.

8. Education committee – Greg has organized, Barb, John, Al, Kristin and Heidi have participated. Greg needs to pull together the group and get the plan in to the board for approval. Andy will contact him regarding this.

9. Lobbying, we need to get that going again.

10. Platform will come up again, Kristin is willing to convene again, and will certainly serve on that committee. Kristin, Phil, and Veda are on the platform committee.

11. Strategic Messaging- how will we follow up? We discussed how we respect the existing platform while allowing for change and growth.

12. Outreach Report : Karl is starting to get help from folks with Outreach including Bonnie Lokenvits, Dale, Howie and Barb Crow. Carl has signed up for 8 Open Streets gatherings and we get lots of sign ups and there is diversity in the folks he is reaching. Grant from DFL should be applied for.

Karl is now a director of the American Indian Caucus and the Latino Caucus has take a lot of his time. District 1 is where they are working, people pulled guns on them. There are other groups we could form in coalition with African American Islamic and Stonewall caucuses. Salman Metha is a new DFLEC member. Presenting at south Metro had post ramadan dinner - Karl met a lot folks.

It was pointed out that farmers are in hard times, farm land prices are staying up, they can make money on inflated land values to get loans. How is our party working on this? We discussed working with other environmental groups, in particular 501C3s, how can we cross barriers legally? Is there a way we can more effectively interface with enviro groups.

We have moved the needle on climate change. Now need to move the needle with members of congress.

13. May 4 SC and Ex Com Retreat Breezy Point Barb agreed to help with that tabling.

14. May board meeting we need to form an audit committee.

Kristin moved 200 for the website MSP

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Many new folks added to message board, expect unsubscribers.

Adjournment moved seconded and passed.