

GPMI State Membership Meeting
February 22, 2014 * Hannah Community Center; 819 Abbott Road, East Lansing

9:00 - 10:00 am Registration and Welcome (coffee and tea only at this time)

[9:45]

introductions around as people get in & get settled . . .

JALP

Jennifer La Pietra

Paul Homeniuk

Doug Campbell

Sean Nash

Ellis Boal

Luanne Kozma

Art Myatt

Rich Helder (EL; teaches in Lansing; interested in peace)

Lloyd Clarke

George Corsetti

Harley Mikkelson

Fred Vitale

Lou Novak

Chris Silva

Chris Wahmhoff

Ian Swanson (local activist, eco-socialist alliance[?])

Kevin Graves

Bill Opalicky

10:00 - 10:15 am Opening Remarks, Notetaking, and Credentials Report

[10:08]

Fred announces that we're waiting for equipment to print the platform - 10 to 15 minutes, we hope maybe this is a chance to read up on the white papers

JALP goes over ballot petitions

and the update on campaign-finance laws

Luanne would happily help or answer Qs

suggests candidates identify themselves

Sean Nash wants to be nominated for US Senate

Farmington Hills (Oakland Co local)

Kevin Graves wants to be nominated for governor

his platform is job creation x3, education & equal rights

Dearborn Heights (Wayne Co local)

Lloyd asks who's associated with which locals

Chris S, Rich, & Paul could work on a Lansing area local

Luanne & Ellis work with Traverse Bay Watershed Greens

Art's in Oakland Co too; meeting only for caucuses

Bill wants to revive the Oakland Co local or have another one - he's in Southfield

George is in Detroit; he's treasurer of Wayne Co caucus

Lou & Fred are in Wayne

Ian is in Grand Rapids - Chris says Richa is looking for someone to help

Charlie Shick is slacked off

Chris W talks about his MICATS/etc background

Fred V moves for credentialing
everyone approved

Fred V also says Marian K & Maureen T can't make it (Marian has health issues & Maureen was coming with her)
may leave more room for candidates to talk

other changes to agenda?

JALP suggests moving white papers toward the end - we won't conclude here anyway, for one thing some discussion of what SCC and SMM mean

10:15 - 11:00 am Officers' Reports

[10:xx]

limited to 3 minutes and asking for items that require SMM action -
in particular, Art's report, treasurer's report and national comm reports -
elections, convention, etc. are later in the agenda

Vice-Chair/SCC & Vice-Chair/Committee Manager (Art)

the only decision left from SCC to the SMM is whether or not to support the Unplug Nuclear campaign
asking people to be aware of the power coming from N-plants and try to limit use
he's just asking for straight up-or-down vote on that
we're too late to affect the content of the campaign

Luanne asks who's behind the project

Beyond Nuclear is one endorsing group; another is GP of Ohio

Lloyd asks for report on calls in to GPMI phone

he'll keep keeping that - he's only had to answer it twice this month

(JALP confirms he's mainly taking notes; Luanne and Lou can help, especially when he's speaking)

CONSENSUS

Chair (Derek G) came down with cancer this past year - a type of lymphoma; can't be here

Fred V says duties are largely ceremonial

ditto for Secretary/Recordkeeper (Celeste Bondie, also not here)

Meeting Manager (Fred) has made some inquiries about the convention - tentative reservation for International Institute May 17 (Sat)

we'll talk about it more later - the new Meeting manager will probably arrange for other meetings later

Membership Secretary - Fred took that so we'd have one, but didn't do much with it; he's recruited Paul H to be the new one

he wrote a white paper on Membership

Treasurer (Lou) goes over the half-page report in the packet

JALP asks if the posters are erasable; we try it - seems it does

Lloyd wants to know if there are any new members . . . Lou points out Rich, who joined using the online form

how much of our money is from membership dues? hard to say . . .

and hard to know how many new members come in to replace the "fallen", says Lloyd

there have been problems with PayPal process, etc

Fred notes not getting info from GPUS either . . . but we do have the mega-list of members &

contacts

Luanne asks if we have any idea of gender breakdown? not really, we'd have to count - but we do track by county

Clearinghouse Co-ordinator (Art speaks for Richard K)

he's been diagnosed with cancer, too - should have a better sense in a month or two as to how it's going
he's willing to continue in the office
meanwhile, Art's been collecting the mail since he lives close to the Warren PO where our box is

