

Green Party of Michigan State Membership Meeting – St. Ignace Public Library * October 15-16, 2011

MAIN MEETING LOCATION (Saturday, Oct 15, 10am - 6pm) St. Ignace Public Library <http://web.uproc.lib.mi.us/stignace/>

This is right on the main road going into St. Ignace. Coming from the Mackinac Bridge, take the first exit to St. Ignace. Turn right off the exit ramp and drive 0.4 miles to Spruce Street. Turn left. The library is the first building on your left. The meeting room is to your right once you enter the library.

Saturday, October 15

8:00am - 9:30am **breakfast** at St. Ignace Big Boy . . . <http://www.SaintIgnace.com/BigBoy> [10:26]

==> Welcome from North Country Greens

==> Review of Agenda, Saturday night dinner, Sunday morning breakfast

Fred V, as meeting manager, kicks it off (Derek at the registration table pending Lou's arrival)

Fred V introduces Linda Cree for the North Country Greens, who welcomes us (& comments on the GPUS lack of Libya resolution)

she introduces Carol Strauss, on faculty at NMU & part of North Country Greens

also active in Occupy the UP

many people are unaware that the Green Party stands for anything but environmental issues

Aimee Cree Dunn – she doesn't live in Marquette (too urban :))

Saint Ignace has been a special place since the Anishnabe [sp?]

Fred notes SMM is the supreme body of the party – we can do anything we want (Margaret moves that we occupy something!)

he'd like to welcome everyone . . . introductions around

Danny? with Charlie from Kent Co . . . a Wobbly

Ted Soderophelous (sp?) – husband of Carol Strauss . . . he's registered in MA – his wife is from Michigan

Larry Klein (sp?) from Kincheloe (about 40 mi N of here) is observing; some folks are trying to put in a wood ethanol factory there

he's activist, some Workers' World Party background too

Richard Sloat & Catherine Parker from Western UP

10:00am - 11:00am **report back from Green Party of the US annual meeting in Alfred, NY; officer reports** [xx:xx]

Fred notes a lot of struggles up here, too . . . so wants to check what officer reports are available

JALP notes 1-1/2 or 2 he wants/needs to give

Lloyd was busy trying to recall Snyder, hasn't done as much visiting of locals as he planned – but did visit GR/Kent Co/W Michigan when it comes to the platform, Art points out, we have an actual one to vote on

Linda C notes there are reservations at the Mackinac Grille

Lloyd starts by mentions the W Michigan local

Charlie says it's been involved in Earth Day activities, 7/4 parade, some festivals . . .

updating the old address list, mostly had to start over but now have about 200 contacts in the past few months

some money assembled, preparing to run some local candidates next year (he's the only one committed so far)

Lloyd also visited the Bay County local several times – though it's on life support, under direction of Matt De Heus

hard to get people motivated in Bay & Saginaw Counties . . . maybe can get some folks in from the recall campaign

Matt's interested in running for County Commissioner

and about the phone line – not too many calls in this political off-season, many we do get are solicitations/etc.

relevant calls are forwarded to Lynn and/or Lou . . .

but Lloyd would think it's better to get a cell phone someone can pick up

some callers think we get caller-ID info & don't leave numbers (though our messwe do ask)

Derek is willing to offer his cell phone for that since he's moved out of Detroit area – we'll try to figure out how to do that

Candace asks if it costs a lot more to review messages on cell phones

JALP [EC, Platform Committee]

Fred V says national convention will be in Baltimore

[Lou N asks to defer his report as treasurer until later]

Fred V says schedule of future GPMI meetings is on agenda for later
other officers could report

Lloyd would like a report on membership; Fred V says most go through Lou

Linda C asks if we could gather phone numbers for contact people (sometimes e-mail isn't
and that reminds JALP to ask people to update media contact info
which reminds Charlie's friend about the Website

Fred V reports about the GPUS meeting at Alfred U in Alfred, NY . . . got involved in the local fight on fracking
it wasn't a nastily contentious meeting

there's a new GPUS supplement – "10 Big Reasons to Go Green"

Fred V is proposing to use it in the next *Green Light*
movement for a new Latino Caucus

GPUS's financial position is better – loans paid off, etc.

for the first time, a ballot line in the 4 biggest states: CA, NY, TX, and FL

hoping for the low 40s by next year

Lou N adds that there was a forum held by the Women's Caucus

with Cheri Honkala, Philly sheriff candidate, on the panel along with other women candidates

she was at 1st US Social Forum for poor people's rights

some Presidential candidates were there – Kent Mesplay, maybe someone from HI too?

and a presentation from Jill Stein, whose name is now being floated for President too

David Cobb was there as part of MoveToAmend – made a very cogent argument for corporate rights

Margaret adds that one issue women raised was that we want another woman of color like Cynthia McKinney

existing Black & Women's Caucuses supported establishing a Latino Caucus (including Anita Rios)

unfortunately, neither Cynthia nor Rosa were there

Elizabeth May was at Alfred by phone conference

shows what Greens can do when we target a race (cf Cheri Honkala, who Margaret notes has an actual chance of winning)

