

Minnesota

# ***Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board Meeting***

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Friday, March 6, 2020  
10:30 A.M.  
St. Croix Room  
Centennial Office Building

## **REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. February 5, 2020
2. Chair's Report
  - a. 2020 Meeting schedule
3. Executive director report – no written material
4. Options for civil penalties in conciliation matters
5. Enforcement report
6. Legal report
7. Other business

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Immediately following regular session

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

.....  
**February 5, 2020  
St Croix Room  
Centennial Office Building**  
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**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Leppik.

Members present: Flynn, Haugen (by telephone), Leppik, Moilanen (by telephone), Rosen (left after legislative recommendations), Swanson

Others present: Sigurdson, Engelhardt, Olson, Pope, staff; Hartshorn, counsel

**MINUTES** (January 3, 2020)

After discussion, the following motion was made:

Member Flynn's motion:

To approve the January 3, 2020, minutes as drafted.

Vote on motion:

A roll call vote was taken. Five members voted in the affirmative (Rosen abstained).

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

**A. 2020 meeting schedule**

Because some members had conflicts with the date of the March 4, 2020, meeting, it was agreed that Mr. Sigurdson would poll members and determine a new date for the March meeting. The new date will be posted on the Board's website.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Mr. Sigurdson presented members with a memorandum regarding this matter that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Sigurdson told members that notices of the need to file campaign finance reports, lobbyist disbursement reports, and economic interest statements had been sent in December. Mr. Sigurdson said that the memorandum showed the number of reports expected and the number of reports actually filed on time. The memorandum also showed the percentage of reports that had been filed electronically. Mr. Sigurdson finally noted that public subsidy payments had been made for the special elections being held in house districts 30A and 60A.

## **REVIEW OF RELEVANT COURT DECISIONS**

### **A. Schickel v. Dilger (lobbyist contribution ban, sessional contributions, and gift ban)**

Mr. Olson presented members with a memorandum regarding this matter that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Olson told members that this case involved the question of whether Kentucky's prohibitions on contributions and gifts from lobbyists and lobbyist employers to candidate committees violated the Constitution. Mr. Olson said that the district court had struck down all of the restrictions except the ban on contributions during a legislative session. The 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, however, reversed the district court. Mr. Olson said that the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit had applied the intermediate level of review, closely drawn scrutiny, and had concluded that both the total ban on contributions from lobbyists to candidate committees and the ban on contributions from lobbyist employers and political committees to candidates during a legislative session were constitutional. The 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit discussed the history of corruption involving state legislators that had led to the ban and concluded that the ban was necessary to prevent actual corruption and the appearance of corruption. The 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit also found that the gift prohibition was constitutional. Mr. Olson said that the *Schickel* decision had no immediate implications for Chapter 10A except to provide support for the constitutionality of that chapter's gift prohibition and ban on contributions from certain sources during a regular legislative session. Mr. Olson said that *Schickel* also could provide support for a complete ban on contributions from lobbyists to candidates and for including the spouses of officials in the gift ban.

### **B. Citizens Union v. New York (disclosure of large donors by 501(c)s)**

Mr. Olson presented members with a memorandum regarding this matter that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Olson told members that this case involved the constitutionality of a New York law requiring disclosure of large donors by 501(c)(4) organizations that spend more than \$10,000 a year on certain communications and 501(c)(3) organizations that make large donations to certain 501(c)(4)s. The law required the reports to be made available to the public unless the state attorney general determined that the disclosure would cause harm, threats, harassment, or reprisals to the donor. Mr. Olson said that the federal district court applied exacting scrutiny to both provisions and determined that they violated the First Amendment. Mr. Olson said that the *Citizens Union* decision did not have any direct implications for Chapter 10A. The decision, however, shed light on the First Amendment issues associated with trying to compel disclosure from those engaged in pure issue advocacy. Mr. Olson also contrasted the New York law with a similar law in California and noted that the California law did not make the donor reports available to the public.

## **ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

### **A. Consent item**

#### **1. Administrative termination of lobbyist Wayne Brandt (8018)**

Mr. Olson told members that two principals, Minnesota Forest Industries, Inc. and the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, had requested that the lobbyist registrations of Mr. Brandt be terminated due to Mr. Brandt's death on September 12, 2019. Board staff had administratively terminated Mr.

Brandt's lobbyist registrations as of that date. Mr. Olson said that each principal had filed a lobbyist disbursement report on Mr. Brandt's behalf covering the most recent reporting period.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

Member Flynn's motion: To approve the request for the retroactive administrative termination of lobbyist Wayne Brandt.

Vote on motion: A roll call vote was taken. All members voted in the affirmative.

## **B. Discussion items**

### **1. Retroactive administrative termination of lobbyist Richard Gephardt (2000)**

Mr. Olson told members that in March 2016, Mr. Gephardt had registered as a lobbyist for a single principal. A reporting lobbyist for the same principal included Mr. Gephardt on six lobbyist disbursement reports covering the years 2016-2018. Mr. Olson said that the reporting lobbyist had filed a termination statement for herself on January 8, 2019, listing a termination date of June 1, 2018. Mr. Olson said that Mr. Gephardt was asking that his lobbyist registration be terminated effective June 1, 2018, which was the date that Mr. Gephardt's firm had stopped lobbying on behalf of the principal. Mr. Olson said that if the retroactive termination was approved, no late filing fees would be assessed.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

Member Swanson's motion: To approve the request for the retroactive administrative termination of lobbyist Richard Gephardt.

Vote on motion: A roll call vote was taken. Five members voted in the affirmative (Moilanen recused).

### **2. Balance adjustment request of Norrie Thomas Campaign Fund (18038)**

Mr. Olson told members that this principal campaign committee had reported an ending cash balance for 2018 of \$607.78 but only had \$320.28 in its bank account at the end of 2018. The committee had reviewed its financial records but had been unable to ascertain the source of the discrepancy. Mr. Olson said that the committee was asking that its 2018 ending cash balance be adjusted downward by \$287.50 from \$607.78 to \$320.28. The committee had provided documentation showing that \$320.28 was the balance in its bank account at the end of 2018. Mr. Olson stated that the committee intended to give its funds to another committee or party unit and then file a termination report.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

Member Rosen's motion: To approve the request for the balance adjustment.

Vote on motion: A roll call vote was taken. All members voted in the affirmative.