Locals Liaison (Lloyd C)

anyone who's been to our MIGreens Website knows how pitiful it is - he couldn't even find our current phone number on it

he's happy to hear that Paul's going to try to steer the boat on membership
not meaning to criticize anyone, but past Membership Secretaries haven't done a lot
whatever he can do as Locals Liaison he'll do, but there's not a lot of activity around the state

he did meet with Tom Mair in Traverse City - Tom's willing to help liaise with northern Michigan (Mt Pleasant & above)

Luanne asks: the idea of the locals is to be active locally? have we done much with college campuses?
the National Lawyers' Guild has chapters on campuses; maybe we can tag-team with them

in Lloyd's view, the most important thing for us to do is make ourselves more accessible

we're on Facebook, and that's good, but don't we need the Website too?

he hopes our presence on the Net will be nailed down - and accurate, too

Lou talks about the old & new Websites and who's got access to them (and to Facebook)

Paul has a new Website up and almost ready to go - can show people during lunch, etc

George C asks about the GPUS National Committee's discussion list

he was one of the people authorized to approve people to participate in that . . . used to be only a few; now, about 10-15/day

others think this is GPUS on Facebook

Bill O says one list he subscribes to on Facebook is against Obama [Liberals or Progressives Against Obama]

most people on that list are Greens, he thinks - which makes him feel we need to change our tactics
and attack (non-violently, of course) the Democrat party as the more effective evil (cf Glenn Ford of Black Agenda Report)

Elections Co-ordinator (JALP)

[not sure what I can report on that wouldn't be excluded by one or another of the proposed exceptions - but. . .]

new CF rules? [fairly big envelope from SOS/BOE; Art found a link to a decent summary, too]
otherwise, a rush through the ballot questions

already on ballot for primary (8/5):

* referendum on [approving or disapproving] Public Act 408 of 2012, which would dedicate a portion of use tax revenue to benefit metropolitan areas throughout the state

already on ballot for general (11/4):

* referendum on [approving or disapproving] Public Act 520 of 2012, which would have authorized the establishment of the first open hunting season for wolves (Keep Michigan Wolves Protected #1)

initiatives submitted to legislature:

* initiative to require the purchase of health care plan coverage for elective abortion to be exclusively by optional rider for which additional premium has been paid by the purchaser (No Taxes for Abortion Coverage)

petitions filed with SOS (i.e., not yet validated & sent to legislature/etc.): [none]

petitions "approved as to form" (= ready to circulate or circulating)

* petition to amend the Michigan Constitution to extend the power of the referendum to bills containing appropriations (Voters for Fair Use of Ballot Referendum)

* initiative to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, to prohibit

the use of horizontal hydraulic fracturing in this state (Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan)

- * referendum on [approving or disapproving] Public Act 21 of 2013, which would authorize the Natural Resources Commission to add certain animals to the list of game species (Keep Michigan Wolves Protected #2)
- * initiative to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, to authorize the legislature and Natural Resources Commission to take certain actions with respect to the designation of wolves and other wildlife species as game, and to provide for the control of aquatic invasive species, including Asian Carp (Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management)
- * petition to amend the Michigan Constitution to limit the total annual compensation of members of the state legislature, cap the maximum number of days in which the legislature may convene in regular session, and require public disclosure of certain legislative actions (Committee to Restore Michigan's Part-time Legislature, Inc.)
- * petition to amend the Michigan Constitution to extend the rights of initiative and referendum to local ordinances and state and local laws making appropriations; authorize signature gathering activities in such public places as rest areas, shopping malls, and college campuses; and eliminate laws governing certain aspects of the petition circulation process (Put the Citizens in Charge)
- * initiative to amend the Minimum Wage Law of 1964 to increase the minimum wage (Raise Michigan)

JALP wants to talk more/later about:

offices up for election

candidates (for what, some don't yet know - please tell him)

candidate rules/responsibilities & rights/benefits

whether in by-laws or Rulebook

one thing he wants is for all past candidates/managers/etc to help him build a packet of what we've done & what has/hasn't worked

we have so much overhead to maintain the party, we should avoid re-invention when we can

GPUS National Committee (NC) Reps &/or Alternates

all state parties and some recognized caucuses

[Ray Ziarno comes in - probably can't be here for lunch, but hopes to be back this afternoon]

Doug C has 2 items to report

National Platform Committee "year in review" for 2013 (& past 2 months, too): in a nutshell, nothing happened

current rules say they can't actually change the platform

the current platform is titled 2012; the content (49,000 words & 72 pages) is up to 27 years out of date

the Hawai'i party proposed a plank on foreign policy (which currently mentions only Israel, Palestine, & Puerto Rico)

may have an update in September, or maybe not until after November

most energy spent on by-laws/rules/procedures

only reason he's on that committee is that he proposed a change in that committee's structure

George C asks what kind of balance we need in the Middle East?

