11/13/18, SD7 EC meeting

Present: Gary Westorff, Susan Willis, Jocelyn Heid, Cruz Mendoza, Rick Youmans, Shawn Pelletier, John Krumm, Rich Updegrove, Alan Killian-Moore, Jo Haberman, Dick Hudelson, Glenn Jackson, Bella Maki, Laverne Capan, Maya Mattke, Louisa Eckstine, Deb Taylor, Chris Rubesch, Carmen Schempp

Excused absence: Scot Bol, Jennifer McEwen, Erin DeWitte, Kelli Latuska, Tina Welsch, Mike Mayou

Absent without notice: Brian Muhs, Peggy Roy

1. Call to order, 7pm
2. Affirmative action statement read.
3. Guests: Jen Schultz
   Jen gave an update on House victories, noting that health care and transportation funding will be a big focus this year. She also mentioned Liz Olson’s work on the MN Values Project, and that the House plans to host committee meetings in Greater MN.

4. Minutes to approve:
   a. July 16: Deb moves to accept Dick’s minutes from this special session as the official minutes, and add a link to the video at the end of the minutes with a note giving credit for the video to Kristin Larson and UpTake. Rich 2nds the motion. Gary asked, what is the purpose of adding the video link? Rich noted that the video can provide extra context. Dick supports Deb’s motion. Deb noted that we also want to make sure we are creating fairness for all situations similar in the future, that we aren’t saying the video is the minutes, it is an addition to the minutes. Shawn noted that it also is a nice addition for historical records. Minutes approved as moved. (Glen votes No, Gary abstains)
   b. August 7: no discussion; approved. (Deb abstains due to absence from meeting)
   c. September 11: Carmen noted that she will update these minutes to more clearly differentiate Jen Schultz and Jen McEwen. Deb moves to include a link at the bottom of the minutes to Ken Martin’s [written] statement. John K would like it noted that he believes he stated “people like Ken Martin” not specifically Ken Martin. Minutes approved as moved, with noted changes. (Gary abstains)

5. Officer’s reports: see also, emailed reports for full details
   a. Chair (Chris): happy with election results, and the efforts put forth by Democrats in the region. Chris will be attending a debriefing with cooperating organizations that all worked on GOTV efforts in the area.
   b. Vice-Chair (Deb): we have a lot of work to do in Greater MN, and need to work on our messaging with them to prevent additional flipping of seats to red, and winning back seats that did flip. This will be one of her missions in the next year to work on this.
   c. Treasurer (Maya):
      - There was some confusion/missed info in the transfer of duties with the Donor Database that is used to manage donations for things like Solon-Munger dinner, but it has been corrected. She wasn't able to hear back from Alex, but resolved incomplete donor information through the purchase of Whitepages.com database access. This info helped her work out the problem of receiving too much money from one donor in particular.
      - Maya also reports that SD7 was able to be instrumental in assisting with getting a court order for the release of Stauber’s emails, and we did so by providing a bond to the courts for this lawsuit. This money is being returned to us. (The amount fell within normal rules for discretionary spending by the Chair, so no vote was needed for us to provide these funds to the DFL for this purpose.)
      - Maya is working on creating forms and establishing a formal process for reimbursements to directors for money spent on events. We also need to re-establish budgets for events.
      - Maya reported that our initial efforts to assist a candidate in Greater MN with a monetary donation (that was approved at Sept meeting) was not able to be accepted because the candidate had already reached the maximum allowed for donations from party units, but the Officers were able to brainstorm and approve using the money instead as gas cards for GOTV efforts for that region, which helped get voters to the polls. This very likely helped the candidate win, so we were glad to be able to assist them in this way instead.
Louisa moves to approve Treasurer’s report, John 2nds. Approved.

d. Outreach and Inclusion (Louisa): big thank you’s to Mike “Terry” Sundin and Michael Northbird in their GOTV efforts in our region. Louisa also has an upcoming meeting with Bob Miller to discuss educational outreach.

6. Old business:
   a. Copper Nickel Sulfide Mining resolution as proposed by Dick H, several meetings ago. Dick re-read the statement, which notes our support to the SCC to re-consider and act on this as an ongoing platform issue.
      Discussion:
      Dick sited where in the constitution it allows for this to occur (Section 2, subsection E, and the bylaw that addresses Additional Action Agenda items. He also noted process would include someone leading the process of getting 40 SCC delegate signatures, and once that is achieved bringing forth the request to the Platform Committee and to DFL Chair, Ken Martin.
      Rich also believes we should and can get the 40 SCC delegate signatures to submit the action agenda item (which would be in addition to us passing this resolution/call to action).
      Deb spoke against, noting she cannot support a smaller group overriding a larger body (since a copper nickel sulfide mining resolution did not pass at the state convention)
      Jo spoke to her experience at the state convention, noting how the vote on a CNSM resolution was last on the agenda and feels this affected the process, and is supportive of us calling on the SCC to reconsider.
      Dick spoke to his understanding of why it wasn’t accepted at the state convention, and is less certain about his resolution to call on the SCC to act.
      Cruz moves for us to support the resolution, and Jo 2nds.
      Further discussion:
      Rick Y spoke in support of the resolution, noting that this is grassroots organizing and we can do this as representatives of our region.
      John spoke in support of this resolution, because it is an acceptable/legal way to work on this issue, and does meet the criteria of our DFL constitution.
      Gary spoke in support of the resolution, and also noted that we have an Attorney General (Keith Ellison) now who has been supportive of these efforts as well.
      Chris clarified what this resolution will mean: by passing this we are calling on the SCC to make opposition to copper nickel sulfide mining part of the Action Agenda. Additional logistics will be needed before the SCC could consider this.
      Deb explained the procedure: 40 SCC delegates would need to sign on to bringing it to a vote at the SCC meeting, and there are time lines that would need to be met, and leaders who would need to be notified accordingly for it to be put on the SCC agenda.
      Shawn noted that as a member of the Resolutions committee at our local SD7 convention, there were more anti copper nickel sulfide mining resolutions than any other.
      Chris re-read the resolution for us.
      Dick asked that we change one sentence that attributed support from the whole Native American community in our region. He would rather it acknowledge that many in the Native community support it, not all.

