

JULY 7, 2004 (ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 22, 2004)
STATE BOARD MEETING
151 WEST STREET, SUITE 200, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Attendees: Gilles Burger, Chairman
Joan Beck, Member
Susan Widerman, Member
Bobbie Mack, Member
Judy Arnold, Assistant Attorney General
Donna J. Duncan, Director of Election Management
Mary Cramer Wagner, Deputy Director of Election Management
Pam Woodside, Director of Information Technology
Ross Goldstein, Director of Campaign Finance
Terry Harris, Deputy Director of Campaign Finance
Patrick Strauch, Voting System Program Manager

Also Present: Mike Curtis, Accenture
Richard Walega, Accenture
Barbara Fisher, Election Director, Anne Arundel County
Guy L. Harriman, President, Howard County Board of Elections
Katie A. Brown, Election Deputy Director, Harford County
Pat Matsko, Election Director, Carroll County
Ken Fox, Prince George's County
Regina Holt, Howard County
Arthur C. Tanner, Prince George's County
Dale Jones, Howard County
Helen Kolbe, Howard County
Karen M. Moody, Carroll County
Liz Bobo, Delegate, Howard County
David Laning, Baltimore County
Sara Harris, Manager of Elect. Admin. Services, Montgomery County
Gail Carter, Election Deputy Director, Carroll County
Robert Ferraro, Montgomery County

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

After establishing the presence of a quorum, Mr. Burger called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Mr. Burger welcomed the citizens and election directors attending today's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF May 27, 2004

On a motion by Joan Beck, seconded by Susan Widerman, the minutes of the April 26, 2004 meeting were approved with amendments.

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ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

CBS NEWS INTERVIEW

Mr. Burger thanked Donna Duncan, Pam Woodside, Ross Goldstein, Nikki Trella, Mary Wagner and Paul Aumayr for the help he received in preparation for the CBS News interview. This interview is scheduled to be shown Sunday, July 11, 2004 on the CBS News Sunday Morning. (Re-scheduled for August 8, 2004)

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Election Law Article §2-101 directs the State Board to elect one of its members as Chairman no later than August 1st of each year. Joan Beck nominated Gilles Burger to remain Chairman. Susan Widerman seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The Board voted unanimously in favor of Gilles Burger remaining Chairman.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S UPDATE

Ms. Arnold had previously submitted her written report to the Board.

MARYLAND GREEN PARTY

Ms. Arnold summarized the current status of the case with the Maryland Green Party.

MAEO (MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS)

Mr. Burger questioned Item "C" under MAEO. Ms. Arnold noted that she had advised the SBE deny the local board request to redefine the statutory relationship between SBE and the local boards in an MOU.

NVRA VIOLATION COMPLAINT

Mr. Burger asked for more details on a complaint of a NVRA violation at the Baltimore City Department of Social Services. Ms. Arnold summarized the situation for the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

To speak: Ms. Kolbe, Delegate Bobo, Regina Holt, Dale Jones, and Bob Ferraro.

Ms. Kolbe: Her vote was not counted in March. She wants to be certain her vote counts and requested a paper trail. She also asked how many of the fixes had been made, how many were left based on the RABA report.

Delegate Bobo: Delegate Bobo recognized the working relationship she has had with the State Board of Elections. However, she believes the voting machines can be tampered with and is uncertain that the machines will accurately record votes. She was a co-sponsor for the legislation requiring a paper trail and if there is a special session for medical malpractice, slots, etc., she will introduce a new paper trail bill.

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Regina Holt: Her vote was not counted in March. She had read articles in the Washington Post about the AOL employee who sold subscriber information and cited this to point out there is no secure computer system and all can be tampered with.

Dale Jones: His voted was not counted in March. He feels very strongly about being disenfranchised. He wants a voter verifiable system with a paper trail. He is concerned about Diebold's CEO donating money to the Republican Party and promising to "deliver" Ohio.

Robert Ferraro: He is the co-founder of Campaign for Verifiable Voting (True Vote Maryland). He presented Mr. Burger with a video documentary entitled "The Invisible Ballot."

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

OFFICE SPACE

The expanded office space has been approved for our expanded staff. Ms. Duncan thanked The Chairman and the Board for the support of the additional space.

MOCK ELECTION

A mock election is being held this week at the Diebold warehouse for the SBE and Accenture staff. Documentation of the election steps will be reviewed afterwards.

VOTING SYSTEM PROGRAM MANAGER

Patrick Strauch was introduced as the new Voting System Program Manager for SBE. Patrick came to SBE from Light Industries with 21 years experience in full life-cycle software development and management experience. Patrick has five certifications and a Masters of Engineering Science.

ACCEPTANCE TESTING OF UPGRADE

Pam Woodside explained that a new version of the Diebold AccuVote software was undergoing Maryland User Acceptance Testing. The testing was being performed by SBE and Accenture staff, as well as local board users. Montgomery, Howard and Anne Arundel County Boards were thanked for providing knowledgeable individuals to assist with the testing.