**3. Balance adjustment request of Cindy (Yang) for House (18379)**

Mr. Olson told members that this principal campaign committee had reported an ending cash balance for 2018 of \$2,771.35 but actually had \$3,108.22 in its bank account at the end of 2018. The committee had reviewed its financial records and believed that \$255.25 of the discrepancy was due to contributions made via PayPal for which the committee was unable to identify the individual contributors. Mr. Olson said that the committee was asking that its 2018 ending cash balance be adjusted upward by \$336.87 from \$2,771.35 to \$3,108.22. The committee had provided documentation showing that \$3,108.22 was the balance in its bank account at the end of 2018. Mr. Olson stated that the committee had filed a termination report and closed its bank account.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

Member Rosen's motion: To approve the request for the balance adjustment.

Vote on motion: A roll call vote was taken. All members voted in the affirmative.

**4. Request to withdraw registration of Women for Political Change Political Action Fund (80033)**

Mr. Olson told members that the Women for Political Change Political Action Fund had registered as a political fund on April 4, 2019. Mr. Olson said that in January, the chair had contacted Board staff and had explained that Women for Political Change had met with its legal counsel to discuss the legal requirements of Chapter 10A. The organization had determined that it was not going to make political contributions or independent expenditures. Mr. Olson said that based on the legal advice it was given, the organization was formally requesting the withdrawal of its registration because it should not have registered with the Board.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

Member Flynn's motion: To approve the request to withdraw the registration.

Vote on motion: A roll call vote was taken. All members voted in the affirmative.

**C. Waiver requests**

Mr. Olson told members that in accordance with the direction at the January meeting, the waiver request grid had been changed to include staff's recommended action, if any, for each request.

Name of Candidate or Committee	Late Fee & Civil Penalty Amount	Reason for Fine	Factors for waiver and recommended action	Board Member's Motion	Motion	Vote on Motion
Benjamin Brutlag (Bois de Sioux WD)	\$100 LFF	Original EIS	Official was appointed in May 2019. He completed EIS online by due date and saved it but did not click submit button. After being contacted by Board staff in December 2019 he filed his EIS 1/7/2020. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Waive LFF.	Member Flynn	To approve the staff recommendation.	Roll call vote was taken. All members voted in affirmative.
Doug Dahlen (Bois de Sioux WD)	\$100 LFF	Original EIS	Official was reappointed in May 2019. Official is certain he completed and mailed EIS twice after being contacted by Board staff. Staff has no record of receiving mailed EIS but it was filed online 1/3/2020. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Waive LFF.	Member Flynn	To approve the staff recommendation.	Roll call vote was taken. All members voted in affirmative.
Michael Christensen (Wild Rice WD)	\$100 LFF	Original EIS	Official was reappointed in March 2019. Official states he completed and mailed EIS in a timely manner after being contacted a few months later by Board staff. Staff has no record of receiving mailed EIS but it was filed online 1/8/2020. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Waive LFF.	Member Flynn	To approve the staff recommendation.	Roll call vote was taken. All members voted in affirmative.
Chad Stuewe (Buffalo Creek WD)	\$100 LFF	Original EIS	Official was appointed in April 2019. He received letter notifying him of EIS requirement but did not think it applied to him because he was appointed rather than elected. EIS was filed 1/8/2020. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Reduce LFF to \$50.	Member Flynn	To approve the staff recommendation.	Roll call vote was taken. All members voted in affirmative.
Catherine Cesnik (Basset Creek WMO)	\$100 LFF \$100 CP	Original EIS	Official was appointed in April 2019 and was unfamiliar with EIS process. EIS was filed 1/16/2020. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Waive CP leaving balance of \$100 for LFF.	Member Flynn	To approve the staff recommendation.	Roll call vote was taken. All members voted in affirmative.
Meyer (Christopher John) for Minnesota (17992)	\$1,000 LFF \$1,000 CP	2016 year-end	Candidate didn't realize year-end report needed to be filed as he had dropped out of race without having filed for office. Certified letters were mailed to treasurer in February and March 2017, both of which were returned. Candidate did receive email sent to treasurer in March	Member Swanson	To reduce the total amount owed to \$500 on condition that this amount is paid by March 1, 2020.	Roll call vote was taken. All members voted in affirmative.

			<p>2017, but couldn't find financial records. Committee was referred to AGO in July 2017. Report was filed in October 2017. That report was a termination report that reflected ending cash balance of \$82, so committee was terminated retroactive to end of 2016. Candidate has limited income and needs payment plan unless balance owed is reduced to \$500 or less. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Waive CP leaving balance of \$1,000 for LFF and authorize payment plan of \$500 by March 1, then \$100 per month.</p>		
<p>Roxana Bruins for Senate (18044)</p>	<p>\$1,000 LFF                  \$110.83 CP                  (\$889.17 paid via revenue recapture)</p>	<p>2016 year-end</p>	<p>Treasurer quit just before 2016 general election and candidate had difficulty learning how to complete and file year-end report. Committee was referred to AGO in July 2017 and default judgment was entered in September 2018. During this time candidate was experiencing health issues and personal problems. Report was filed in March 2019. That report was a termination report that reflected an ending cash balance of \$93, so committee was terminated retroactive to end of 2016. Committee received \$8,523 in public subsidy funds in 2016. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Waive LFF leaving balance owed of \$110.83 for CP.</p>	<p>Member Rosen</p>	<p>To waive the late filing fee and all remaining civil penalties owed.</p> <p>Roll call vote was taken. All members voted in affirmative</p>
<p>Kevin Leininger (Traverse County)</p>	<p>\$100 LFF                  \$300 CP</p>	<p>Original and 2017 annual EIS</p>	<p>\$100 LFF was assessed due to late filing of original EIS in April 2017. \$100 LFF and \$1,000 CP were assessed due to late filing of 2017 annual EIS. Official didn't understand how to complete original EIS. Official also didn't realize EIS needed to be filed annually and thought he didn't need to file another EIS since he had filed original in 2017. CP for annual EIS was reduced to \$300 at October 2018 meeting, conditioned upon payment of remaining balance owed. \$100 was paid, leaving total balance of \$400. Letter was sent at end of 2019 seeking payment of \$400. Official is asking Board to reconsider waiving full amount. RECOMMENDED ACTION: None.</p>	<p>No motion.</p>	

**D. Informational Items**

**1. Forwarded anonymous contribution**

Minnesota Physical Therapy PAC, \$51.49  
Todd Lippert for State House Committee, \$20