Resolution calling the DFL SCC to act will read as:

“As members of the SD7 DFL Executive Committee, we were elected by SD7 convention delegates who have overwhelmingly passed resolutions strongly opposed to copper-nickel sulfide mining in both 2014 and 2016. Like most of the residents of our district, we see copper-nickel sulfide mining as a serious threat to our water and to the whole environment of our region. Our opposition to copper-nickel sulfide mining is shared by many in the large Native community of our region and by a clear majority of DFLers in Minnesota. We note that a resolution opposing copper-nickel sulfide mining nearly gained a 60% approval at a meeting of the DFL SCC in 2016. Now the threat of copper-nickel sulfide mining looms ever closer. It threatens the natural environment and the people of our region. The mining proposals threatening us rely upon technology already shown to have high rates of failure. They presuppose constant monitoring and maintenance by scientifically trained professionals. This monitoring and maintenance is expensive and extends indefinitely into the future. The proposals are put before us at a time of great distrust of science, opposition to monitoring and regulation, and opposition to taxes
required to fund monitoring and maintenance. While we recognize the great need for living-wage jobs, we believe the risks associated with copper-nickel sulfide mining are too great. Accordingly, we call upon the DFL SCC to take another vote regarding copper-nickel sulfide mining as soon as possible after the November elections.”

Chris noted that there is a ‘30 day notice to SCC’ rule for agenda items, so it will not be done in time for the December SCC meeting.

Cruz calls to question a vote
Deb requests a recorded vote

Roll Call vote of the resolution as amended:
Gary Westorff, Yes; Susan Willis, Yes; Jocelyn Heid, Yes; Cruz Mendoza, Yes; Rick Youmans, Yes; Shawn Pelletier, Yes; John Krumm, Yes; Rich Updegrove, Yes; Allen Killian-Moore, Yes; Debra Taylor, No; Chris Rubesch, Abstains; Dick Hudelson, Yes; Glenn Jackson, No; Bella Maki, Yes; Laverne Capan, Abstains; Louisa Eckstine, Yes; Maya Mattke, Abstains; Carmen Schempp, Yes. 14 Yes, 2 No, 3 Abstentions. Resolution approved.

b. Victory Brick: Several months ago Shawn and Jocelyn attempted to get approval at a meeting for purchasing a victory brick for the DFL victory plaza in St Paul. Due to the groups inability to address this issue in time, Shawn and Jocelyn made the decision (after discussion with the Chair) to purchase 2 bricks using their own money. They purchased 2 bricks, totaling $650, one from the SD7 Executive Committee, and one honoring Solon-Munger. Jo moves that we reimburse Shawn and Jocelyn, Gary 2nds. Louisa asked the treasurer, can we afford? Maya noted, yes we have the money, but it does take away from added value to events. Chris noted that we need to remember that we also need money for caucuses and conventions. Maya and Shawn reviewed how this process works financially speaking for us, and Shawn noted he has emails from Tyler Blackmon that explain it and he will get them to Maya. Chris calls for the vote, majority in favor of reimbursement; Jocelyn, Cruz, Shawn and Louisa abstained.

7. Standing Committee reports: see also emailed reports for further details
a. Communications: draft of SD7 website, which would be linked to the one provided by the State DFL. $144 per year, and Jocelyn noted she has a donation to cover this cost for the first year. Several directors noted that the new site created by the committee is very user friendly, and looks very professional. Maya moves to approve our shift to this site, Shawn 2nds. Approved.
b. Data Management: Shawn noted anything needing archived should be sent to them so they can add it to the drive.
c. Fundraising & Finance: Gary asking that we authorize gift cards to 2 community members who have consistently done work for us with the Solon-Munger dinner. 1) $200 gift card to Sarah’s Table/Chester Creek Café for John Schwetman for his work on the program. Approved. 2) $200 gift card to Sarah’s Table/Chester Creek Café for Kathy Helzer for her work as MC at the dinner. Approved. Maya will purchase the gift cards and work out a way get them to the recipients.

8. New business:
a. Take Action dinner table: We got a request from Take Action to purchase a table at their annual fundraising dinner in the Twin Cities area. Table cost is $1,000. Shawn moved to approve. Maya asked what the purpose of the dinner is – is it to support their existing efforts? No one seemed to have a clear idea. Maya asked that we respectfully decline. Shawn withdrew his motion for the full table and amends it to purchase 2 tickets for the event for 2 representatives from SD7 to attend. Jocelyn 2nds. Approved (Carmen votes no.)
b. Post-election volunteer social event: Unit Oversight Committee will plan.

9. Other business: 2019 budget will be on the Unit Oversight Committee agenda, so please pass on requests and/or recommendations to them if you have any.

10. Announcements: SCC Meeting on December 8th. Next SD7 meeting, December 11th, Denfeld High School.