REORGANIZATION OF SBE STAFF

Mary Wagner is now Director of the Voter Registration Division. Overton Erwin has retired from the Campaign Finance Division.

POLITICAL PARTIES IN MARYLAND

The Libertarian Party is now recognized as a political party in Maryland along with the Green Party, and the Constitution Party. There is a drive underway to form a new Populist Party.

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RFP (REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS)

The Voter Registration System RFP is now at DBM (Department of Budget and Management) for final review.

MAEO

The MAEO Conference was very good - well put together and very informative.

NEW POSITION

Ms. Lamone and Kim Atkins, Harford County Voter Registration Manager, are Maryland's representatives to the Election Assistance Commission Standards Board. The commission reviews and makes recommendations on voting system standards and other election administration issues.

OPEN STAFF POSITIONS

Mr. Burger asked about open positions at SBE. There are three: two within the Campaign Finance Division and the Deputy Administrator.

WORK PLANS

Bobbie Mack asked if the Voting System Work Plan had been prepared and delivered to the local boards. Mike Curtis from Accenture explained that the Work Plan is available in Microsoft Project and printed format. Ms. Mack requested a printed copy.

IT PROJECTS UPDATE

The contract with the security company BSC has ended. A new contractor has been chosen, Computer Systems Management, Inc.(CSMI). They will be providing assistance to the SBE in performing IV&V (Independent Verification and Validation) of voting system upgrade and supporting processes for the AccuVote Touch Screen Voting System for 23 counties.

VOTER OUTREACH

Bobbie Mack asked for an update on the voter outreach. Mike Curtis advised that Caroline Cash was a new project manager at Diebold overseeing voter outreach. There was also a new strategy, including a new point of contact for the local election boards, remedial training for presenters, and feedback for event coordinators.

Ms. Duncan reminded the Board that much of the voter outreach material was laid out for the entire year and will be put back into prominence for the General Election.

COUNTY QUESTIONNAIRE

The thirty-seven-page questionnaire elicited a 100% response from the counties.

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Provisional Voting

Ms. Mack asked about the pilot project for using the Diebold machines for provisional voting. This pilot program has been postponed until after November 4, 2004.

Parallel Monitoring

Mr. Burger asked whether staff is developing a parallel monitoring program. Ross replied that plans are being made to implement a program.

ELECTION IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Mr. Burger advised the Board that he had received an email from Ms. Colbert advising of a Special Primary Election to be held for a vacant County Council position on September 14, 2004. The General Election will be held along with the Presidential General Election in November. The County was ensured that it would receive the machines on time.

LETTER FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Mr. Burger was copied on a letter from Montgomery County to Jedd Carr, the Diebold Program Manager, with questions regarding troubleshooting. The letter was turned over to Patrick Strauch for follow-up.

POLLING PLACE CHANGE REQUESTS

Donna Duncan submitted requests for polling place changes from the following local boards: Washington County – 1, Montgomery County – 2, Howard County – 1, Baltimore City – 1. The Board approved these requests.

WAIVERS

Terry Harris submitted five requests for waivers.

(#1) FRIENDS OF HAROLD H. HOGAN

The Board accepted the Administrator's recommendation to grant the waiver.

(#2) CITIZENS FOR H. REID

The Board accepted the Administrator's recommendation to grant the waiver.

(#3) NORTHEAST CITIZENS UNITED PAC

The Board agreed to accept the Administrator's recommendation on the condition that the officers file outstanding reports within 30 days and get a new treasurer.

(#4) FRIENDS OF DARRYL KELLY

The Board agreed to accept the Administrator's recommendation of reducing the fee to \$250, in addition to sending a letter to the officers advising them to assume more responsibility and to select a new treasurer.

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(#5) CITIZENS FOR SOUTH COUNTY PROGRESS

The Board agreed to accept the Administrator's recommendation on the condition that the account be closed.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business brought up for discussion.

At this point Ms. Beck welcomed those persons in the audience and thanked them for their active participation.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

SCHEDULING OF AUGUST MEETING

The next meeting of the State Board will be held on Tuesday, August 10, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Susan Widerman asked to address those in attendance. Ms. Widerman said, "Before we are Board members, before we are appointed to positions, before we are employees of the State of Maryland, I believe that everyone is a citizen of Maryland, and I believe it is in all of our best interests to ensure that every vote in the State of Maryland is counted. This is why I am here. I know that there are concerns about election equipment, but I would like to remind everybody that it is not just the equipment that we vote on and it never has been just the Equipment ? it is an entire election process. The People that participate in this process ? many of them are volunteers doing their civic duty are all interested in this election process, and I can assure you that our goal is your goal; for no reason should you think there is any other goal from anyone. I want you to feel comfortable with this process."

On a motion by Susan Widerman, seconded by Joan Beck, the Board meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.