**2. Payment of civil penalty for contribution from unregistered association without required disclosure**

13th Senate District DFL, \$55  
MN State College Faculty, \$105

**3. Payment of civil penalty for exceeding aggregate special source contribution limit**

Jasinski (John) for Senate Committee, \$165  
Erin (Koegel) for Minnesota, \$460

**4. Payment of civil penalty for exceeding individual contribution limit**

Erin (Koegel) for Minnesota, \$125

**5. Payment of late filing fees for 2018 pre-primary 24-hour notices**

Together Minnesota, \$360

**6. Payment of late filing fee for lobbyist disbursement report due 1/15/2019**

Scott Hedderich, \$250

**7. Payment of late filing fee for lobbyist disbursement report due 6/17/2019**

Scott Hedderich, \$200  
Martin McDonough, \$100

**8. Payment of late filing fee for lobbyist principal report due 3/15/2017**

Village Green Residential Properties LLC, \$150

**ADVISORY OPINION 452 – JOINT PURCHASES OF SERVICES**

Mr. Sigurdson presented members with a memorandum regarding this matter that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Sigurdson told members that the draft advisory opinion was not public because the requester had not signed a release but that a public version of the opinion that did not identify the requester had been prepared. Mr. Sigurdson explained that the requester was a committee registered with the Board that was asking for clarification of the guidance provided in Advisory Opinion 436. Mr. Sigurdson said that Advisory Opinion 436 provided in part that committees could jointly purchase services from a commercial vendor, but that to avoid in-kind contributions, all



participating committees had to have a bona fide use for the item purchased and had to pay an equal or proportionate share of the cost of the purchased item. Mr. Sigurdson stated that the requester was asking primarily if the use of a third-party vendor was required to comply with the guidance provided in Advisory Opinion 436. Mr. Sigurdson said that the opinion as drafted provided that the use of a third-party vendor was not required, but that the committees making the joint purchase were responsible for complying with Chapter 10A. The draft opinion also recommended that the committees keep in their records documentation that they all had a bona fide use for the purchased item and the calculations used to determine the equal or proportionate share of the cost for each committee.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

Member Rosen's motion: To approve Advisory Opinion 452 as drafted and to authorize Member Leppik to sign the opinion as acting chair.

Vote on motion: A roll call vote was taken. All members voted in the affirmative.

### **REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Sigurdson presented members with a memorandum regarding this issue that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. The memorandum discussed the direction given to Mr. Sigurdson at the January meeting to draft a letter to the legislature that was to be signed by all Board members. In the memorandum, Mr. Sigurdson said that he had been unable to devise language for the letter that was acceptable to all members and that he had been mindful of the open meeting implications of debating the letter's language outside of a public meeting. The memorandum stated that Mr. Sigurdson therefore would be bringing the letter back for discussion at the February meeting.

At the meeting, Mr. Sigurdson said that the Minnesota Governmental Relations Council (MGRC) had brought a letter to distribute to Board members. This letter is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Jeremy Estenson, the president of the MGRC, and Kathy Hahne, the MGRC's lobbyist, then addressed the Board. Mr. Estenson stated that MGRC and its members shared the goal of better disclosure but had concerns about the Board's lobbyist proposal. Mr. Estenson said that the letter laid out those concerns, specifically that the proposal would require more work without providing greater transparency and could have unforeseen consequences for non-profit members. Mr. Estenson said that the letter included the eight written comments that the MGRC had received from its members before the reporting threshold in the proposal had been raised to 25%. Mr. Estenson stated that the MGRC planned to form a task force to study the issues raised by the lobbyist proposal. Mr. Estenson and Ms. Hahne then answered questions from members.

Members next discussed whether the lobbying proposal should be forwarded to the legislature this session as approved at the January meeting or whether the recommendation should be withdrawn to allow further development of the proposal.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

Member Leppik's motion: To change the recommendation for the lobbyist program to state that the Board believes that the current reporting requirements for lobbyists fail to provide meaningful disclosure to the public and that the Board is working with the public, including the lobbying community, to develop revised registration and reporting requirements for the lobbying program that will be provided to the legislature in October of this year.

Vote on motion: A roll call vote was taken. All members voted in the affirmative.

Members then discussed the content of the letter to the legislature.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

Member Leppik's motion: To approve the language in the letter to the legislature dated January 14, 2020, with the following amendments: 1) delete the last sentence of the second paragraph; 2) delete the phrase "express advocacy and" in the first sentence of the campaign finance paragraph; 3) amend the first clause of the second sentence in the campaign finance paragraph to read, "The Board adopted a policy recommendation on express advocacy, which is not supported by two members, but . . ."; and 4) replace the language in the lobbyist paragraph with the new recommendation for this program.

Vote on motion: A roll call vote was taken. Five members voted in the affirmative (Moilanen abstained).

### **PRIMA FACIE DETERMINATION FINDING NO VIOLATION**

Ms. Engelhardt presented members with a memorandum regarding this matter that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Ms. Engelhardt told members that a complaint had been filed against candidate Logan Coplan alleging that Mr. Coplan had failed to register a principal campaign committee with the Board. Ms. Engelhardt said that the complaint provided no basis to conclude that Mr. Coplan had reached the contribution or spending threshold requiring registration. Chair Moilanen therefore had dismissed the complaint because it did not state a prima facie violation of Chapter 10A.

### **LEGAL COUNSEL'S REPORT**

Mr. Hartshorn presented members with a legal report that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Hartshorn told members that the Meyer matter would be removed from the report before the March meeting. Mr. Hartshorn had nothing else to add to the legal report.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The chair recessed the regular session of the meeting and called to order the executive session. Upon recess of the executive session, the chair had nothing to report into regular session.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned by the chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Sigurdson  
Executive Director

Attachments:

Executive director's report  
Memorandum regarding *Schickel v. Dilger*  
Memorandum regarding *Citizens Union v. New York*  
Memorandum regarding Advisory Opinion 452  
Draft public version of Advisory Opinion 452  
Memorandum regarding legislative recommendations  
Lobbyist recommendations  
Letter from Minnesota Governmental Relations Council  
Memorandum regarding prima facie determination finding no violation  
Legal report



# MINNESOTA

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

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### **Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2020**

Meetings are at **10:30 A.M.** unless otherwise noted.

