

Latah County Republican Central Committee Meeting

March 26, 2013

Schierman's Event Center, 3225 Robinson Park Road, Moscow, ID

Meeting called to order at 7:10 P.M. by Chairman Walter Steed.

Will Greene led in prayer. Tom Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions were made. There were 39 attendees including 18 precinct chairs. List will be attached to the original minutes.

A motion was made by Tom Anderson and 2nd by Roger Falen to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2013 meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Presented by Treasurer, Peggy Gottschalk with a beginning cash balance of 1/1/13 of \$2,770.48 and an ending cashing balance of \$3757. Expenses for March included \$290 for fair booth rental and \$32 for Schierman's rental expense in Feb. Treasurer's report was approved on a voice vote.

Chairman Steed read a statement regarding his decision to not resign. A copy of that statement will be attached to these minutes.

Chairman Steed introduced the March special speaker, Ken Helm from Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) who gave the history of the Highway 95 Moscow south to Thorncreek Road. He explained the relationship between ITD and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). He explained that when the litigation in 2003 stopped the forward progress of the highway that 2004 and 2005 were spent holding public meetings and open houses. Out of those meetings, 14 technical areas were identified and created and technical experts in each were hired to create 14 technical reports. The 2005 alternative workshops helped narrow the 16 alternate routes to three routes plus a "do nothing route". The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required each technical expert to evaluate a 300-foot wide stripe along each route.

In February 2013 a Public Hearing was held at the University Best Western with 8 of the technical experts present to answer questions. Approximately 400 people attended. The Comment period ended to March 25 and approximately 600 comments have been received.

Ken explained that it will take a month to read and study the comments and then the EIS will be rewritten and published with the comments in July. He expects the final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to be published and the record of decision submitted to FHWA by the end of the year. Design work on the highway will begin in 2014. Work on purchasing right of way will begin in mid-2015 and hopefully construction will also start in 2015. Funding is already scheduled for 2015 with 8% of the money coming from the state and 92% being Federal dollars.

The long-term goal for Highway 95 is to have a 4 lane divided highway from the northern border of Idaho to the southern border. The Thorncreek to Moscow portion of the road will cost around 43 to 48 million dollars to build depending on the route.

Question and answer period followed and thanks to Ken Helm for the update information.

Vice Chair Thomas Lawford asked for other suggestions about educational programs and one suggestion was an update from the University of Idaho regarding their Program Assistance for Veterans.

GOP Vice Chairman Thomas Lawford spoke about the gun rights subcommittee formed last month in response to questions about whether the party had gone soft on the issue. The proposed Gun Control Press Release and draft letter to Idaho Senate Majority Leader Bart Davis, who serves on the Judiciary and Rules Committee was passed out and reviewed. The draft quotes the Second Amendment and Idaho Constitution's language regarding the right to bear arms and encourages lawmakers to enforce gun laws already in effect, and states no further rules or regulations are needed. Tom Anderson suggested that under Safety Programs the Idaho Hunter's Safety Education be added and then made a motion to accept the letter with the addition of the amendment, Will Greene seconded the motion. A copy of that letter will be attached to these minutes.

Leonard Johnson questioned the statement in the last paragraph regarding "opposed to further laws". Thomas clarified the intent of the statement. By saying the GOP is against placing more regulations and limits upon law-abiding citizens. This language, as written in the draft, should sufficiently address the issue. Motion passed.

A bylaws subcommittee has also been formed, to bring our county by-laws into compliance with the new rules passed at the Winter State Meeting in January 2013.

Vice Chair Thomas Lawford announced that streamlining and reducing bureaucracy would allow the local party to respond more quickly to issues. Revisions are expected to occur by the end of summer.

Replacement of officials has been brought up and needs to be addressed, thinking ahead for the long term as well as fairness.

Thomas also explained there is concern for what constitutes a quorum now just five members - and how a small fraction of dissidents could vote to change leadership and bylaws should many persons be away on other business.

Thomas explained that By-Laws from other Idaho Counties have been obtained as well as a generic boilerplate document. These will all be placed on Google Drive so the By-Laws Sub Committee people will be able to edit in real time. That committee includes Committee Chair Thomas Lawford, and members Jared Larsen, Eric McGilp, Dave Klingenberg and Tom Anderson.

Doug Witham asked about requiring a percentage of precinct chairs instead of a number necessary for a quorum. Also some discussion of what constitutes abandonment of a Precinct Chair position? Don Meyer asked about requiring Precinct chairs to attend a certain number of meetings?

The State GOP Office has signed a contract with University Best Western for services regarding the 2014 Convention. Other contracts are under negotiation but all contracts will be signed with the State GOP Office and not the local county GOP. However, we will be expected to fund raise and staff the convention with volunteers.

New Business:

Vice Chairman Lawford announced that most of our recent GOP events have presented a need for us to have a Video Projector. (The Presidential caucus, showing the convention promotional video, and election night totals and Lincoln Day). So far that need has been met through the generosity of Paul Kimmell loaning a projector to us. To rent such a projector at the University Best Western costs \$200 per event. A new projector with the list of requirements that would likely serve our needs will cost between \$700 to \$900. This list includes: VGA in/out, HDMI out, a minimum of 2600 lumens, and possibly be Ethernet ready. Lawford asked permission to form a committee to further research this purchase.

A motion was made by Roger Falen to create a committee to locate products with the list of necessary requirements and second was made by Will Greene. Motion passed. Thomas Lawford, Will Greene, David Klingenberg, and Peggy Gottschalk will serve on the committee.

Dave Klingenberg and Steve Piper graciously made apologies for the manner in which they expressed themselves in this, and a prior meeting.

Roger Falen made a plea for Republicans of different opinions regarding both social and fiscal conservative values to learn to listen to each other and accept the value of each other and learn to work together in the spirit and memory of Ronald Reagan and Abraham Lincoln.

Tom Trail also begged for civility and respect as we move forward as an organization.

Announcement:

Gun Rights Rally

Friday, April 19 @ 5 PM in Friendship Square to send a clear message that our rights are non-negotiable and will be defended.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Steed, Secretary, Latah County GOP.