Doug says by "better balance", we mean a platform that includes the other countries

but we don't have to scrap the old language to get there, says/asks George?

Doug thinks the shock of scrapping the document and the procedure may be needed to get us moving

Luanne asks whether/how much the national candidates feed into the platform process? probably

not much, says Doug

and did the Stein campaign's platform become GPUS's platform - in the public's eye?
well, maybe - depends on which one we publicize and how much

Doug C also reports on the National Committee - some parties have lost representation because they lost ballot access

officially there are 148 delegates (and maybe as many as that of alternates)

NC does business by "formal proposals" - 43 of 44 in 2013 were purely internal

one of the two relevant ones was the CY2014 budget (\$160,000 total)

in a nutshell, we don't fundraise enough or effectively enough

haven't been able to replace Brent McMillan

ballot-access allocations not used last year

the other relevant one is the GPUS National Meeting July 24 at Macalester College

Doug's own initiative: advance telecommuting into the 21st century

by switching from e-mail list to bulletin-board format to organize topics

as far as getting delegates recognized - he doesn't know what the procedure is . . .

Budd Dickinson in WA is the secretary; Holly Hart in IA has some credentialing info, too

Lou N doesn't have anything to add to that

Luanne asks how last year's physical meeting was . . . Lou notes it was in Iowa, but the details are lost in memory

usually a four-day meeting Thursday to Sunday (workshops Th & F)

there was one proposal, he thinks - along the lines Doug was talking about for changing the platform timeline

right now, under the old timeline, the Platform Committee is accepting proposals from state parties for this July

Facebook and phone-based social media are the future, he thinks

he thinks face-to-face meetings cut down on online rancor

Green Party members are active, expending energy - on campaigns

Doug notes that GPUS also has FEC recognition as a national party

so we have Senatorial and House committees

note too that the Website is gp.org (not the Chicago group at GreenParty.org - was a splinter group, now essentially a spoof)

GPUS Committee Members

11:00am - noon Nomination and Election of Officers

[11:33]

Fred asks us to remember that essentially everything associated with the Green Party is on a volunteer basis

many other people are too busy keeping their lives together to volunteer

Fred also points out the other activities we're all involved in

for example . . . Detroiters Resisting Emergency Management is having its position presented at a press conference on Monday

GPMI helped found D-REM

all the problems we have complained about are legitimate . . .

but we're still the only really progressive/for-the-people party on the ballot in MI

mentions Gail __[?], mayor of Richland, CA who proposed using eminent domain to give homes facing foreclosure back to owners

most seats stay with one big party or another . . . other states tend to have smaller partisan offices than MI

but we've stayed together

current GPMI officers:

Derek Grigsby - GPMI Chair & GPUS NC Rep <dereknjck@yahoo.com>
Art Myatt - GPMI Vice-Chair/SCC & Committee Manager <almyatt@yahoo.com>
Celeste Bondie - GPMI Secretary/Recordkeeper <thebestbondie@yahoo.com>
Lou Novak - GPMI Treasurer & GPUS NC Rep <lmn@lppals.com>
Lloyd Clarke - GPMI Locals Liasion <clarke.lloyd@yahoo.com>
Richard Kuszmar - GPMI Clearinghouse Coordinator <linneamari@aol.com>
John La Pietra - GPMI Elections Coordinator <jalp5dai@att.net>
Fred Vitale - GPMI Membership Secretary & Meeting Manager <freddetroit@sbcglobal.net>

Doug Campbell - GPUS NC Rep <naderladuke2000detroit@yahoo.com>
Linda Cree - GPUS NC Rep <creelinda@hotmail.com>
Priscilla Dziubek - GPUS NC Rep <peekd@lppals.com>
Jennifer La Pietra - GPUS NC Rep <jennysweetheat@yahoo.com>
Candace Caveny-Collins - GPUS NC Alternate <candaceinthethumb@yahoo.com>
Margaret Guttshall - GPUS NC Alternate <mguttshall@sbcglobal.net>