Carol S asks if Honkala campaign is something locals would vote on doing – Fred says yes, and GPMI could do that too

but how to disseminate that sort of thing nationally? harder . . . GPUS is really a federation of state parties

Art notes there's also a risk to doing that for an out-of-state candidate: cf Arkansas legislator who didn't stay Green after elected
he'd be reluctant to put a lot of his resources into the campaign of someone he didn't know

Linda C notes we do have a national campaign committee and a national platform

Tom M thinks we need to be careful about telling people not to run if they can't win

Margaret says that's not her position – just that's why there was a push to support Honkala's campaign

Lou N says focusing efforts is being discussed on the national level – should we identify a strong campaign or two?

this off-year, there are people who are supporting Honkala

and Mark Miller running for State Senate in Massachusetts

there's a GPUS co-ordinated campaign committee – and Green House & Senate Campaign Committees

and after he's able to make a treasurer's report, someone can propose

Harley M says one lesson from Canada is to run as many candidates as possible – *AND* focus on winnable ones

Candace says the Arkansas legislator had a strong union background . . . & maybe he ran as a Green since the D was so far right

Margaret says people can also volunteer for Honkala – go there (some NY Greens are)

or maybe remote phone-banking from here, even? – Lou N says [that's being somewhat organized]

Lou N offers a basic treasurer's report now (Fred V suggests putting off lunch until 12:30pm)

as of 9/30:

political \$ 6,960.63

administrative \$ 86.24 phone bill is about \$70 a month – he thinks the discussion of changing to a cell phone

some discussion on fines & fees . . . SCC decided to pay fine/fee for Libby Hunter

for our GPMI state committee . . . an outstanding \$500 fine – they haven't yet rescinded/refunded it

Candace asks where membership feeds into this? – 90% renewals, he says

Lou says the money generally goes into the political fund if not specified otherwise (because it's more flexible)

since Lou N feels it's necessary, JALP/Fred V (and/or Candace) propose authorizing him to pay the fine . . .

consensus

[Tom M reports there's a hole in the Bridge – they're holding traffic for a few hours]

11:00am - 12:00noon **local reports / local struggles**

[xx:xx]

Fred V suggests a "fishbowl" to cover all of these issues

like a modified panel discussion (or the Q & A part of it), says Lou N – but people can tap in if they have something to add

==> The Great Lakes and the 1st Congressional District – Tom Mair (Traverse City)

==> Fracking – Tom Mair (Traverse City)

==> Cynthia McKinney meeting – Fred Vitale (Detroit)

==> Struggle to stop welfare cuts – Fred Vitale (Detroit)

==> Herrada campaign – Fred Vitale (Detroit)

==> Update on repealing "Emergency Manager Law" – Fred Vitale (Detroit)

==> Update on recall-Snyder campaign

==> Other local reports and updates

Catherine Parker for WAVE [Water Action Vital Earth] . . . focus activity: opposing the Eagle Mine

& associated permits to Rio Tinto, which has ignored regulations on acid mine drainage, etc.

we can't afford to squander precious water resources

EPA picked hard-rock mining in 2009 as its top focus for financial assurance – cf Federal Register from then

agency is due to finalize actual requirements soon

discusses the group's platform planks . . . mentions working for the next seven generations

Tom M asks how many mines open now & how many proposed

1 other in process of getting permits; other activities in WI & MN . . . and ON too

Save the Wild UP is still active; WAVE is kind of an offshoot of them

also working with Yellow Dog Watershed (Kennecott has the land there, and a bunch more)

why do they want to be near water? (Candace thinks open pits don't use much of it)

people think it's pine barrens with not much water there, but water is bubbling up from the ground

of the general headwaters/Boundary Waters area being affected (& likely to be more so)

what are they mining for? copper & other precious metals . . . it's called sulfide mining because the materials are in a sulfide-ore base

Richard Sloat is a [2nd? 3rd]-generation miner . . . he's seen the piles of tailings for years

but what he's here to talk about is

glad to see GPMI's platform calls for rescinding the permit (though we might get more support with other words like moratorium)

his friend wrote a book called *The Buzzards Have Landed* – long but easy read – on the history of the WI mining moratorium

started with Flambeau mine in Ladysmith – touted by Kennecott as the environmentally safe way to mine

(now there's a lawsuit)

what went on in WI is what they're doing in MI . . . including (if he can say it here) buying up politicians and regulatory agencies

Snyder has some advisors from Kennecott

Kennecott says the Eagle Mine will bring 70 jobs! . . . (well, various numbers spoken of, but)

none of the jobs are permanent – the mine is only supposed/expected to last 8 years

Lloyd asks what GPMI can do

Richard & Catherine figure this is a political issue – regulatory agencies don't enforce the law unless there's political pressure in WI, 90% of legislators were shamed into signing onto the moratorium there

so they drafted a letter and went to the MI legislators that LCVMI said were the best (& the speaker & their own reps)

got nowhere . . . found that out-of-district mail is always just forwarded

their local legislators checked and said DEQ told them they were talk

so they need at least one person from every legislative district in MI to write a letter – that's where they figure GPMI can help

Tom M asks if anyone below EPA or MI DEQ can do anything? no . . . they'll check the new bill here on that topic

Linda C notes the only way it worked in WI was that so many people were involved . . .