#### **2020**

Wednesday, April 1

Wednesday, May 6

Wednesday, June 3

Wednesday, July 1

Wednesday, August 5

Wednesday, September 2

Wednesday, October 7

Wednesday, November 4

Wednesday, December 2



# MINNESOTA CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

**Date:** February 28, 2020

**To:** Board Members

**From:** Megan Engelhardt  
Assistant Executive Director

**Subject:** **Review of guidelines for civil penalties in conciliation matters**

In 2019, Board members asked staff to provide possible options for imposing civil penalties in certain circumstances, specifically when a committee has exceeded a contribution limit or accepted a prohibited contribution. When such a violation occurs, the committee must always return the excess and/or improper contribution and, in most cases, is also ordered to pay a separate civil penalty. The information below was submitted to the Board in a memorandum prior to the October 2, 2019, Board meeting. While the Board discussed the various options, a final decision was not reached and the Board recommended bringing the matter back when all members would be present. Staff is requesting that the Board review the guidelines below again and select an option to use for the conciliation agreements that will be presented to the Board in 2020.

Although the Board considers each case on its own merits, many of the violations considered by the Board are very similar. Consequently, the penalties imposed for those violations also are very similar.<sup>1</sup> In recent years, the Board typically has imposed a civil penalty in the amount of the excess and/or improper contribution. The Board has required immediate payment of 25% of the imposed civil penalty and has stayed payment of the remaining 75% of the penalty until the end of the next election segment on the condition that the committee have no similar violations

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<sup>1</sup> Minnesota Statutes section 14.045 states factors to be used by agencies when they have discretion over the amount of a fine. The statute provides as follows:

(a) If a statute or rule gives an agency discretion over the amount of a fine, the agency must take the following factors into account in determining the amount of the fine:

- (1) the willfulness of the violation;
- (2) the gravity of the violation, including damage to humans, animals, and the natural resources of the state;
- (3) the history of past violations;
- (4) the number of violations;
- (5) the economic benefit gained by the person by allowing or committing the violation; and
- (6) other factors that justice may require.

(b) For a violation after an initial violation, the following factors must be considered in addition to the factors in paragraph (a):

- (1) similarity of previous violations to the current violation to be penalized;
- (2) time elapsed since the last violation;
- (3) number of previous violations; and
- (4) response of the person to the most recent previous violation identified.

during that time. If the committee has another similar violation, then the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee has no other similar violations by the end of the next election segment, the outstanding civil penalty is waived. In situations where the amount of the excess and/or improper contribution was \$50 or less, no part of the civil penalty has been stayed.

Here are some examples that will help illustrate the different options.

Example 1: The Jane Smith for House committee accepted a contribution from an individual in the amount of \$1,200 in 2018. The individual contribution limit for a house candidate was \$1,000. The Jane Smith for House campaign committee did not return the excess \$200 to the individual within 90 days of depositing the check and therefore the contribution was deemed accepted.

Example 2: The John Doe for Senate committee accepted a total of \$8,100 from political committees, political funds, and lobbyists in 2018. The aggregate special source limit for a senate candidate was \$6,600. The John Doe for Senate campaign committee did not return any of the excess \$1,500 to the political committees, political funds, or lobbyists within 90 days and therefore all the contributions were deemed accepted.

Example 3: The Jill Jackson for House committee accepted \$10,300 from political party units and terminating principal campaign committees in 2018. The aggregate political party unit and terminating principal campaign committee contribution limit for a house candidate was \$10,000 in 2018. The Jill Jackson for House committee did not return any of the excess \$300 to the political party units or terminating principal campaign committees within 90 days and therefore all the contributions were deemed accepted.

Example 4: The Mike Anderson for Senate committee accepted \$50 from Bob's Coffee, LLC. The Mike Anderson for Senate committee did not return the \$50 corporate contribution to Bob's Coffee, LLC within 90 days and therefore the contribution was deemed accepted.

Example 5: The Joe Hanson for Governor committee accepted \$1,000 from an unregistered association without obtaining the required disclosure statement. The Joe Hanson for Governor committee did not return any of the \$1,000 contribution to the unregistered association within 90 days and therefore the contribution was deemed accepted.

Example 6: The Anne Williams for House committee accepted \$400 from a registered lobbyist during the session. The Anne Williams for House committee did not return the \$400 contribution to the lobbyist within 90 days and therefore the contribution was deemed accepted.

**Option 1: No civil penalty imposed and the excess and/or improper contribution returned.**

Board staff agree that generally most committees, lobbyists, corporations, and unregistered association have no intent to violate the law and are disappointed to discover a violation. This option would recognize that lack of intent by not imposing a civil penalty but would prevent the candidate committee from benefiting from the excess and/or improper contribution. The option of no civil penalty would only apply to a first violation; any subsequent violations would have a civil penalty.

Example 1: The conciliation agreement for the Jane Smith for House committee requires proof that the committee returned the excess contribution of \$200 to the individual.

Example 2: The conciliation agreement for the John Doe for Senate committee requires proof that the committee returned the excess \$1,500 to the political committees, political funds, and lobbyists.

Example 3: The conciliation agreement for the Jill Jackson for House committee requires proof that the committee returned the excess \$300 to political party units and terminating principal campaign committees.

Example 4: The conciliation agreement for the Mike Anderson for Senate committee requires proof that the committee returned the \$50 to Bob's Coffee, LLC. Bob's Coffee, LLC also has conciliation agreement that agrees to violation.

Example 5: The conciliation agreement for the Joe Hanson for Governor committee requires proof that the committee returned \$800 to the unregistered association. Unregistered association also has conciliation agreement that agrees to violation.

Example 6: The conciliation agreement for the Anne Williams for House committee requires proof that the committee returned \$400 to lobbyist. Lobbyist also has a conciliation agreement that agrees to violation.

**Option 2: Civil penalty is one times the excess and/or improper amount and return the excess and/or improper contribution.** Although a committee's violation may be unintentional, the committee still has violated Chapter 10A. This option treats all violations equally in that the amount of the civil penalty is exactly the amount of the excess and/or improper contribution.

Example 1: The conciliation agreement for the Jane Smith for House committee requires proof that the committee returned the excess contribution of \$200 to the individual and imposes a civil penalty of \$200. Individual also has conciliation agreement that agrees to imposition of a civil penalty of \$200.

Example 2: The conciliation agreement for the John Doe for Senate committee requires proof that the committee returned the excess \$1,500 to special source contributors and imposes a civil penalty of \$1,500.