Aimee Dunn - At-Large Rep <starrivers@hotmail.com>
Ken Mathenia - Flint Rep <geneseegreens@yahoo.com>
Harley Mikkelson - Flint Rep <votegreen_mi@yahoo.com>
Steven Duke - Hillsdale/Jackson Rep <mightytightywhity@gmail.com>
Richard Wunsch - Hillsdale/Jackson Rep <rewunsch@comcast.net>
Carol Sotiropoulos - North Country Rep <csotirop@nmu.edu>
Joseph Connolly - Traverse Bay Rep <earthospital@gmail.com>
Tom Mair - Traverse Bay Rep <traversegreen@yahoo.com>
Danny Jarman - Western Michigan Rep <djr013@gmail.com>
Charlie Shick - Western Michigan Rep <charlie@pickshick.org>

candidates for 2014 officers:

Chair: Fred nominates himself . . . nobody else

Vice-Chair/SCC: Art doesn't want this position anymore
he's been doing that since 2008 - it's time for someone else
(especially someone who can move it from Riseup to a place that works)

Vice-Chair/Committee Manager: Art does want to keep this VC spot

Clearinghouse Co-ordinator: Richard K, with Art to assist

Locals Liaison: Lloyd Clarke, with Tom Mair to help as assistant Mount Pleasant and north
or consider them co-liaisons

Membership Secretary: Fred suggests Paul Homeniuk ("hahm-uh-nik") of East Lansing

Meeting Manager: Fred's been it because nobody else has - would rather not be, but would stay on if
nobody else jumps in

Secretary/Recordkeeper: Margaret Guttshall is willing to do this again (as she has done before when Fred
was chair)

Treasurer: Lou N willing to continue - though also willing to be replaced (or have apprentices to train)
our past treasurers have

Elections Co-ordinator: JALP wasn't the first one, but has been since 2003
willing to stay, but also willing to serve in some other capacity
Luanne asks for a bit of description of the office
Lloyd nominates him (and has already written his name down)

Chris Silva willing to help JALP
Chris Wahmhoff a bit leery of taking on a position immediately, but would be willing to apprentice to a traveling office
such as Meeting Manager
Sean Nash would apprentice to treasurer
Ian Swanson willing to apprentice to Fred as chair

Lou's willing to step in as SCC vice-chair until someone else does
Harley would like to see Doug serve in that spot - but he feels swamped with National Committee activities
Harley wanted him because he brings things to SCC from the National Committee anyway

Luanne asks about duties of Meeting Manager; Paul reads them from by-laws
unsure whether she should take on a partisan role along with her non-partisan petition-drive organizing

JALP says he'd be willing to help a new person as Elections Co-ordinator even if he were in another office
presumes others would be the same

Fred will accept Meeting Manager provisionally, with the prospect of new people coming on
JALP points out that by-laws call for us to re-visit duplicate officeholders at each SMM

no opposition so far, so we have . . .

CONSENSUS

Fred proposes taking a five-minute break; he'll work with Paul on lunch organizing - since it's hard to get in and out of parking
JALP reminds that we still need to elect/re-elect NC and other GPUS committee members

[break - 12:07pm . . . lunch organizing, free discussion . . . platforms finally printed and distributed]
* * *

Candace Caveny-Collins in at 1:10pm
Fred calls us back to business as of 1:12pm, hoping Lou & Paul come back with the food soon - and they do
once it gets distributed, we'll ask candidates to speak for a few minutes
maybe aim for 1:45pm or so to get to platform - or NC reps and GPUS committee reps

Kevin Graves (Governor)
job creation (x3); education; equal rights
adding animal rights to discussion (as Luanne asked about)
Paul Homeniuk as his running mate (Lt Governor) - education background a good complement to Kevin's as a research scientist
Paul Homeniuk had been thinking about running for Governor, but met Kevin today and they decided to work together
one other thing that's big on his plate is to take redistricting out of partisan hands
we both want to put people back in government (take it away from money & lobbyists)
people are so fed up with the Big Two parties; at least a third-party governor could be a check on the Legislature
Kevin comes back, notes his concern on fracking as well as tar sands
looking for NOW support too (Candace notes)
Art M has an issue with starting off with jobs x3 is that it doesn't distinguish between jobs of any kind and sustainable jobs

also mention jobs at a living wage - he supports raising the minimum wage (Ds & Rs have created the working poor)

he also wants to be sure part-timers get health care and other benefits

Kevin thinks working-class poor should have gas at the cost to the State of MI (which has its own refinery)

to avoid their having to choose between gas & food

he hopes his green hat will represent to people that he's working for green jobs

Lloyd wants to ask about abortion & 2nd Amendment

abortion is the woman's choice

as for the 2nd Amendment, we're a non-violent group . . .