UP has 1/3 of the land but .03% (?) of population

the WI moratorium was in the 1980s, they think – anyway, the Green Party there was involved . . .

WI seems to be in a different situation, says Rich – 2 rivers were to be affected, and there was a lot of private property along them

so there was already a lot of a base of public support for a moratorium, and legislators were willing to stick necks out on that

Pat [Egan?; see below] of N Country Greens asks if moratorium drive started before or after mining started really started going after Exxon started pushing for the Cramden (sp?) mine would have affected Native American land (wild rice, tourism, etc)

Lou N is hearing that they're asking Greens to contact legislators – but what is the desired wording?

Rich was hoping for a joint effort:

if Greens aren't going to be running in key areas, pressure the existing candidates

if Greens are going to be running in areas, push the issue that way

75 abandoned mines in Iron County alone (along the WI border)

Derek asks if the idea is to oppose all mines in the area, or only certain mines, or what?

when they wrote Snyder, they were asking for

stronger regulations & enforcement

3rd-party Environmental Impact Statements

higher assurance – like a bond

Jennifer suggests that they forward their letter so GPMI can circulate it around

Candace says Metamora in Lapeer Co had a similar experience – though with a recycling company, not a mining company

it became a Superfund site . . . co went out of business before she moved there in 1988

maybe we could make a connection to similar messes in lots of areas

maybe require a parent company to be responsible

Linda C is confused – why are they asking for less than a moratorium? Greens have thought this was something to latch onto the state is going to say it has the strongest regulations around with its new mining law . . . but it was a set-up

Richard guesses pressuring legislators

for amendments to part 632 / non-ferrous mining regulations – to require the things we've been talking about

Catherine guesses they weren't coming here with a firm idea of what to do

presuming that they'd need to get more groups together

at least GPMI is statewide and can be a base for contacting all legislators statewide

(and maybe contacting newspapers all over, too)

in WI, legislators were asked to sign pledges

Priscilla D also works on water issues (at EMEAC) . . . this week was Great Lakes Week in Detroit, 3 conferences on water water issues are all connected, so join with other water-related organizations

she also works on People's Water Board – which is working with the Council of Canadians

they want to get the Great Lakes declared a living commons . . . which would strike against fracking, etc

she has a pledge sheet on that; maybe we could do that

more issues can be highlighted

they're trying to plan for more events in May & June (a tour, even) on these issues

Catherine says WAVE is a member of FLOW (For the Love Of Water); Priscilla recognizes them

Jim Olsen (atty for MCWC) is working on the commons; Maude Barlow, Food & Water Watch also among those involved

Priscilla's umbrella coalition sounds like what Catherine & Richard were hoping for

Larry K(?) had a Q related to the ethanol factory on the E side of the state

he works for Sault Ste Marie band of Chippewas; the tribe is getting involved

Bad River reservation in WI is getting empowered to control water flowing into as well as out of there

Susan O is with Traverse Bay Watershed Greens

about 250 people showed up at NW MI College a few years ago on the Yellow Dog

lots of people in Traverse City area own land in the UP

Tom M mentions the Bioneers meetings nationwide this weekend – the theme this year was "The Commons"

they've been working with the booklet Catherine has – and

Art M suggests another stir-up-the-people documentary . . . "Blue Gold: World Water Wars"

Fred V asks Priscilla to mention Int'l Joint Commission – decides US/Canada Great Lakes water/etc issues representatives from all states & provinces

the treaty that created it doesn't give it power to make legally binding decisions, though

Larry K(?) mentions the Nokomis ethanol factory aimed to be put in at Kincheloe north of here (just off I-75)

it would convert wood (instead of corn) into ethanol – there was a prototype

the process uses toxic substances; free water for the company but water pollution for the community

he went to the tribal healing center – Soo tribe of Chippewas has already come out against it

already an international issue . . . allowed to take wood from 150-mile radius . . . 77 truckloads of lumber per 24 hours

they'd be using this factory as an example to replicate across the country; Japan is looking at it, too
Sierra Club got an injunction against it based on how much pollution it would cause
then overnight Obama signed something to allow double the old std/limit of pollution
is Kincheloe in US or Canada? US (10-15 miles S of the Sault Ste Maries)
the 350 acres for the factory is less than 1/8 mile from town/village of Kincheloe (3,000-4,000 people)
there are 4 prisons there – and a lot of tribal land (but who cares about those 2 groups?)
there's a huge aquifer – hundreds of gallons of water per minute to make the conversion
and it would take lots of natural gas [for the energy] to convert the wood to ethanol
DEQ is in bed with the corporations – lots of money involved
lots of investment companies (Carl & Diane would be able to give more details)
project has been delayed – was supposed to have been settled in April or May
Sierra Club lawyers in CA are suing both the state and the corporations – did the process all wrong
judge said they needed a plaintiff in Kincheloe – about 3 weeks ago, he signed up as the nominal plaintiff
(theoretically he needed to put up \$25,000)
state of MI has put \$60 million into the investment (Feds, too)
energy return on investment: 10% more energy going in than coming out in ethanol
Linda C says Environmental Action Center of US has position paper – agrees with him about the danger/damage in this

Website of statewide coalition against the Nokomis plant:

AlternateEnergyCoalition.webs.com

the plant/company's name: Mascoma/Frontier

resource person: Pat Egan (906-437-5526)

there's a formal meeting 7pm this Thursday at Lake Superior State U's Cisler Center building – an update on the situation

Fred V notes it's 12:30pm . . . do we break for lunch or keep talking?

