

MINUTES OF THE GREB WORKGROUP

FEBRUARY 26TH, 2019

The GR/EB WorkGroup convened at 10:05am on February 26th, 2019 in the McGuireWoods Conference Room, Gateway Plaza, Richmond, VA.

Present: John Hager, Kate Hanley, Al Albowich, Tracy Howard, Lisa Jeffers, Barbara Gunter, Michele White, Renee Andrews, Clara Belle Wheeler. By phone: Walt Latham, William Bell.

Attending from the public: Allison Robbins, DOE Wise County; Allan Richeson, DOE Prince George Co.; Bill Jenkins, DOE Sussex County.

The minutes of January 15th, 2019 were approved as corrected.

Nominations to the Workgroup were introduced. Robin Lind nominated Lisa Jeffers, DOE of Waynesboro City to become the new Temporary Permanent Recording Secretary. Renee Andrews seconded and the vote was unanimous. Robin Lind nominated Barbara Tabb, EB member Prince George County as a new member representing VEBA to the Workgroup, seconded by Lisa Jeffers vote was unanimous. Lisa Jeffers nominated Cris Watkins, DOE of Louisa County as a new member representing VRAV, seconded by Barbara Gunter vote was unanimous. Mr. Hager thanked those making the nominations helping to keep an even balance of Electoral Board members and Directors of Election on the Workgroup.

Robin Lind gave an update on the 2018 Annual Report that had been distributed to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, President Pro Temp of the Senate, House P&E Committee members and Speaker of the House. Robin also gave an in-depth report when he tried to deliver it to the Attorney General. Mrs. Hanley requested we all receive a copy via email. She would distribute it to her delegates and senators. Mr. Hager strongly suggested the Workgroup be on the agenda for the next SBE meeting. Since no meeting had been scheduled at this time, no new board members had been appointed as of this date, we will need to contact ELECT to be put on a future agenda. Mr. Hager commended Robin on putting the report together, job very well done.

Discussion began on the 2019 Legislative Initiatives. Walt Latham discussed moving the June Primary date to the third Tuesday. This bill seemed to have

traction and ultimately failed to pass. Robin Lind explained about the issue of allowing a Director of Election to make a voter inactive rather than just cancelling because of a registration issue and the Delegate didn't get the bill in on time. This could be a legislative issue to pursue in 2020. Also, the request for 100% reimbursement to the localities failed as well. Tracy Howard reported about the conference report on Director of Elections salaries. A 3% increase is reported as well as another 3% for all State Supported Local Employees and Registrars were specifically named. Tracy credited Walt Latham and David Bailey for working hard to see this happen. Tracy also reported in the Appropriations a study will be conducted involving ELECT and the State Compensation Board of the Director of Elections salary/duties in comparison to other Constitutional Officers. This report is to be completed by September 1st, 2019 and given to the chair of Senate Finance. Discussion ensued about Electoral Board salaries are exactly what the State sets and they get no supplements unlike some Directors of Election. Bills involving GIS, one in particular introduced by Senator Peake, failed as well. HB1620 passed the General Assembly and will be awaiting the Governor's signature. Tracy Howard made a motion that the Workgroup send a letter to all members of the House and Senate that helped support the reform of the SBE. Lisa Jeffers seconded the motion, vote was unanimous. Robin Lind and Lisa Jeffers will work together on composing the letter.

Michele White, DOE Prince William County gave a draft presentation on Election Expenses. She will be conducting a session at the VEBA meeting in March at The Homestead on Election Expenses. Michele covered a variety of issues; comparing turnout in the past several Federal Election cycles, budgeting/elections 5-year plan, increased online transactions; registration, absentee requests, postage, staffing, space issues, equipment; voting machines, electronic poll books, etc. Al Albowich, EB member Virginia Beach, agreed with Michele's numbers since Virginia Beach has dealt with the same increases. This presentation should give new Electoral Board members an insight into the costs of Elections. Discussion ensued utilizing VRAV Regional Directors to collect this information from their localities and Michele can compile the numbers for a possible report to the General Assembly at a future date.

CHARGES FOR 2019:

REVIEW OF VERIS: A review of VERIS in consultation with ELECT and VITA to develop a Products Requirements Document in accord with the language adopted in the Appropriations Act:

H. No funds available within this appropriation shall be expended to substantially rebuild the Virginia Election & Registration Information System (VERIS) until such time as the Department of Elections, in consultation with the Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA), has (i) solicited feedback from the GR/EB Duties Workgroup, (ii) developed a product requirements document, and (iii) developed a draft request for proposals document for a potential replacement to the VERIS system.

Tracy Howard, DOE Radford City, explained a review of VERIS is needed in order to rebuild it. He suggested a survey of Directors of Elections to collect the information that needs to be changed, corrected or added features. Barbara Tabb, EB Prince George County suggested there be a group of users that work closely with the developer when this process begins. Bill Bell, EB Isle of Wight County we should approach the Commissioner of Elections with a group of Directors of Elections that will be willing to work with the developer of a new system.

USPS REVIEW: Bill Bell has created a spreadsheet that can be sent to the field of Directors of Election to test the USPS delivery system. This test would involve mailing something to your office for 7 days or more from various locations and track when it was mailed and how long it takes for you to receive it.

SEALING REGISTRATION: Senator Reeves introduced a bill in session (SB 1250) that would protect and seal a voter registration record once an absentee ballot request had been made to keep a voter from transferring to another locality and possibly requesting another absentee ballot. This bill was stricken from the docket at the patron's request and by ELECT. The Department of Elections said they can fix this issue administratively. We will need to follow up with the Department, make sure SBE creates the guidance documents of how this will be administered. Tracy Howard and Walt Latham have been in discussion with ELECT, specifically Dave Nichols about this issue. They will be following up.

ELECTION EXPENSES: Michele White's presentation is to be viewed at The Homestead. Robin Lind added: How did you remedy situations that arise from Election to Election? Michele suggested we need to make the code work better for us all. Al Albowich has conducted a test of how long it takes to check a voter in using an Electronic Poll Book, how long it takes a voter to mark a ballot and

how long it takes for the voting machine tabulator to accept a ballot. All of these things help in planning for Election Expenses if you need more equipment or less. Kate Hanley suggested after Michele's presentation at The Homestead, she will give a report of what other localities do.

For the Good of the Order: Discussion was held about the No Excuse Absentee Voting that passed the General Assembly with a delayed implementation 2020. Kate Hanley was concerned about implementing this in a Presidential Election when there are smaller elections prior to November of 2020 as a pilot to test. Walt Latham informed the group that members of VRAV, VEBA Leadership, VML, VACO and ELECT will be meeting on March 15th, 2019 to discuss all issues and logistics of No Excuse Absentee Voting. They will report to the Workgroup at the next meeting.

The board agreed to meet next on April 9th, 2019 at 10am. The meeting adjourned at 12:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jeffers,

Temporary Permanent Recording Secretary