Example 3: The conciliation agreement for the Jill Jackson for House committee requires proof that the committee returned the excess \$300 to political party units and terminating principal campaign committees and imposes a civil penalty of \$300.

Example 4: The conciliation agreement for the Mike Anderson for Senate committee requires proof that the committee returned the \$50 to Bob's Coffee, LLC and agrees to a civil penalty of \$50. Bob's Coffee, LLC also has conciliation agreement that agrees to a civil penalty of \$50.

Example 5: The conciliation agreement for the Joe Hanson for Governor committee requires proof that the committee returned \$800 to the unregistered association and agrees to a civil penalty of \$800. Unregistered association also has a conciliation agreement that agrees to a civil penalty of \$800.

Example 6: The conciliation agreement for the Anne Williams for House campaign committee requires proof that the committee returned \$400 to lobbyist and agrees to a civil penalty of \$400. Lobbyist also has a conciliation agreement that agrees to a civil penalty of \$400.

**Option 3: Civil penalty is one times the excess and/or improper amount with a minimum payment of \$100 or 25% of the penalty (whichever is greater); remaining 75% of civil penalty stayed; and return excess and/or improper contribution.** Option 3 is similar to recent penalties imposed by the Board, but it sets a minimum amount that must be paid to prevent committees with violations involving large contributions from paying less in civil penalties than committees with similar violations involving smaller amounts due to the 75% stay.

Example 1: The conciliation agreement for the Jane Smith for House committee requires proof that the committee returned the excess contribution of \$200 to the individual and imposes a civil penalty of \$200 with \$100 of the civil penalty due immediately and \$100 stayed until January 1, 2023. If the committee has another similar violation before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does not have another similar violation before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

Individual also has a conciliation agreement that imposes a civil penalty of \$200 with \$100 of the civil penalty due immediately and \$100 stayed until January 1, 2023. If the individual has another similar violation before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the individual does not have another similar violation January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

Example 2: The conciliation agreement for the John Doe for Senate committee requires proof that the committee returned the excess \$1,500 to special source contributors and imposes a civil penalty of \$1,500 with \$375 of the civil penalty due immediately and \$1,125 stayed until January 1, 2023. If the committee has another similar violation before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does not have another similar violation before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

Example 3: The conciliation agreement for the Jill Jackson for House committee requires proof that the committee returned the excess \$300 to political party units and terminating principal campaign committees and imposes a civil penalty of \$300 with \$100 of the civil penalty due immediately and \$200 stayed until January 1, 2023. If the committee has another similar violation before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does not have another similar violation before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

In this example 25% of the \$300 civil penalty should be \$75; however we are recommending a minimum payment to make sure that a committee with a similar violation but a smaller excess does not pay more than a committee with a larger excess.

Example 4: The conciliation agreement for the Mike Anderson for Senate committee requires proof that the committee returned the \$50 to Bob's Coffee, LLC and imposes a civil penalty of \$50. Bob's Coffee, LLC also has conciliation agreement that imposes a civil penalty of \$50.

In this example, there is no stay of a portion of the civil penalty because the civil penalty of \$50 is less than the minimum payment.

Example 5: The conciliation agreement for the Joe Hanson for Governor committee requires proof that the committee returned \$800 to the unregistered association and imposes a civil penalty of \$800 with \$200 of the civil penalty due immediately and \$600 stayed until January 1, 2023. If the committee has another similar violation before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does not have another similar violation before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

The unregistered association also has a conciliation agreement that imposes a civil penalty of \$800 with \$200 of the civil penalty due immediately and \$600 stayed until January 1, 2023. If the unregistered association has another similar violation before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the unregistered association does not have another similar violation before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.



Example 6: The conciliation agreement for the Anne Williams for House committee requires proof that the committee returned \$400 to lobbyist and imposes a civil penalty of \$400 with \$100 of the civil penalty due immediately and \$300 stayed until January 1, 2023. If the committee has another similar violation before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does not have another similar violation before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

Lobbyist also has a conciliation agreement that imposes a civil penalty of \$400 with \$100 of the civil penalty due immediately and \$300 stayed until January 1, 2023. If the lobbyist has another similar violation before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the lobbyist does not have another similar violation before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

### **Conclusion and action**

Staff requests that the Board provide guidance on which approach to use with conciliation agreements starting with violations that were discovered as part of the filing of the 2019 year-end reports.



# MINNESOTA CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

**Date:** February 28, 2020

**To:** Board members  
Counsel Hartshorn

**From:** Andrew Olson, Legal/Management Analyst

**Subject:** Enforcement report for consideration at the March 6, 2020 Board meeting

## A. Consent Items

### 1. Administrative termination of lobbyist Bruce Miller (584)

A principal has requested that the lobbyist registration of Mr. Miller be terminated due to Mr. Miller's death on November 9, 2019. Board staff administratively terminated Mr. Miller's lobbyist registration as of that date. A reporting lobbyist for the same principal filed a lobbyist disbursement report inclusive of Mr. Miller covering the most recent reporting period.

### 2. Retroactive termination of lobbyist Ronald Harnack (1853)

Mr. Harnack recently filed a lobbyist termination statement that lists a termination date of December 31, 2018. Mr. Harnack has stated that he did not engage in lobbying at all in 2019 and Board staff terminated Mr. Harnack's lobbyist registration as of December 31, 2018. A reporting lobbyist for the same principal filed lobbyist disbursement reports covering 2019 that were inclusive of Mr. Harnack so there would be no need for Mr. Harnack to file disbursement reports covering that period regardless of whether the termination is retroactive to the end of 2018.

