

GPMI State Membership Meeting
July 20, 2013 * Kulick Center; 1201 Livernois St, Ferndale

9:00 am **Registration and Socializing** [xx:xx]

10:00 am **Introduction & Adoption of Agenda** [10:12]
Lou Novak will facilitate discussions up to 2 pm
Fred Vitale will facilitate Education Crisis discussion

Lou Novak welcomes everybody, calls on everyone to introduce themselves
 he & Priscilla are working on the Ban Fracking Now petition
Art Myatt – Oakland Co Greens activity is slow; currently he's working with the Alliance To Halt Fermi 3 (conference maybe late Sept)
Paul Homenek (sp?) from E Lansing – new kid; likes Green values, not thrilled at attendance here,
 but hoping to apply skills to help [re-]activate
Rodney Reamer (sp?) from Auburn Hills – another new kid; he's working with Keep Michigan Wolves Protected
 petition drive was enough to stop SB 1350 (=> PA 520), but Legislature passed another law (PA 21?);
 now they're trying to stop *that*
Ricki Lee[?] from Lapeer[?]
JALP from Marshall – Elections Co-ordinator (& husband of vegan baker Jennifer)
Bill Opalicky from Southfield . . . wants his 5 minutes to speak about egalitarianism
 [wrangling with Richard K
Derek Grigsby from near Petoskey – chair
Candace from Lapeer – Caveny on the ballot, otherwise Candace Caveny-Collins
Richard Kuszmar from Warren – a Ban Fracking fanatic at the moment
 but he's disappointed that wolves are more important than people in MI (not as many signatures yet)
 he's worked on a lot of petition drives, and this one is going better than others – but it's frustrating
Doug Campbell from Ferndale – a MI rep to GPUS (and liaison with GP of South Africa)
George Corsetti of Detroit – treasurer of Wayne Co Greens
Julia Williams of Fraser – been a candidate a few times, had some p
 we need to get more young people involved
Sherry Wells of Ferndale – running for mayor here, in fact (can be the openly Green candidate as a former mayor was openly gay)
 her sister Laura in CA (whom Doug knows) got her connected with the 10KV
Celeste Bondie from near Petoskey too
 all these topics are interesting to her

JALP proposes to add 5 minutes for Bill O under strategy
JALP also asks for consideration of a special caucus for the 49th State House district

links:
 KeepMichiganWolvesProtected.com
 Alliance To Halt Fermi 3 . . . ATHF3.org
 LetsBanFracking.org (the one for the petition drive itself – and BanMichiganFracking.org for info purposes)

10:15 am **Officers' Reports** [10:47]

Treasurer, Elections Coordinator, SCC work, other officer reports and discussion
could include Web Committee report and any other from the April SMM

Lou gives treasurer's report – \$100 check to Ban Fracking, then later a \$500 check too . . . one typo – \$1,000 not carried
JALP – Elections Co-ordinator . . . special elections past and future (Bobby Jones for SS27; _____ [maybe Jeremy Royer] for SH049)
Doug for GPUS national reps . . . national meeting in IA next weekend
 NC has been paralyzed by internal busy-nesses

he's also a member of the National Platform Committee – it's still 83pp long & impenetrable
but nobody else seems to want to change the document or the revision process

Julia asks why Doug thinks this is and what we could do to fix it – he really doesn't know . . .
about 300 people on the National Committee, about 12-15 active participants
many proposals don't reach quorum or just barely do

Candace sees a positive thing in the Green Shadow Cabinet e-mails (yes, says Doug, but it's not associated with Nat'l Cmte)

Paul sees similar problems at the state level, asks what Candace sees as positive in Shadow Cabinet
sounds to him like settling . . . Candace discusses some of the improvements in Flint

Art M says there's been a procedure in place for over a decade to change the National Platform only by amendments
in effect, growth by accretion like a sedimentary rock

structurally, there is no such thing as a national party (so no individual members of GPUS)

that's why he won't bother to go to IA next week – not much for folks to do except pass resolutions
the platform procedure is one that was in place here – and we changed it before the previous election
he doesn't have much hope that something similar would be done in NC

Lou asks to keep this discussion to another 5 minutes

Rodney asks shouldn't platform amendments be programmed into meetings?