Aimee D says they're still cooking . . . maybe done at 1pm

so let's take a break – including the guest speaker at 1pm over lunch

one thing we can do now, says Catherine, is contact the Attorney General (Tom M is making copies of her map)

[12:32] *break*

12:00 noon - 1:00pm **lunch and luncheon speaker: Lee Sprague**

[1:28]

==> Lunch provided by North Country Greens

(featuring manoomin/wild rice with cranberries [vegan and local beef] as well as mini-pasties [veggie and beef])

==> Appetizers and drinks provided by Traverse Watershed Greens

[We were able to line up a luncheon speaker, **Lee Sprague**, of the Little River Band of Ottawa – he's been involved on environmental issues from the state to the national, tribal, and, I believe, international political levels – an awesome speaker with great stuff to inspire us with and tell us about. He's agreed to come up and speak for virtually no money – if anyone is able to contribute \$\$\$ to offset his travel, lodging, and food expenses, please let me know – he didn't even ask for this, but I'd like to be able to offer him whatever we can.]

Aimee C D introduces him

from the "land of the big trees" – and the Crane Clan

first thing he wants to say: let's go win some seats! . . . it's getting a voice out there, and at the table, and heard

corporations can't afford to have 5-10% of their stockholders

get the EMILY's List campaign book . . . a good nuts-and-bolts guide

(note: don't have to win the election to win the issue sometimes)

quotes Native Americans a lot, but here he's going to start with a quote from European (will ID the source later) on change management
change has lukewarm support and active opposition (etc) . . . it was Macchiavelli!

we're at a time where climate change isn't a future event – it's already happening . . . in the continuous present

e.g., sand disappearing from Sleeping Bear Dunes . . . three 100-year rain events and one 500-year event in the past 7 years

and in the hottest week in recent memory, the beaches were closed and people couldn't go in the water!

e coli from unknown source . . .

sea lampreys "invading" here – but vanishing in Columbia R basin out W where they're native (Native Americans want them back)

why aren't more people hearing all this?

[he's brainwashed about it too – but] when he says "Indian", he means from a native perspective

and when he says "white", he means from a European perspective

some Native elders understood long ago about these days

there's a clan for people who are not from this world – like us: the Marten clan

but the pine martens have disappeared from this area (attempt to re-establish them didn't take)

they're an indicator of forest health

tribe is trying to help re-establish them . . . that scares him

wants to ask us to put a native plank in our platform – he and Aimee can work on a draft

he enjoys speaking to the choir . . . but don't get too comfortable doing just that

a good friend of Lee's, Derek Bailey, is running for office in the 1st Congressional District (as a D); some folks here know him

he wants to encourage us to pay attention to him – but we shouldn't give him a pass; we should engage/challenge him on issues

unfortunately, it takes dollars – even just to get to places to give talks

let's try to do this exponentially . . .

Candace mentions Doug Campbell's removal from the LCV forum

he's sympathetic with that . . . and then the really hard part starts when you win!

he talks with people in DC on the delegated authority of Congress on water-quality, air-quality, mining-impact issues, etc

and the failure of Congress to require the states to look at cumulative impacts – states aren't going to do this by themselves

Forest County Potawatomi tribe set their own air-quality standards . . . and then Mike Cox filed suit against that

only one reason – he was hedging, looking at what would happen to the paradigm when more tribes establish their own standards

to keep a Federal mining permit, you just have to show \$500 of benefit from your mine in a year

so if we apply for permits . . . we can occupy the mining space – and the bureaucracy . . . don't give them the free space

our "mining" will show benefit from eco-tourism

look at issues like this sideways

gets his "prop" – the corporate flag . . .

letting those corporations interact with the earth for our sustenance is easier for us – but it abdicates our responsibility

he's expecting a platform from us (and we, generally, agree) . . . he dresses in his suit, his DC "buffalo robes", to go there

right now he's focused most on Keystone XL pipeline project

Candace asks about tribal rolls: once a tribe wins the right to control its air quality/etc, that helps people – but which tribes can do that?

it varies . . . Ogemaw got PM2.5 (particulate matter) standards

Tom M will help with plank, too . . . wants people to hear what sovereignty means

it means self-government, self-determination . . . US has sliding, slippery scale for what it means for tribes

the world has outlawed apartheid and colonialism as the same thing under international law

but UN rules say there may be no challenges to the territorial integrity of a member state

when are the grass roots going to flower? can't spread until you flower . . . and then you can grow, and propagate, and pollinate

think of the possibilities of the metaphor

curvy lines on a climatological map are never going to be believed by the public

Madison Avenue is in the business of change management, too . . .