## B. Waiver Requests

#	Committee/ Entity	Late Fee/ Civil Penalty	Report Due	Factors	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
1	Kerry Brick (Investment Advisory Council)	\$5 LFF	Annual EIS	Official left the IAC, retired, and moved out of state in September 2019. The email address Board staff had on file was the official's work email address. The first notice mailed to his Minnesota address was not received at his new address until late February. He received the second notice in early February, informing him the EIS was late. EIS was due on 1/27/2020 and was filed on 2/11/2020.	No	Waive

2	Michael Kanner (Petrofund Board)	\$40 LFF	Annual EIS	Official retired from the MPCA and thereby ceased to be the Commissioner's designee to the Petrofund Board in August 2019. Board staff did not have the official's personal contact info at the time, but later obtained a home address and mailed a letter. Once the letter was received the EIS was filed. EIS was due 1/27/2020 and was filed on 2/21/2020.	No	Waive
3	Rekoe Howard (4461)	\$275 LFF	2nd 2019 lobbyist report	Lobbyist was hospitalized near the time when the report was due on 1/15/2020. Report was filed 1/31/2020.	\$25 LFF waived in Feb. 2019 due to difficulty logging into website	Waive
4	Leech Lake PAC (40889)	\$225 LFF	2019 Year-End	The Leech Lake Band experienced a cyber attack 1/27/2020, resulting in the loss of access to the internet and its email and accounting systems for an extended period of time. The report was filed 2/13/2020, listing an ending cash balance of \$14,923.	\$350 in LFFs waived in October 2014 due to staff turnover; \$450 LFF waived in June 2014 due to death of employee who assisted with reports	Waive
5	Maren Schroeder (4539)	\$50 LFF	2nd 2019 lobbyist report	Lobbyist was filing a lobbyist disbursement report for the first time and initially thought the report was due 1/31/2020 rather than 1/15/2020, because that is the date campaign finance reports were due and she is the treasurer for a candidate committee. The report was filed 1/17/2020, disclosing no disbursements during the reporting period. Lobbyist states the fee would cause economic hardship.	No	Waive
6	Scott Klein (Two Rivers WD)	\$110 LFFs \$500 CP	Original and Annual EIS	Official was appointed in January 2019. Board staff received notice of the appointment months later and letters were sent in August, September, October, and December 2019, and January 2020. The original EIS was due 10/14/2019 and the annual EIS was due 1/27/2020. An EIS was filed 2/12/2020. The amount owed includes a \$100 LFF and \$500 CP for the original EIS and \$10 LFF for the annual EIS. The official is a farmer who was busy dealing with an extended harvest season in late 2019 and initially thought he was not required to file an EIS because he is appointed rather than elected.	No	Waive CP leaving balance of \$110 owed for LFFs

7	Rebecca Peichel for House (17125)	\$850 LFFs	2017, 2018, and 2019 Year-End	No-change statements were filed 2/2/2018, 2/26/2019, and 2/24/2020, resulting in LFFs of \$50, \$425, and \$375, respectively. The committee has not had any financial activity since 2011 and has a cash balance of \$500. Treasurer has filed a termination report and mailed a check for \$500 to the Board.	\$250 LFF waived in April 2014 because treasurer filed a no-change statement that would have been timely, but covered the wrong calendar year	Reduce LFFs to total of \$500
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### C. Informational Items

#### 1. Payment of late filing fee for 2019 year-end report of receipts and expenditures

Lisa Neal-Delgado for State Representative, \$25

#### 2. Partial payment of late filing fee for September 2018 report of receipts and expenditures

Minnesota Gun Owners Political Action Committee, \$500

#### 3. Payment of late filing fee for 2018 pre-primary report of receipts and expenditures

Minnesota Gun Owners Political Action Committee, \$1,000

#### 4. Payment of late filing fee for June 2018 report of receipts and expenditures

Minnesota Gun Owners Political Action Committee, \$1,000

#### 5. Partial payment of late filing fee for 2018 first quarter report of receipts and expenditures

Minnesota Gun Owners Political Action Committee, \$500

#### 6. Payment of late filing fee for 2016 year-end report of receipts and expenditures

Meyer (Christopher John) for Minnesota, \$500

#### 7. Payment of late filing fee for lobbyist disbursement report due 1/15/2020

William King, \$25  
Gary Wertish, \$50

#### 8. Payment of late filing fee for lobbyist principal report due 3/15/2019

Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association, \$100

**9. Payment of late filing fee for 2019 Annual EIS**

Landon Olson, \$5

**10. Payment of civil penalty for 2017 Annual EIS**

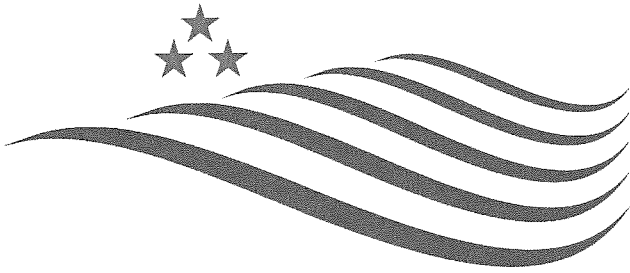
Dan Schoen, \$250

**11. Payment of late filing fee for 2017 Annual EIS**

Dan Schoen, \$25

**12. Forwarded anonymous contribution**

Connie Bernardy Volunteer Team (House), \$50



# Minnesota Farmers Union

Minnesota Farmers Union  
305 Roselawn Ave E, Suite 200  
St. Paul, MN 55117

February 10, 2020

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board  
Attn: Andrew Olson, Management Analyst  
658 Cedar Street, Suite 190  
St. Paul, MN 55155

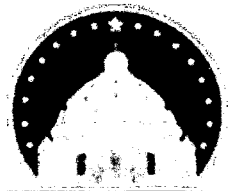
Dear Mr. Olson,

We write to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board to administratively terminate our former employee, Bruce A. Miller (registration # 584). Bruce Miller passed away unexpectedly on November 9, 2019. For this reason, his termination date was November 9, 2019. We do not have any lobbying disbursements made on Bruce Miller's behalf.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stu Lourey", written over a long horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature area.

Stu Lourey  
Government Relations Director and Lobbyist Principal, Minnesota Farmers Union  
(320)-232-3047



# Minnesota Campaign Finance Board

190 Centennial Office Building, 658 Cedar St, St Paul, MN 55155 <https://cfb.mn.gov/>

## Lobbyist Termination Statement

### Filing instructions

- This statement must be completed and filed with a Lobbyist Disbursement Report when terminating a lobbyist registration.
- This form may be emailed to [cf.board@state.mn.us](mailto:cf.board@state.mn.us) or faxed to 651-539-1196 or 800-357-4114.
- All information on this form or report is public information and may be published on the Board's website at <https://cfb.mn.gov/>
- Do not use pencil or red ink to complete this form.
- Board staff may also be reached by phone at 651-539-1187 or 800-657-3889 or by email at [cf.board@state.mn.us](mailto:cf.board@state.mn.us).