if we're going to have guns, we need to be sure people know how to use them - and when to use them

Kevin accepts hunting for food, but strongly against trophy-hunting

guns are like other tools - it's all in how they're used

Paul notes the phrase "well-regulated militia" . . . that allows for some control and education

not a hunter himself, but believes people should be able to own guns - but with control/education

Candace pointed out that her D opponent said he was for choice - but added that women chose to be reckless

so now she asks for support of Roe v Wade

Sean Nash (US Senate)

it's time for us to take arms against our current sea of troubles and, by opposing, end them

Terri Lynn Land's big claim to success was putting SOS on line

Gary Peters voted for some good things, but also for Monsanto Protection Act

platform:

#1 - sustainability (cf education, science)

#2 - education & science (related to sustainability; cf also raise in teachers' pay)

#3 - for economics, re-regulation (of Wall St), raised minimum wage (at least to Obama's \$10.10)

supports the Four Pillars - we're all connected, must build a future for all of us

Chris Wahmhoff (US Senate)

child of single mother who had to work 2 jobs; he had to go through 4 years of special ed; lives in community suffering big oil spill

agrees with non-violence . . . but it comes in boycotts & strikes, too

first, we have to get to helping people figure out/believe that they can do something, that there is hope

if we're going to be a party, to grow, to affect that change, we need to talk to people and engage them

he loves Facebook/Twitter/etc, but you can't tweet someone into being engaged

we need to show college students (and others) that the Green Party is different

if we give them an opportunity, they can show us some answers

others? Fred says later (if at all) - back now to the election business

GPUS National Committee (NC)

representatives: currently Doug Campbell, Derek Grigsby, Lou Novak; Linda Cree, Priscilla Dziubek, Jennifer La Pietra

alternates: currently Candace Caveny-Collins, Margaret Guttschall

Doug, Lou, Jennifer willing to stay on; Candace willing to move up from alternate to rep

Lou says Priscilla is willing to continue to serve, but would be willing to step down

Fred says Linda Cree is willing to stay on

we think Derek Grigsby is willing to stay on, too - maybe we'll call him

(we could break from our standard 50/50 split and have a fourth woman, for example)

Fred is pretty sure that Margaret is still willing to be an alternate

Chris Wahmhoff wants to know what's involved; tasks/process reviewed (mostly by Lou)

he jumps in, & so does Luanne Kozma - and Harley Mikkelson

CONSENSUS

Eric Borregard in at 1:59pm

other GPUS committees

Standing Committees

Accreditation (AC)

Annual National Meeting Committee (ANMC)

Ballot Access (BA)

Bylaws, Rules, Policies, & Procedures (BRPP)

Coordinated Campaign Committee (CCC)

Credentials Committee (CredCom)

Dispute Resolution (DRC)

Diversity (DC)

Eco Action (EC) - currently Lou N . . . & Linda C, we think - but no; Doug C says he's the only one listed currently

Luanne K will join; so will Ian S

Finance (FinCom)

Fundraising (FC)

Green Pages Newspaper

International Committee (IC) - currently Derek G & Aimee Smith

Media (MC) - currently Fred V & Lou N

Merchandising (MERCH)

Outreach (OC)

Peace Action (GPAX)

Platform (PlatCom) - currently Doug C, Linda C, Lou N

Presidential Campaign Support Committee (PCSC) - currently Harley M & Fred V too?

Steering (SC)

Temporary Committees

Delegate Apportionment (DAC)

Congressional Campaign Committees

Green House Campaign Committee (GHCC)

Green Senatorial Campaign Committee (GSCC)

Fred suggests a blanket approval of every committee

any new people should give Doug C their contact info to forward to GPUS

JALP has a list of committees in case anyone else wants to join something

one more update . . . since Ian wants to apprentice to the chair, maybe we can call him "assistant chair"

noon - 12:45 pm Platform Committee Report and Discussion and Conclusions

[12:xx]

[draft 6 (and draft 6a1 & 6a2)]

[notes on platform Qs]

JALP (on behalf of the Platform Committee) is asking the SMM for advice, guidance, and (if the SMM wants to make any) decisions

marijuana

legalization or decriminalization?