he's worked with the Sierra Club, too, filing 100s of pages of permit documents (another good organization for organizational manuals)

but he knows that the corporations helped write the rules – so it shouldn't surprise us that they hit the ball out of the park

basically, we're trying to change the hearts and minds of the middle class; overturn 60-70 years of TV . . . we have to come at that hard
what turns middle America off? or what do the media use to do that?

he bets most people could name more of the corporations on that flag than of the states

we have to fight the local fights – they're important . . . but he himself tends to focus too close up (look with straws)
so we need someone to fly over us an

about the air standards, etc – Derek thinks we should strengthen national and international standards
but if Native Americans get the ability to set their own standards, they could allow more pollution, not less
Lee agrees – but remember: he's fighting for national standards . . . the tribe is a nation
but he's going to keep working to help our nation have stronger standards

20% of the world's fresh water is here – and we can't make an economy work? something's got to be wrong

maybe establish a national park here (Sleeping Bear Dunes?)
if we get that, it means class 1 air status . . . not that we should mention that – go indirect
for jobs, etc – get our talking points and stick to them
and that's the kind of issue that could get Teddy Roosevelt Republicans on board

don't give the media images they can use to demonize or trivialize our issues

comedy is the highest form of political discourse . . .
it was developed as a subversive, coercive tool against the king/emperor (cf Jon Stewart)
Bill O'Reilly looks like a rational person compared to Glenn Beck

questions:

Art M asks who Lee knows in the MI tribal community who might be interested in running as a Green – for any office
he'll work with us on that – though he thinks he's got too much truth on line to be a good candidate himself
he's coming from the "down position" – the 1% of the society . . . think about what would happen in any other society to a 1%

Lloyd C asks if he does most of his work as a lawyer or a lobbyist?
he's not a lawyer – doesn't like to say he's a lobbyist, but he is registered as one with MI
sometimes he's not the best person to walk in a door; sometimes we are

Tom M on the Occupy Wall Street movement . . . better not to say Occupy Traverse City, etc?
Lee would say Occupy the Chamber of Commerce (and Occupy DNR-E)

Larry K(?) is glad people are finally recognizing who the enemy is (he's heard from NYC, which is being basically shut down)

Tom M mentions what's going on with Occupying Traverse City
he's confirmed that it is being reported . . . though NPR isn't our friend, they won't report anything if it's from the Green Party

Carol S said about 60 people on a Friday evening in Prescott Park (in Marquette)
not called a movement – just a gathering
decided to meet again . . . and that was last Sunday
local TV station is going to cover it
some kind of a route from Wells Fargo Bank to post office to courthouse
then meet up with a [peace?] group that's been meeting for about 10 years
looking to find some private space downtown in which to camp out

it's been very chaotic in Grand Rapids, says [Danny] . . .
they weren't going to start immediately because of another activity in town
but the group disagreed, so they started a march then and there
went to _____ Park – it was nice . . . until the police kicked them off (there's a rule that you can't be in a park after dark)
a church let them stay in their parking lot

they did protest at a Joe Biden fundraiser dinner (only about 50 people – but only 12 hours to prepare)
someone 22 blocks up heard their drums, and someone 4 blocks away knew something was happening
it's been going on there for a week now
there's a Facebook page, and maybe some other Webpages (or the general www.OccupyTogether.org site)
the duration is indefinite – trying to figure out the logistics of staying there over the winter

Lloyd C mentions that the peace group in Bay County held a sidewalk [outside the post office there?] for weeks
Lee offers a crazy idea: every bank has a customers-only parking area; open an account – and then occupy that area
make them throw out a customer

Lou N wants to take a step back & talk about the Occupy movement
he finds some interesting parallels between that and what Lee was talking about
Occupy was started by AdBusters
Lou says Fred V has set up a Meet-Up for Detroit
Facebook isn't a great place to organize an Occupy event – but it's a place to start
gathered yesterday 4pm at "Spirit of Detroit" statue (Jefferson & Woodward)
marched up to Grand Circus Park . . . 600-800 people there
as Lou was leaving, the second General Assembly was starting there
consistent with several of the Ten Key Values

Lloyd notes that Wall Street's exploitation is international, & so is this movement
Lou says that could be turned around, since AdBusters was inspired by activities in Tunisia/Egypt/etc
Candace says big banks were proposing a deal with states to pay a flat amount to settle all state lawsuits over the robo-filing etc
AGs from CA & DE (Beau Biden) were the first to decline

Lou N's last point: many Occupy activities/groups have asked no partisan activities be undertaken in their name
but Greens can certainly be involved – and mention what GPMI has to offer

Fred V says one thing that's special about this is that it is national (more so than the WI legislators' issue)
notes some dissatisfactions with the name . . . but solidarity has led to putting quibbles aside
if we're going to be the 99% – well, it's going to start rough, with all kinds of people coming together from all sorts of places

Tom M suggests talking about basing the name of the action on its location and purpose
Derek thinks a good pattern would be Occupy Wall Street - Detroit[/_____] to first say why and then where
Lee notes GM had a very profitable financing sub-entity (which they were going to spin off)

1:00pm - 1:30pm **follow-up on motions from March SMM** [skip] [xx:xx]