### Lobbyist information

Name of lobbyist <b>Ronald Harnack</b>		Registration number <b>1853</b>
Address <b>1361 Highland Pkwy</b>		
City, state, zip <b>St. Paul, MN 55116</b>	Telephone (Daytime) <b>651.341.7651</b>	
Name of association, individual, political subdivision or public higher education system represented <b>Minnesota Biofuels Association (MBA)</b>		Registration number <b>9767</b>

Date of termination: 12/31/2018

### Certification

I, Ronald D. Harnack, certify that this report is complete, true, and correct.  
Print or type name of lobbyist

*Ronald D. Harnack*  
Signature of lobbyist

January 31, 2020  
Date

**Any person who signs and certifies to be true a report or statement which the person knows contains false information, or who knowingly omits required information, is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Board of up to \$3,000 and is subject to criminal prosecution for a gross misdemeanor.**

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 651-539-1180, 800-657-3889, or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529.

## Kerry Brick (Investment Advisory Council)

**From:** Kerry Brick <[brickkerry@gmail.com](mailto:brickkerry@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 1:07 PM  
**To:** Pope, Jodi (CFB) <[jodi.pope@state.mn.us](mailto:jodi.pope@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Annual certification for Kerry Brick

Good afternoon. I wanted to let you know that today I received via regular mail a Campaign Finance Board certification notice dated December 30 and postmarked December 31. It was sent to my old Minnesota address and forwarded to me. I had mentioned to you previously that I didn't recall seeing this notice.

Kerry

On Tue, Feb 11, 2020 at 3:05 PM Kerry Brick <[brickkerry@gmail.com](mailto:brickkerry@gmail.com)> wrote:

Sorry, January 31.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Kerry Brick <[brickkerry@gmail.com](mailto:brickkerry@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2020 at 3:02 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Annual certification for Kerry Brick  
**To:** Pope, Jodi (CFB) <[jodi.pope@state.mn.us](mailto:jodi.pope@state.mn.us)>

I should have mentioned that I received the past due notice today, February 11. The letter is dated January 21.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Kerry Brick <[brickkerry@gmail.com](mailto:brickkerry@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2020 at 2:50 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Annual certification for Kerry Brick  
**To:** Pope, Jodi (CFB) <[jodi.pope@state.mn.us](mailto:jodi.pope@state.mn.us)>

I don't recall seeing an original notice. The current past due notice (which prompted my call to you) was forwarded by the US postal service from my old Edina address to my new South Dakota address (which was effective September 2019). The original notice could have been lost in the mail, or perhaps it was also forwarded and I simply misplaced it.

FYI, the annual certification that I just completed includes contact and employer information for the time I was on the Council. It is not accurate today. I assume that's the information requested by your department.

Let me know if anything else is needed.

On Tue, Feb 11, 2020 at 2:34 PM Pope, Jodi (CFB) <[jodi.pope@state.mn.us](mailto:jodi.pope@state.mn.us)> wrote:

Kerry,



Could you confirm by email when you received the first notice from the Board regarding the annual certification. Although you mentioned that in your telephone message, I don't believe that it was in your emails to me.

Thank you.

Jodi

**From:** Kerry Brick <[brickkerry@gmail.com](mailto:brickkerry@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:32 PM  
**To:** Pope, Jodi (CFB) <[jodi.pope@state.mn.us](mailto:jodi.pope@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Annual certification for Kerry Brick

Jodi,

I've updated the 2019 certification.

Please make a fee waiver request to the Board on my behalf. I can be reached at [brickkerry@gmail.com](mailto:brickkerry@gmail.com) or 612-802-6782.

Thank you

Kerry

Feb. 21, 2020

Jodi Pope  
MN Campaign Finance Board  
Suite 190  
Centennial Office Bldg.  
558 Cedar St.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1603

MN CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD  
20 FEB 24 2020

Dear Ms. Pope,

Good talking to you today about my annual certification. It will be in the mail today.

You had trouble reaching me until I got your letter earlier this week. I retried August 6, 2019. Please waive the late filing fee therefore. Please pass this request to your Board.

Thanks much,  
Michael Kanner



Michael Kanner  
2005 Norfolk Ave  
Saint Paul, MN 55116

612/704-1185

To Whom it may concern Campaign finance board I am a registered lobbyist who has had no operations of said organization SAVE MN./4:20 coalition. I have failed to meet the finance reporting deadline. I was in the hospital having major lung surgery with complications after medical procedure was performed. I have had numerous hospitalizations due to this issue. I am asking the board to please consider waiving the non reporting fees.

Sincerely Rekoe Howard  
1/31/20

### Designated lobbyist status

I was the designated lobbyist for this association.

### Lobbyist reporting status

Complete one of the following three sections

I was a self-reporting lobbyist and:

I have no disbursements to report for the current reporting period.

OR

I have enclosed a Lobbyist Disbursement Report disclosing disbursements made during the current reporting period.

Lobbying disbursements made by me during the period from the last report filed through my termination are being reported by:

Name of lobbyist: \_\_\_\_\_ Lobbyist registration #: \_\_\_\_\_

I was the reporting lobbyist for:

Name of lobbyist(s) I reported for	Lobbyist reg. #

The enclosed Lobbyist Disbursement Report includes disbursements made by the lobbyists I am authorized to report for.

OR

The enclosed Lobbyist Disbursement Report does not include disbursements made by the lobbyists I am authorized to report for.

**From:** Robert Washington <[robert.washington@llojibwe.net](mailto:robert.washington@llojibwe.net)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 4:42 PM  
**To:** Engelhardt, Megan (CFB) <[megan.engelhardt@state.mn.us](mailto:megan.engelhardt@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Leech Lake PAC

**This message may be from an external email source.**

Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

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Good Afternoon Megan,

I am writing to request a late fee waiver of \$225.00 for our PAC finance report. We were unable to submit the report in a timely manner as our organization was the victim of a cyber attack on 1/27/2020. The attack completely took down our email server, accounting system, and it knocked out our internet access.

