

Revised — MINUTES OF THE GREB WORKGROUP

APRIL 9TH, 2019

The GR/EB Workgroup convened at 10:00AM on April 9th, 2019 in the McGuireWoods Conference Room, Gateway Plaza, Richmond, VA.

Present: John Hager, Kate Hanley, Al Ablowich, Lisa Jeffers, Robin Lind, Renee Andrews, Bill Bell, Clara Belle Wheeler, Cris Watkins, Barbara Tabb and Walt Latham.

Attending from the public: Allison Robbins, DOE Wise County; Bill Jenkins, DOE Sussex County; Katie Boyle; VACO, Jessica Ackerman with VML; Carol Noggle, LWV PWC.

Kate Hanley asked for motion to approve the minutes; Robin Lind made motion, Renee Andrews seconded, minutes were approved unanimously.

John Hager thanked Lisa Jeffers for stepping in as the Temporary Permanent Recording Secretary for the group.

Barbara Tabb led the discussion on where we are with the 2019 Legislative session. Barbara explained the bill to restructure the makeup of the SBE. The Governor sent the bill back to the House with amendments. 2 amendments were accepted the remaining were rejected by the House. Now the Governor has until May 3rd to possibly veto the entire bill. Renee Andrews thanked Barbara for her tireless effort during the legislative session. Robin Lind seemed to believe the Governor's staff seemed to more against the bill than the Governor himself since the Governor previously supported the bill in 2011. Robin Lind asked the question should the GR/EB workgroup write a letter to the Governor urging him to pass this bill. Discussion ensued about what type of letter we should write. Lisa Jeffers moved we write the letter, Bill Bell seconded, motion passed. Robin and Lisa will compose a letter to the group with all members names assigned to the letter. Clara Belle Wheeler mentioned McGuire's bill that would have given Directors of Election and Electoral Board Members equal representation from risk management in the case of a dispute between the Director of Election and the Electoral Board. She was concerned there wasn't a full court press to pass this bill. Discussion was held about the session held at The Homestead (VEBA Meeting) about Directors of Elections appointment. Bill Jenkins, member of the public was informed that the VRAV Lobbyist was to tell Chris Piper to help get the Governor to pass this bill. Barbara Tabb reported that VEBA will be reaching out to legislators over the summer months to get legislation before them early.

Robin Lind reported that the Budget Amendment to increase the Director of Elections salaries to the level of the Treasurer/Commissioner of Revenue with the Compensation Board did not pass; also the GIS Bill (Mark Peake) didn't pass, moving the June Primary to the third Tuesday failed, as well as the bill to reimburse localities 100% of salaries for Director of Elections and Electoral Board. Discussion was to bring these issues back to the legislative initiatives. The

group also discussed the upcoming Primaries being held in June. Many of the General Assembly members will be on the ballot in June and they will be able to witness the issues of holding a Primary while school is still in session.

Robin Lind reported the GR/EB Workgroup is going to be on the May 14th, 2019 SBE Agenda. We will be able to present our annual report on this date. Tentatively, the GR/EB workgroup will meet that day at 10AM. Location is to be determined. Robin stressed the importance of all the members of the workgroup be in attendance.

Kate Hanley shared with the group the document that Al Ablowich produced in response of the workgroup working with ELECT on the replacement of VERIS, one of the workgroup charges. Robin Lind talked with the Commissioner about the workgroup delegating this charge to someone else to do. We all agreed we did not want to delegate this duty. Barbara Tabb suggested we have a member of our group in the conversation and help gather the information that is needed to produce a newer product to replace VERIS. The document Al produced is a great starting point. Barbara Tabb asked Legislators exactly what they meant by including our workgroup in the bill. The Legislators knew this group had been appointed, knew we were working toward improving issues and how we were a true working group. Discussion was held how we will move forward in our participation in the new creation of VERIS. A subcommittee was formed with Al Ablowich, Barbara Tabb, Walt Latham, Clara Belle Wheeler and Cris Watkins to address the Department of ELECT our role in the new VERIS creation. Kate Hanley recommended this group compile a letter to the Commissioner stating our position and circulate the letter in two weeks among our workgroup for approval. Motion was made and seconded and motion carried.

Bill Bell presented and discussed the review of the USPS delivery. This survey could be sent to all Directors of Election to test mailing items from your office to your office from various locations and times. Document date of mailing and date it was received in your office. Discussion ensued about USPS and the recent issues with delivery and other surveys that have been done in previous years. Will discuss more at the next meeting.

Clara Belle Wheeler discussed freezing a voter's registration once an absentee ballot has been requested and issued. Senator Reeve's introduced a bill this session but had it pulled because this can be administered administratively, meaning within the Department of ELECT. Kate Hanley suggested we ask if this has been done when we present our report to SBE at the next meeting.

Election costs and resources was discussed. This presentation was by Michele White at The Homestead meeting. Barbara Tabb had concerns about asking Directors of Election doing this at this time. Barbara also didn't think this was the total cost/ownership of the Election. Walt has asked VML and VACO to attend our meeting since they have gathered data on how much elections cost. Kate Hanley explained this is a complex issue; localities understanding and knowing how much funding we need and the actual costs of each election; the General

Assembly fully funding Elections. Discussion ensued about the purpose of these costs being garnered. Robin Lind recommended the workgroup go over all the breakdown of information that Michele has compiled and make sure we haven't missed any information. A member from the public, Allison Robbins asked the question of why we want this information and what we are going to do with it? Lisa Jeffers suggested this is great information for our localities and if we take this information to the General Assembly we can give them the actual cost, not a breakdown per locality but a bottom line cost. Kate Hanley described how most folks can't tell you how much a special election costs versus a general election versus a primary. Walt Latham had a concern that newer Directors of Election are not doing this and he was also concerned about smaller localities gathering this information. This would be putting more work on them to gather this information and they would have to find this data. VML and VACO pull their figures from the public accounting site. They would be interested in detailed expenses. Barbara Tabb suggested a template of items to request of what elections cost, budget items (may or may not be included in your election costs), using a cover letter of exact items we are requesting. Mr. Hager stated our broader purpose was to get the state to reimburse higher for election costs. This is also another duty we should all be doing that is not in the Code of Virginia. Clara Belle Wheeler said we should be using this data for multiple reasons, locality, state or whatever but in a uniform matter. Robin Lind made a motion that a letter be created about collecting data of what an election cost. Barbara Tabb and Robin will work on the wording of this document. Walt Latham suggested we collect years going forward. Renee suggested 2017 going forward. Robin agreed to accept collecting from years 2016 going forward. More discussion ensued of exactly what data to collect such as temporary staff and when do you start collecting the data for staff that is brought on to help with the election prep/work. Co-Chair Hanley called for the question motion was seconded and motion passed.

Next meeting reminder, May 14th, 2019 10:00AM.

Kate Hanley requested a motion to adjourn. Motion made and seconded meeting was adjourned at 11:49AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa P. Jeffers,

Temporary Permanent Recording Secretary