Art M says we address amendments when someone offers them

why not program it into the agenda, Rod adds? some nods at that as a possibility

Doug C says the fundamental problem is that the Platform Cmte's own rules prevent it from editing the platform

Richard K mentions "The Iron Rule of Oligarchy" (bureaucratization of any organization over time)

here in MI, what we have is mostly the same people in because nobody else wants the position(s)

so if you want to do something, just do it – the organization probably won't stop you

Lou N thinks that's what the Green Shadow Cabinet is doing, in a way

there's been a committee set up to look at strategy, etc, etc

JALP agrees there's more to do than has been done

Candace . . .

Bill O wonders how the Shadow Cabinet works with grassroots democracy – some discussion of how it may work and be set up

Lou N asks if he/we can defer the proposals from the printed agenda – we say OK

Doug C asks if we could take a . . .

break

[11:18]

back in action

[11:25]

11:00 am

Strategy for Green Party, 2013-2014

[11:27]

There has been much discussion on the list about this work. Those ideas should be included in this discussion.

The anti-fracking campaign attracted a lot of Green support and therefore that struggle deserves time and attention at the SMM. Not to shrink the campaign to a Green Party campaign but to help Greens who are in it to help it grow.

There should be time for the Sherry Wells campaign for mayor of Ferndale.

People can make reports on the struggles to date against Emergency Managers too.

[jalp] Please add at least the possibility that we will have one or more potential candidates for the new special election in the Flint area (this one for the 49th State House seat, vacated by the winner of the 27th State Senate seat special election earlier this year). If so, we may have people there who want to present themselves to us – and we may want to decide whether or not to hold an online special caucus on the SCC list.

Lou asks for any suggestions on strategy

Paul suggests breaking down into groups of 4-5 for half an hour or so

Richard mentions "Deep Green Resistance" – focusing on things that are effective, not just what makes us feel good

Art thinks we're a small enough group already, & doesn't know what we're breaking out for

Paul agrees there is a difference between tactics and strategy

another thing he's seeing as an outsider is that many of our topics so far are issue-centered, not people-centered

maybe pick out statewide (& local) issues related to our 4 Pillars

Richard asks why not do that with the whole group?

we could, Paul admits – but sometimes some people feel safer in a small group

Candace asks: didn't we have three sheets at our April meeting

[further discussion]

Lou mentions the discussion last time about whether to continue to have a lot of candidates or focus on a few candidates

Candace points out that many candidates come to GPMI from their own backgrounds & viewpoints

[agenda mentions these ideas:]

anti-fracking campaign and the role GPMI & individual Greens in it

Sherry Wells campaign for mayor of Ferndale

struggle against Emergency Managers

Margaret's proposal for support for Edward Snowden

[also: JALP's proposal to consider a special caucus]

we agree to discuss first (ie, before lunch) the many-or-few-candidates issue

Richard K points out the problem is not having lots of candidates running/standing, it's being "fair"/supporting all candidates equally

Doug C says some election Qs are relevant this year & some for next year – he wants to focus on this year

Ferndale mayor, SH049

Paul says we're okay through 2014, right? unless they change the law, we shouldn't worry about strategizing over that

when our statewide meeting is 15 people, our strategy should be how to get more people involved

Bill O points out the country's under martial law – there are no more free elections; those in power ignore the will of the people

Derek agrees that Bill is right

we're a party that nominates candidates (a major asset) – so we need candidates

we need our candidates to support our issues/positions

maybe don't give as much \$\$ to local candidates, but talk them up etc

JALP mentions the "referendum-proofing" effort

Sherry says a Ferndale person started that effort, & agrees we should get behind that on grassroots-democracy grounds (good PR)

she'll be fine campaigning – might like help walking

is there a person claiming to be Green in the Detroit race?