1:30pm - 4:30pm **new business of SMM** [2:51]

growing the Green Party in Michigan
==> Recruitment campaign for candidates for 2012 elections
==> Platform work
==> Media work (*Green Light* supplement; Website, social media, etc.)
==> Building locals around campaigns and candidates
2012 Officer elections
other business – next SMMs

Tom M proposes running Congressional candidates in all districts with a Great Lakes shoreline – on a "Save the Lakes" platform
maybe include/factor in Derek Bailey, too?
Rev. Pinkney sounds willing to run again . . .
and Tom M says Cynthia McKinney is willing to move to MI and run too (she's back in GA; her mom in CA has passed away)
in GA, she couldn't run as a Green (as she could here); would have to be an independent
she wants Michael Moore to live up to his word on Olbermann's show

he'd rather emphasize US House races this way than running against Stabenow
of Enbridge pipeline paralleling Mackinac Bridge

Margaret wants to talk about using Occupy Wall Street to recruit Green candidates
and she doesn't like "Save the Lakes" as a slogan for Detroit – there, the first topic is jobs
in rural parts, Tom M says, more Green time is spent on environmental than economic issues
but maybe the central/unifying theme is that we live in a key part of the world for fresh water
& he appeals to JALP for confirmation that US House candidates don't have to live in districts where they run – only in the state

Lou N is very excited by the McKinney news
Tom M wants the party and the chair to write a letter saying we'd like her to come and run
Lou says maybe the letter could also mention that there is a US Senate election, too

Richard notes Stupak often raised questions about water quality, mining, etc
he was in Congress 19 years, but couldn't get anything done about them because he couldn't get backing
Tom M knows Stupak, was done a favor by him, and would ask him for advice

Fred V says McKinney did speak in BH and Detroit . . . as part of a 30-city tour
she opposed what the US was doing in Libya – and defended a few things Khaddafi did in Libya (nationalizing oil, for one)

Elena Herrada is running for Detroit school board (Greens helped her with petitions to get her on the ballot)
and she's running as an appointed member running to stay on – and as opposed to the emergency manager
wrote an article: "The Emergency Manager Yelled at Me" (for challenging him on all the money going to the banks for debt service)
she may also run for City Council next year
also, she's the only elected Latino/Latina in the area/on that level – so the whole community supports her
she's the only person on the ballot – so she's going to win . . . unless there's a huge write-in vote

review of emergency-manager petitions proceeding; there's a very good chance they'll submit plenty
and as soon as the petitions are accepted, the law is suspended until November 2012

Detroit City Charter on the ballot, too (JALP notes CRC research link)

Fred V thinks the recall-Snyder campaign has failed
Lloyd C feels they only had about half the needed 822k signatures . . . "only" about 475k
he says Ds and unions (at least leadership) didn't get on board – at least not in Saginaw County
but we agree that it's a significant defeat
by comparison, referendum on emergency-manager law only needed 5% of 2010 governor votes (160k+) vs 25% for recall
Priscilla D notes judge suspended water cut-offs

Fred V wants to talk about working on recruitment of members and locals
Linda C asks about updating and using the lists
who's got the list? the membership secretary, Sharon Feldman, says Fred V – but membership dues go through Lou as treasurer
need to fix the system, perhaps, says Fred V
Tom M would be willing to go beyond his own community to help form locals elsewhere
[Danny suggests defining areas – so people who are interested in the Green Party can know whom to contact where about it
Charlie adds that's why changed from GP of Kent Co to West Michigan]
Carol S asks if others mentioning they're Green have gotten reactions of "oh, you're just a one-issue candidate"
Fred V notes the supplement addresses that
Susan O says TBWG went and got the ballot for Nov 2011
and they'll have candidates & issue speakers at next week's monthly meeting
Art M says the new proposed platform tries to address this issue, too
8 people at a face-to-face meeting in Ann Arbor discussed what we wanted the platform to be
a document that's actually useful in a political campaign . . . e.g., LWV always asks candidates for top-three issues
we organized around four main issues (not quite the Four Pillars)
a Federal candidate might emphasize wars [for oil] more than a county-level issue

it's 3:27pm . . . maybe time for a short *break*?

but before that, Harley wants to say he hopes we can all agree to it as a general document

Linda C asks if there's a process for amending it . . . Fred V mentions it in talking about all the things we have to do

break [3:29]

out of break [3:42]

thanks to Linda C, Aimee C D, & all for organizing the meeting and the food
desserts from the NMU Greens (none of whom could attend)

Fred V tries to list action items and identify priorities

start with 15 minutes each for the platform and the Webpage, and other issues may fall into line a bit from them

platform

basically, Fred V says there's a proposal to approve it as is – and one known

Tom M reminds we need to make a place for the Native American plank

indigenous people's rights to set air, water, mining, etc. standards on their land

Catherine says Lee mentioned using the words "honor" or "treaty rights" or both in this

Margaret thinks of a platform as something less than a page – Art's explained how there are long and short aspects to the platform

but full rights for immigrants isn't on the bullet-point list, and she thinks it should be

Lloyd C knows the rights are in the longer version, but not in the shorter one

Linda C is working on wording for stronger language on nuclear power

Candace says the previous platform mentioned right to bear firearms and this one doesn't

also thinks we should talk about supporting indigenous people's rights (since some tribes do & others don't)

Art wants us to take out enough words to match whatever we add in – so no small type, packing in, etc

note a layout problem: environment page is currently positioned between two democracy pages

Danny notes that goals which are too specific can become exclusive

he sees democracy as at the core – if there is democracy, people will have the government they want (for better or worse)

Charlie notes that Danny is also working on the GP of W Michigan local platform

Margaret likes Danny's idea . . .

