

Democratic Rural Conference

Minutes from a Meeting of the DRC Board of Directors

Held via ZOOM on May 25, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Meeting of the board called to order by Ms. Hunter at 7:05 PM

**Board members in attendance**

Judith Hunter	Bill Thickstun	Tim Perfetti
Jeanne Crane	Ron McDougall	Cindy Appleton
Ted Young	John Hurley	Daniel Sniezek
Susan Ottenweller	Lorie Longhany	Margaret Bartley
Max Della Pia	Michael Monescalchi	Frank Puglisi

**Board members absent**

Michael Lausell	Leslie Berliant	Keith Batman
Darlene Baker		

**Guests in attendance**

Mike Schell	Barbara Finney	Jason Clark
Phil Jones	Irene Stein	

Secretary Note: The minutes are not a chronological version of the meeting. Where appropriate, and without altering the flow and accuracy of the meeting some comments have been placed closer to the comment they were responding to.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair Judith Hunter

She explained that this was a meeting of the Board with only one item on the agenda.

We were to discuss and vote on a proposal by the Nominating Committee to conduct elections of Officers and Board members, required by our By-Laws, via a virtual or USPS process.

Ms. Hunter asked Mr. Jones, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to explain the proposal of the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Jones reported:

The nominating committee will make every effort to conduct the election virtually but as a last resort the election will be conducted by regular mail.

Mr. Jones said that Election Buddy software had been selected to conduct the on-line / virtual election.

There is a question regarding the capability of Election Buddy to accommodate weighted voting.

Mr. Jones indicated that he had done some testing with Election Buddy but that he wanted to do a "test run".

After some discussion the board agreed that there was a need to test the software.

Ms. Hunter suggested that we use voting on by-laws changes as the basis for testing the viability of the software.

There followed a discussion of the implications of altering the DRC election cycle.

Given the uncertainty that the Election Buddy software could accommodate the weighted voting required in DRC officer and board elections, Mr. Jones suggested the board use a by-laws approval as a test of the software.

Discussion followed regarding those eligible to vote. By-laws state that each member must have paid dues in order to vote.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Thickstun discussed the need to complete the process of updating the NEON database.....including recording those who have paid 2021 dues.

Mr. McDougall moved that a vote to change a by-law, specifics to be determined, be conducted virtually using Election Buddy software to determine for viability if using the software to conduct virtual elections for officers and board members later in 2021.

Motion was seconded by Mr. Young. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Perfetti. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Hurley

DRC Secretary.