Russ Bellant (Fred V knows him, so do Derek & George) is running for City Council Ward 5

Richard says since this isn't a statewide election year, we should focus on local races

where Sherry has a real chance to win, we should support her

a Green mayor in CA used eminent domain to seize underwater properties

he's not too worried about endorsing quasi-Greens, but not as enthusiastic about nominating/supporting them

another point: he asked Jill Stein for support for the Ban Fracking effort; reads her letter back

he doesn't wear T-shirts or other regalia when petitioning, but points up his

Doug C wants to come back to the 49th – good issues don't help if we don't have a good candidate

he wants us to do something concrete: figure out from the membership database who's in the 49th District

Candace says she & Harley & Lloyd know who the other seven or so members in the Flint area are

always canvassing members to see where they live (in what districts)

Rebekah (Harley's daughter) may live in the district, too – but we haven't heard from either of them for sure

Sherry will go home over lunch and get some anti-referendum-proofing petitions

Lou sends us off to lunch – urges us to be back by 1:10pm at the latest

most of the restaurants in Ferndale are on Livernois

continue after lunch until 1:45 – break

Discuss until 1:15 or 1:30 with 15 minutes left for Motions, Resolutions and practical steps.

this time let's focus on issues – and identify what level they're at (Paul suggests looking at the necessary level of the **solution**) and what's the most current *

first, issues related to **Ecological Wisdom**

wolf hunt [S] *

fracking [A] *

invasive species in the Great Lakes [A]

& water issues in general

mercury

global warming

tar sands / Pet Coke

modern-day warfare (DU, etc)

nuclear power/waste

natural gas as a false solution

sustainable energy

biomass

recyclables/recycling

Art suggests finishing all the lists before identifying levels of any

Paul suggests also looking at what we can practically do with them

next, issues related to **Social Justice**

public education

student loans

foreclosures and underwater loans

public-defender system

Medicare for All

police harassment/oversight

drug laws

racism

voting rights & accessibility

corporate personhood

reproductive rights

GLBTQ discrimination

civil/human rights

searches & seizures [4th Amendment]

minimum/living wage (vs Right to Work)

privacy rights

now issues related to **Grassroots Democracy**

voting rights & accessibility

redistricting

campaign finance

ballot referendum reform

Move to Amend

local control vs Emergency Manager laws

end the Fed

privatization

inequalities in society (1% issues)
voting/ballot access
workplace democracy / worker-owned businesses / economic democracy?
rights to petition/speech/assembly (& information)
[open government]

and last but not least, **Non-Violence**

gun laws
Stand Your Ground
anti-war
social-support networks [to reduce need for violence] . . . safety net / guaranteed standard of living
drones
knowing pollution as a form of violence
police state deliberately confusing non-violent protest with “terrorism”
NDAA & drone-based assassination [/ AUMF / PATRIOT Act]
ending the War on Drugs
arms trade / military budget / military-industrial complex
land mines / drones
culture of [glorification of] violence

so . . . now that we've got these lists, let's try to look at the level (Local / State / National / All)

Derek asks Sherry what issues she thinks she could focus on – but do we want to focus only on that race now?

back to Ecological Wisdom

Richard is going to suggest we put a bit more \$\$ into the Ban Fracking petition
Eric says we need a national energy policy – Rs & Ds don't have one
we have two issues we're active on already (*wolves & fracking*); what's a good third?
so we start taking votes – *national energy policy* wins

okay, what are our three for **Social Justice**?