Lou N asks what are the long and short versions . . .

the first 6 points are the long form, says Art; the 2/3 page of bullet points is the short

Fred V asks the body what it wants to do today – decide or not

Lou N asks what the committee would like; Art would like both

have this version approved as it stands, then have the committee come back at the next meeting with an improved version

Linda C is concerned that northern members can't attend face-to-face meetings

look at SCC list instead of Issues list?

Jennifer suggests posting the platform for people to look

Margaret now objects to paragraph #2 under democracy as a lie

Linda C suggests that she could adapt alternative language she's going to propose for the GPUS platform, too

issues people suggest need to be addressed:

immigrant rights

[strike paragraph #2 under democracy & human rights – all or some]

LGBT rights

all rights

right to bear arms

nuclear power

support indigenous people's rights on land ["honor", "treaty rights", or both]

["ques(tion) of power"]

Linda C's language on nuclear power (I think) – taking middle two sentences in paragraph #5 on “The Environment”:

“Greens call for a phase-out of existing nuclear power, oppose offshore oil drilling, fracking, and destructive coal and biomass production.”

Tom M will work on the indigenous-rights issue . . . and Linda C says Aimee C D wants to work on that, too

Art M likes referring to the ideals of the Declaration – while pointing out the US hasn't lived up to them; better that than striking it entirely

Margaret still concerned that we're not paying attention to the contributions of indigenous peoples

Art points out that, at the next SMM, we can put the platform first and not do anything else until it's done

Lloyd agrees we need to be selective and brief in what we include

Candace suggests “right to marry” as saying a lot of the scope of LGBT

on the right to bear arms . . . Art prefers “self-defense” as a phrase

Lou N notes Occupy movement is clarifying that non-violence doesn't preclude right to self-defense

Priscilla wants the wording “water is a human right”; does it have to be clean, available, etc, etc?

Art M mentions the hyper-platform idea . . . links from key words to additional detailed position papers

(BTW, the document should mention the Website)

Tom M urges the “commons” concept – including the idea that water, among other things, is a human right (not a commodity)

Fred V comments on the issue of specificity . . . it's always a back-and-forth, for the party and for individual candidates

Danny talks about how individual candidates who have their own positions interact with the platform

JALP notes that, the way the committee had seen it, the state platform covers more broadly while individual candidates can focus

Fred V, Art M, Danny, JALP discuss further

_____ suggests getting more specific about taxing the top 1% than just “fair tax[ing]”

Harley suggests also referring to the GPUS platform (and maybe saying we support it, too)

Fred V asks the meeting to adopt the platform as is for now –

but send it back to the Issues/Platform Committee for further work on the indicated issues

consensus

Tom M, Margaret, Linda C want to be added to the Issues group

Website:

Lou N notes it's been a topic for 4-5 years or so . . . it's hard to update as it is & where it is now; there are better tools in existence but everybody talks about it, nobody does anything

part of the problem is content: much of it is out of date . . . but information has to come in before it can be updated

Priscilla asks if anyone else besides Lou has the ability to do updating?

Danny suggests the focus on content is wrong; a fundamental shift in structure is needed, so updating doesn't depend on one person

if locals could update their own content, it would be better

Lloyd feels he's failed in his most basic task as LL by not updating the locals list – he'll make doing that a priority

Derek thinks what Danny suggested is great, but it's a state Website so someone for the state party has to do much or all of it

maybe we really do need to pay someone to do this

Harley thinks the problem is the platform to some extent; if it were simpler, more of us could help with updating – but it's content, too . . .

JALP asks if a new platform is impossible

Lou says no, his point was that getting one was assigned to the Media Committee but sputtered and died there

Candace notes that Ken M worked with a group called iPower in MA

Fred V notes we do have a decent Facebook page which has gotten decent traffic

Lou N says the Media Committee process had led to a suggestion to spend some money on a new platform

Lou's counter-proposal was to use a freeware platform instead . . . that's where it died

Lloyd asks if Matt de Heus was on this subcommittee; Lou N isn't sure Matt ever made it onto the Media Committee list
Charlie can talk to Adam, the Kent Co person who made the other suggestion
Lou notes that the unfamiliarity of the current PHP platform is part of why we're stuck where we are
he thought Adam's most recent message was that he was willing to work with the CMS system

Priscilla asks if we can arrange for training on the new platform once we have it
maybe videos online, or even just laptops at an SMM

Danny says that, ideally, the platform should be self-explanatory – though help & other documentation would be helpful
he & Priscilla discuss what is and isn't self-evident to

the e-mail contact is webmaster@migreens.org – but Lloyd says he tried to contact that address and didn't hear back