JALP reads what LindaC wanted to propose - decriminalize possession and use
Lou points out that [we don't necessarily want to do exactly what other states did - Vermont or Colorado (or Washington State)]

Candace points out conviction for marijuana use can block student-loan application (she's had an e-mail on this)

Art discusses the difference between legalization and decriminalization, as the Platform Committee understood it:

legalizing means could be regulated and taxed; decriminalizing means could not be taxed or regulated - just not illegal

that's why Art was for legalized, believes should be regulated and taxed like alcohol and tobacco

Doug understands that decriminalization changes use from felony to misdemeanor, but it would remain a criminal act

not just commercial growing, but any kind of growing should be legalized

JALP summarized:

Linda C's objection is aimed primarily not having GP go on record as promoting drug use

Aimee D was concerned we not be encouraging otherwise to opiate themselves

Fred wants us to be sensitive to these positions from the perspective of the Native American community

Bill points out 58% of American people want to legalize

he speaks in favor of legalization and benefits, and not comparing it to alcohol - marijuana is good

Chris Wahmhoff: from economic standpoint, we are 49th in new jobs. Leading new job in Michigan is fast food

to try to get off GMO corn, keeping potential of hemp and new jobs and new business is tremendous

LuAnne comments from the perspective of the Ban Fracking campaign

Eric says we should expect people to use marijuana responsibly, as the law now expects people to drink alcohol responsibly

guidance decisions:

agreement on legalization - ***CONSENSUS***

agreement on taking out reference to either state (Colorado and Vermont) - ***CONSENSUS***

word "responsible" is still up for grabs at first

non-commercial growing and use - the word "commercial" doesn't have to stay in - ***CONSENSUS***

on taking it out

motion by Eric for word "responsible" to be in there

2/3 vote to leave it out

abortion

stay as is or add Roe v Wade (choice is a tricky word now)? stet

all okay with abortion statement . . . no mention of religion should be in here

don't allow others' religious choices to affect women's individual choices and what options are available

CONSENSUS

drones

drones discussion in Resource Wars - various points made:

not just used as weapon, also used as spying tool.

there is something different about drones - not solely used for military; also used as extrajudicial

murders

we should vehemently oppose all use of drones

language should remain strong.

drones are also used for photography; that's beneficial -

it's the use as a weapon we should oppose; banning them outright is shortsighted

drones are not to be compared to nuclear weapons

platform should be about use, not the technology of drones

should refer to drone strikes, not drone use

no-fly zones in Washington, being challenged

there is a movement to have striking-capable drones over the US

WE do not need to stay in the framework of war endorsed by the US

our position should be based on/aimed at particular uses

military, spying, what?
no particular conclusion

naming community groups

Art: in favor of mentioning specifically BANCO and Detroiters Resisting Emergency Management.
Makes it clear what type of community group we support.

Bill: called up DREM, lot of democrats in there - so he's opposed to it.

Any member of Green Party who supports democrats is a total hypocrite. Opposes naming DREM because of that.

Ellis: what is time length of this document?

what if other groups become prominent, or who may choose position tomorrow to something we don't approve of

this is the 2014 platform; it should be in place for candidates to use - we'd do the same in 2016, etc.

JALP has a draft which manages to fit both Art's language (with names named) and Linda's change on Social Security onto page 6

LuAnne: leave names out

Fred: we are in a bloc with other [big-D and small-D] democrats on Detroiters Resisting Emergency Management

it's an awful law, etc.

Art: calls again for naming some specific groups

vote: 7-6 in favor . . . majority, but not a 2/3 majority, so **not** a final decision - some guidance, though

JALP suggests the intended process from here . . . along the lines discussed in the "Platform" white paper

SMM directs committee to work on "draft 7" (complete)

committee sends draft 7 on to SCC in time for discussion and [we hope] approval by end of March - draft 8[?]

all members notified of SCC-approved draft 8[?] as part of convention notice & info

allow for some potential changes at SMM/business portion of convention

but have a firm platform in place for candidates to commit to

12:45 - 1:30 pm Lunch

[12:xx]

perhaps to hear 3 minutes from candidates present -
Marian Kramer, from Highland Park Human Rights Coalition
(initiators of the statewide anti-Emergency Manager network) and
Maureen Taylor, chairperson of Michigan Welfare Rights Organization,
will give their take on the current political situation in Michigan