It took over two weeks for us to get our new email addresses and limited internet access, and our accounting system is currently still offline. I submitted the report as soon as I was able to and I plan to get them done a couple weeks in advance going forward to (hopefully) avoid any further late submissions.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns,

Thank you,

Robert Washington  
Cash Management Team Leader  
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe  
Office: 218-335-4437  
Cell: 218-553-0071

## Lobbyist Maren Schroeder (4539)

**From:** Maren Schroeder <[maren@marenjoyce.com](mailto:maren@marenjoyce.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020 1:20 PM  
**To:** Engelhardt, Megan (CFB) <[megan.engelhardt@state.mn.us](mailto:megan.engelhardt@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Lobbyist Report Late Fee Waiver Request (#4539)

**This message may be from an external email source.**

Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

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Ms. Engelhardt,

I am writing today to request a waiver for the late filing fee of \$50 accrued between January 15, 2020 and January 17, 2020 based on the following showing of good cause:

- I lobby on behalf of a non-profit, social welfare organization called Sensible Change Minnesota (the “organization”). The organization operates on a small budget, and hires me, on a contract basis, to provide government relations for a nominal fee and partial expense reimbursement.
- The organization spent less than \$10,000 on lobbying activities in 2019 and expects to spend about the same in 2020.
- I was registered as an authorizing lobbyist, with Brandan Borogs (#4538, now terminated) registered as the organization’s reporting lobbyist.
- Mr. Borgos left the organization effective September 1, 2019.
- I had set a calendar reminder for January 31, 2020 to submit reports and update registrations, as that is in-line with campaign reporting. Obviously, this was my mistake, which I realized on January 17, 2020.
- On January 17, 2020, after realizing my report was late, I immediately contacted the Campaign Finance Board to find out what I needed to do to rectify the situation. My report was filed the same day, along with Mr. Borgos’s termination.

Given the nominal income I receive from this work, the inadvertent late report, and the immediate rectification of missing the deadline, I am asking the Board to waive the late filing fee of \$50. This fee provides a hardship for me, as I am a low-income Minnesotan, receiving means-tested benefits, who provides limited services for a nominal fee to a non-profit organization.

Please let me know if you need additional information from me for this fee waiver request.

Best Regards,

**Maren Joyce Schroeder**  
Lobbyist Reg. Number 4539  
P: 507-226-3578  
E: [maren@marenjoyce.com](mailto:maren@marenjoyce.com)  
W: [www.marenjoyce.com](http://www.marenjoyce.com)  
[Pronouns: she/her/hers](#)  
[Schedule a meeting!](#)

IN CAMPAIGN FINANCE 80  
20 FEB 14 AM 11:15

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS:

In reply to the repeated requests for personal information on Campaign & Finance Disclosure form, I would like to reply with some background and situational information.

First of all, the board in question is our local watershed board that meets once a month to discuss our local drainage concerns and issues. I am a farmer in the local area and I serve as one of the supervisors.

Being a farmer, we have extreme hours from the start of harvest till freeze up in an effort to complete our needed tasks. This year was an extreme extension of our harvest due to the excessive moisture. On a normal year we will usually have the harvest portion of our fall completed by the end of October, this year our combines were still trying to get across the fields on December 28<sup>th</sup>. It was during this extended time that I was receiving your boards requests for information. Priorities directed my attentions other places, due to this your request forms were shuffled into a pile on my desk that didn't receive my attention until the end of the year.

As I worked my way through my neglected stack of mail I discovered your Campaign & Finance forms but at this time didn't give them much consideration due to the fact that I didn't figure that they applied to the position I held. I've had to complete these forms before when I held an elected position on our counties Soil n Water conservation board so I was familiar with the process. With that being said, my current position is an appointed position by the county, so this lead me to believe that since there was no election and no expenses incurred during campaigning there was no need for me to respond. It was when I received the certified mail that I realized that there was something about the process that I was unaware of. It was at that time that I placed a call to Ms. Pope.

During my conversation with Ms. Pope I explained the situation that had occurred and my reluctance to have to pay any fines for serving on a local board that is primarily volunteer. She encouraged me to write a letter that explained my view and submit it for board review. With all that being said let me end this letter with my appreciation for your consideration of my plea for suspension of fines. Respectfully submitted Scott Klein

## Rebecca Peichel for House (17125)

**From:** [gdpeichel@gmail.com](mailto:gdpeichel@gmail.com) <[gdpeichel@gmail.com](mailto:gdpeichel@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 8:15 AM  
**To:** Engelhardt, Megan (CFB) <[megan.engelhardt@state.mn.us](mailto:megan.engelhardt@state.mn.us)>  
**Cc:** 'Rebecca Peichel' <[rebeccapeichel@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccapeichel@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Rebecca Peichel for House

Megan:

Attached is the Termination Report. I will send it by mail with a check also.

I am sorry that we have been late with the filings. In the past it seemed that we got email notices of important due dates. In looking through those emails the email address that I had on file was one that I abandoned a few years ago!

We also had issues with the computer where our software was running on and were not able to recover the software. Finally our campaign has been dormant for many years and it just was not top of mind to get it sent in.

I am paying the remaining \$500 in campaign funds toward the fines and respectfully ask that you waive the balance of \$350.

Thank you.

George Peichel  
612.209.6740



**CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD  
March 2019**

**ACTIVE FILES**

Candidate/Treasurer/ Lobbyist	Committee/Agency	Report Missing/ Violation	Late Fee/ Civil Penalty	Referred to AGO	Date S&C Served by Mail	Default Hearing Date	Date Judgment Entered	Case Status
Chilah Brown Michele Berger	Brown (Chilah) for Senate	Unfiled 2016 Year- End Report of Receipts and Expenditures  Unpaid late filing fee on 10/31/16 Pre- General Election Report	\$1,000 LF \$1,000 CP  \$50 LF	3/6/18	8/10/18			Board is working on the matter. Placed on hold.
Katy Humphrey, Kelli Latuska	Duluth DFL	Unfiled 2016 Year- End Report of Receipts and Expenditures	\$1,000 LF \$1,000 CP	3/6/18	8/10/18			Board is working on the matter. Placed on hold. 3/5/19
Dan Schoen		2017 Annual Statement of Economic Interest	\$100 LF \$1,000 CP	1/28/19	3/27/19			Placed on hold by Board.

**CLOSED FILES**

Candidate/Treasurer/ Lobbyist	Committee/Agency	Report Missing/ Violation	Late Fee/ Civil Penalty	Referred to AGO	Date S&C Served by Mail	Default Hearing Date	Date Judgment Entered	Case Status
Christopher John Meyer	Meyer for Minnesota	Fees and Penalty for late filing of 2016 Year-End Report of Receipts and Expenditures	\$1,000 LF \$1,000 CP	7/28/17	9/6/17	1/24/2020	2/20/2020	Settled; dismissed