Fred V tries to consolidate a proposal

Lou N notes we purchased a second domain name, and could build the new site on that

Fred V will work with Charlie to try to get into contact with Adam

Danny & Charlie say they haven't heard from Adam lately – hope this can revive his interest

Priscilla asks if we have a plan B on this – if we could send out an RFP and find someone else

give Charlie & Danny a week to find Adam; if not, they & Fred, Lou, & Priscilla will look for someone else
[silent] ***consensus***

other issues:

* letter to Cynthia . . . Tom M can draft, work with Fred V (she'll decide what she wants to do, of course)

* Tom's Great Lakes candidates/Save the Lakes slate idea . . . he can draft up something on that, too

* GPMI phone . . . Fred V has an extra phone line on his cell phone (313-815-2025); we're paying per call – and \$70 is too much

Lou N suggests we get a good new number (to avoid having to de-confuse calls to a taxi company with a close number)

could be a person's phone – but we need to make sure any cost is properly reported as an in-kind donation to GPMI

the direct cost is \$10/month, but we might have to report a fairer share of the

Lou N proposes changing to this number

JALP points out we'll need to change phone # on literature, Website, etc (we say we'll keep the old number for a transition period)

consensus

* membership issues . . . no hard-copy mailing notice of this meeting

the new Membership Secretary (Sharron Feldman) hasn't had much guidance

Lou N notes that the system was set up when the core of the party was nearer the office in Ann Arbor

Fred V points out we're not entirely resolved to move the office to Detroit at this meeting

* Priscilla's request on the water coalition . . . all she wanted was for us individually to sign her pledge cards

but, well, On the Commons is holding a tour next spring and wants events – they also have resources for speakers

* 2012 convention:

JALP discusses the schedule issues of our conventions

Fred V, Lou N say GPUS convention in Baltimore (likely in early July)

Tom M suggests the Chippewa Tribe reservation in Mount Pleasant as a site (casino is separate from hotel)

Margaret suggests Detroit as the only place with lots of African Americans to recruit as candidates

Charlie would suggest earlier as better, from his one experience in running

would like to recruit lots of Detroit candidates to nominate at a caucus

Harley knows we keep discussing this every two years – he thinks it's time to try an earlier convention again

gives candidates more time, but means we need to leave here and start recruiting

Art prefers the end of May to just before the deadline, since we'll know if any Ds or Rs are running unopposed, etc.

a week or two after the filing deadline

Fred V says this has always been the concern – we're all active, but we always need to find people we can get our acts together, but not everyone else can . . . and they're not thinking of it until it's upon them
Lloyd thinks the winds are a-changing; maybe we can get recall signers, Occupier activists, etc but he'd also like to see how this fits in with the every-three-months schedule and there was a plan to have a meeting in Bay County
Tom M talked to Matt, confirms that he's planning to take the next one
Lou N says one way we've addressed the earlier/later dilemma with later local caucuses but he also thought we'd changed our rules to meet three times a year rather than four
JALP points out caucusing bodies have to claim the right to caucus and nominate and he does it now for GPMI statewide for all counties – until/unless counties or Congressional districts claim for themselves
Tom M suggests spacing out three meetings before the election
of course, candidates are busy between nomination and election

Fred V, consolidating, says we seem to agree on a generally earlier convention (latter half of May or first half of June) with later caucuses

consensus

* *GreenLight* . . . it'll have that supplement; front page will be Occupy Michigan update; back page, original Occupy Wall Street articles from Jennifer & Art too
Fred's hoping it can be out in a few weeks (5,000-10,000 or so) . . . and he wants to send bundles to people (not individual copies)
note: GPUS hired a good new young fundraiser . . . who says: "Don't ask people for money if they haven't given us money before"

4:30pm - 5:00pm (or 6) **other business and planning next SMM** [5:30]

* winter SMM . . . Fred won't be in the country January thru April
and this is the meeting when state officers are elected
Lloyd asks if we can have remote access via Skype – we've done it, but it needs someone to set it up
we agree the next meeting will be in Bay County

meeting cost \$100 for the hall and \$100 contributed to the speaker (+ \$75 from North Country Greens, who also donated the food)

there's dinner tonight . . . and does anyone want to plan and take an action now? (especially given the weather)

Lou N suggests wording; with additions:

The Green Party of Michigan fully supports the Occupy Wall Street movement and its many manifestations across Michigan, the country, and the world in seeking economic and social justice.

consensus

Tom M wants a minute of our time & attention

very glad we met in the UP for the first time . . . distance and Bridge problems prevented some people (John Porter, Rev Pinkney)
the state's lording over him the \$3,000 he owes on his old tether
\$200 suggested

consensus

discussion of breakfast plans . . . Big Boy decided upon as better

Harley announces he's considering running for President – to have a Midwest candidate
and to make the eventual GPUS candidate better, whoever it is

7:00pm - ??? **dinner** at St. Ignace's Mackinac Grille . . . <http://www.MackinacGrille.com>

Sunday, October 16

9:00am - 11:00am **wrap-up breakfast**

==> Big Boy [over Kewadin Casino's Horseshoe Bay Restaurant . . . http://www.kewadin.com/dining/st_ignace . . . see above]