<not here>

1:30 - 2:45 pm White Papers and the Future of the Green Party of Michigan

[3:20]

includes Elections 2014 perspective -
5 minutes intro of each written White Paper and then discussion

[all 4 strategic-plan white papers drafted so far, with comments]

[what was said about strategic-plan white papers at November SMM in Traverse City]

Membership (Paul H)

he intends to market & recruit new members

he also strongly believes in asking dispensation afterward rather than waiting for permission

gathering photos, "why I'm a Green" statements to post on the new Web site

Art points out that the platform-page-7 membership form is the one which properly reflects when we need occupation/employer info

Eric B says we can sign up to be eligible to post on the Green Party US/Michigan Facebook page by liking that page

it's the only one

Paul H says social media's good for getting info out to people, but not so good for making connections/relationships with them

note the many different pages which look like they're us/ours

Platform (JALP) <skipped>

Candidates (JALP) <skipped>

Media & Outreach (Fred V & Candace C) <skipped>

2:45 - 3:00 pm Break

[2:xx]

[see above]

3:00 - 3:30 pm Discussion Continues

[3:xx]

focusing on action items/conclusions from White Papers

3:30 - 4:15 pm Reports on Current Campaigns

[3:xx]

includes votes required

Luanne speaks for LetsBanFracking.org

30,000 signatures in 2012 (Const amdt) . . . 70,000 in 2013 (initiative)

initiative language allowed changing horrible promote-oil-and-gas language in existing law

natural-gas backers raised almost \$500k against this - but didn't dissuade anyone, she thinks

GPML is the third-largest donor to this campaign

this isn't partisan - both Snyder and Schauer have refused to sign (Schauer has claimed not to have a position)

Greens in other states are also in the forefront of their anti-fracking movements

they're going to defer to 2016 . . . even though they have until late May to continue the 2014 drive

right now, they're in fundraising mode - and hoping to be able to hire folks to help get signatures

this time, 600 volunteers (half or so didn't circulate much); the ten circulators they hired were people of color

need \$350,000 to get on the ballot . . . maybe a million to get through the campaign (raised \$38k & still have \$14k left)

she herself will be volunteering again/still

Art asks what criteria/cost for showing "Gasland" (or II) in your community?

it's free . . . but you have to get permission from director Josh Fox's organization for a "free public/community showing"

groups not supporting the ban are showing the movie but with no mention of the ban movement

some folks won't even show up if the pro-banners do

Michael Moore wouldn't show it in Traverse City(!)

if you want to show it, work through Luanne & Ellis

Chris W speaks for MICATS (Michigan Coalition Against Tar Sands)

tar sands is closely linked to fracking - dilbit also has lots of chemicals in it

Corexit chemicals

cf also petcoke (refineries in Detroit and Chicago)

talks about his court cases - and 3 not so lucky in Ingham Co

and then there's the dredge which the Kalamazoo River is facing

Fred & George on the anti-emergency manager campaign

let's start back in December - one of the city's debts is for a pension debt swap which went south when interest rates dropped

UBS and Bank of America called in the chits

Kevyn Orr was with Jones Day, then after becoming EM he hired them to handle this

Congress had said all such financial derivatives would be considered "safe harbor" secured creditors

K Orr decided to resolve them on \$0.80 on the dollar even before going into bankruptcy . . . Judge

Rhodes said no

so how about \$0.60 on the dollar; judge said no again

lots of people testified - including rogue former banker Wallace Turbeville (sp?); he says it's mostly a cash-flow issue

cf also corporate tax abatements

e.g., Ilitch famly wants to build a new hockey rink - bought abandoned land for \$1; also getting educational funding(!)

and remember the context of reduced employment, salaries, pensions

clearing people from buildings in the Cass/[Midtown] Corridor; Belle Isle Park

other cities (Flint, Highland Park, Hamtramck, Ecorse, Benton Harbor, etc) & school districts also under emergency managers

and cf the EAA which was given the best schools in Detroit

and the emergency manager can leave quasi-binding instructions behind as he leaves

(if you don't do this, I'll come back)

the good news is that there's been a bit of a pushback from the judge

nothing's happened for the citizens since K Orr

coalition's getting stronger - and will release its alternative plan for a sustainable Detroit on Monday next meeting of the statewide anti-Emergency Manager network March 22 in Flint