Lou pushes for *education* as one (Richard suggests folding in student loans, too)
foreclosure & underwater properties
JALP suggests a lot of the others could combine into “individual rights”
but *Medicare for All* is the majority choice

and the three for **Grassroots Democracy**?

local control (vs Emergency Manager)? okay . . .
campaign finance
voter rights & accessibility wins #3 over End the Fed

and now **Non-Violence**

Stand Your Ground might draw attack; maybe we can fold several things into *Culture of Violence*
but Art wants to be very careful **not** to take a position that police & military should have a monopoly on guns & violence
War on Drugs would play into education and other factors as well
Doug suggests phrasing it as *demilitarizing & de-Federalizing local police*

and so we wrap up the strategy session . . .

but Bill O & JALP point out they were expecting their agenda-added items to be covered in *this* “afternoon session”
Lou says that's not what he intended to say
some loud discussion – either Fred V or Bill O will leave the room . . . it winds up being Bill O
{meanwhile, JALP mentions he needs to leave by 3pm – dunno if anybody }

1:45 pm **break** [none]
back in action [none]

2:00 pm **Education Crisis and Driving Out the Emergency Managers** [2:05]

Education Crisis and driving out the EMs with some leading local activists in these struggles around the Emergency Managers in Detroit and Highland Park. It will also address the dismantling of libraries and the Education Achievement Authority, a new "separate and unequal" system for poor, working class children, mostly Black. I have invited some key members and guests -- (waiting on confirmations from all of them) Elena Herrada, elected member of Detroit Public Schools Board District 2 and Marianne McGuire, former member of the State Board of Education and Marian Kramer -- HP school activist -- involved in these struggles.

A possible outcome of the discussion is to endorse some candidates for Detroit City Council -- Russ Bellant is one -- and put out lit in support before Aug 6

I also hope we can support printing some general GPMI signs which our members and supporters can write on for demonstrations and other actions.

I hope we can support printing an updated and focused trifold or single piece of information on the GP and GPMI in 2013-2014 and membership forms.

(after the fooforaw) Fred V introduces the session and Marianne McGuire – hopes Elena Herrada will make it, too . . .

[lecture with Q & A/discussion afterward]

Richard proposes

- (1) forming a committee to draw up a Green plan of action (maybe MMcGuire can serve on that)
- (2) endorsing Russ Bellant for Detroit City Council

TWINKLE on (1)

Art doesn't want to endorse someone who hasn't asked for it – wants to wait

Fred V invited Russ – but late, and there was a conflict

Art makes it a blocking concern against endorsing at this time

vote: 9-4 . . . adopted

Fred V wants to make a third proposal:

Detroit is on the news (4x in NYT)

he wants to have GPMI ask the Shadow Cabinet to issue a statement on the Detroit bankruptcy (and volunteer to work with them)

Julia suggests instead that we write one ourselves – and send it to them and ask them to adopt it

Fred would love to do that

Julia volunteers George for the committee – he says he doesn't have time

Richard suggests attending the DIA auction and bidding on works like the guy did on the land leases

well, Fred suggests, if we can't put together a committee at first, let's gather some ideas and ask the Shadow Cabinet

he asks Derek to write something; he says he'll think about it; Celeste says if he writes it, she will edit it

Julia says we should mention the reason for the public bankruptcy – our banking policies

Richard says Julia should write down her ideas; Fred says let's all work on it on the list

TWINKLE

Fred apologizes for his part of the contretemps with Bill O

Derek offers a suggestion of not letting Bill O attend future meetings

Candace says Bill O had a hemorrhagic stroke a few years ago

asks for understanding of physical and/or psychological injuries

Lou notes the expulsion (& suspension) procedures in the by-laws

Doug C says before we talk about these things, let's try conducting meetings more formally/rigidly

Richard K suggests appointing a sergeant-at-arms and adopting a rule of polite conduct

Paul says if there's already a process in the by-laws, why not use it – at least as a wake-up call?

discussion on caucus . . . *TWINKLE*

JALP will send Fred V the paperwork (including a map of SH049)

break at 3:23pm

(JALP has to go)