Ellis asks what the role of the union has been

Fred says they put all their eggs in the litigation basket - not as active on the streets yet

Ellis asks what Fred thinks about how that strategy looks to him?

but they didn't even issue a press release when trash collection was privatized

and he thinks AFSCME's national office is calling the shots so far

the judge let the suit against the emergency-manager law's constitutionality go forward - but not as applied to Detroit

that's the deal they made

Green Shadow Cabinet (Global Climate Convergence 10 Days to Change Course)

Fred urges people to go to that Website - cf reply to Obama's State of the Union speech

Chris Silva on Keep Michigan Wolves Protected

helped speak to us in Traverse City . . . turn-in is scheduled for March 13; mail in by March 5 . . . any help we can give

this time it's to repeal Public Act 21 of 2013

since last November, MUCC and other opposing "conservation" groups have started their own petition

Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management

Chris doesn't think they'll make it to the 300k+ on the ballot

both of our petitions will be "no" votes to reject wolf-hunting

Bill asks how many wolves there are out there - 468 the last time DNR counted; 23 trapped in this hunt not counting "3-S" (shoot, shovel, and shut up) cases

he thinks nearly 600 now, but DNR only counts every 2 years

Lou asks diffs between the three wolf petitions

Ellis asks why not an initiative this time, and what are they doing about hiring circulators?

Chris is near the bottom of the totem pole, doesn't know for sure, but higher-ups may have thought fewer signatures

50/50 is the goal, but he expects more from paid circulators

Candace thinks you can get compensation from the state if you prove to DNR you've had livestock losses caused by wolves

you can get a permit for yourself or a few others - or state will send a team to shoot it

also if there's an immediate/imminent attack (e.g., on your dog)

Ellis asks how Chris accounts for the popularity of the wolf-protecting campaign?

he thinks the biggest thing is that it's being pushed by HSUS - big logistical support and a bunch of money, too

also, wolves are like dogs so an emotional attachment is possible

campaigners have scientific reasons, but can't use them in campaign talking

Fred hands out sudden statement from Margaret about Cass Tech student Jayru Campbell

hassle with security guard over his hood - now he faces felony charges

maybe we can approve a one-sentence resolution calling for charges to be dropped

[JALP recaps proposal status; does anyone want to take positions on those here?]

4:15 - 4:45 pm 2014 Candidates and Convention

[4:xx]

who is running - who [GPMI?] can informally support now

Margaret will run for WSU Board of Governors

Ellis hasn't decided yet on running for CD-01 this year; maybe can't do that & work as hard on the fracking issue (including 3 lawsuits)

the issue wouldn't play into that campaign too well

Lou asks if any other office would work

JALP asks if Ellis lives in State Senate District 38 (currently anti-wolf St Sen Casperson's seat); no

JALP will run for something - still waiting upon the pleasure of the party to decide what

do we want him running (or standing) for SOS again, or something more local?

JALP reviews ballot petitions again - do we want to take any positions?

we've already supported both wolf-protection petitions

do we want to oppose the anti-wolf petition? general opinion is not yet - it's not on the ballot yet; don't give them the attention

what about the two referendum-proofing petitions?

Chris S says one of them in particular is promoting several reforms for open access for petitioners

where one can canvass for petition signatures, who can do it, etc, etc

(JALP notes the ability to petition at private malls would match CA Constitution's right confirmed in *Pruneyard* case)

Luanne against it

no positions for now . . . except maybe minimum wage?

but Global Climate Convergence will have a day pushing for \$15

their next conference call will be tomorrow night - regularly Thursday & Sunday nights 9pm

712-432-0075; access code 935237#

back to Margaret's request for support for Cass Tech student Jayru Campbell [see above]
her proposal is to support asking that all charges against him be dropped
George notes the kid isn't entirely innocent - but doesn't deserve felony charge
Lou points out an online petition exists saying drop all **adult** charges

CONSENSUS

[on calling for drop of **all** charges? or all **felony** charges?]

could we also fully support the Enbridge 3?

call for immediate release and exoneration of all charges

CONSENSUS

discussion of convention planning

some general preference for the date being earlier rather than later (e.g., May 10 rather than May 17)

but no firm decision - leave it to the SCC

4:45 - 5:00 pm Clean Up and Exit

[4:xx]

[possible dinner together]