

CCRP Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.
Clinton County Courthouse
Approved 8/17/2023

1. Call to Order – Chair Steve Willis called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Invocation – Given by Dan Smith
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call – 12 duly elected members of the Executive Committee were in attendance; a quorum was established. 14 members were absent, 8 with prior excuse.
5. Approval of Agenda – Mark Balfanz motioned to postpone the consideration of the Constitutional County Resolution. No discussion. Second by Tim Roberts. Bill Sherman motioned to postpone the Treasurer’s Report. No discussion. Second by Paula Caltrider. Jim Howe motioned to approve the agenda as amended. No discussion. Second by Bill Sherman.
6. Approval of Minutes – Jim Howe motioned, Bill Sherman seconded approval of the minutes from the April 19, 2023 Executive Committee meeting.
7. Reports of Officers:
 - a. Ben was excused and Treasurer’s report postponed.
 - b. Nancy reported the information that was presented at the State Committee meeting held on June 10, 2023 in Grand Rapids. A resolution of intent was offered to change the way the Michigan Republican Party will hold its Presidential Primary since legislation was passed and signed by the Governor to change the date to February 27th which puts the party in violation of the National Republican Campaign Committee bylaws. Rules had to be suspended so that the resolution could be adopted that day and get sent to the RNC for review and approval so that the Rules Committee of the State Committee could work on the more detailed rules that would govern the new type of primary we would move to. The reason the changes need to be made is due to the bylaw violation of having our primary before March 1. Only 4 states are allowed to do this and we would only get 13 delegates to our national convention instead of 55. By changing the structure of our primary system we would have an open primary where 16 delegates would be apportioned then the 13 districts would caucus after the primary and pick 3 delegates from each district that would pledge their support to their chosen candidate, thus preserving all 55 delegates. Details are still be worked out on how all of this would occur but the final plan needs to be presented to the RNC by October 1, 2023 for us to have this plan work. The motion to suspend the rule was approved and the resolution was approved. Nancy also suggested each precinct delegate consider a \$100 donation to the party so that we could raise the needed funds for our 2024 elections.
8. Chair’s Report – Steve Willis explained the following:
 - a. Steve is one of 15 chairs on the State Committee County Chairs Committee.
 - b. The MIGOP precincts plan is a database controlled by the state party tailored to each county for their use.

- c. MIGOP will be rolling out the Good Neighbor Plan and the playbooks associated with it will be used by each county for delegate and candidate training with information resources to upload.
- d. Eagle update – The pause is gone and the study is going to be finished with the County paying the remaining \$8,000 to contribute for it to be done. After the pause was eliminated drilling of a well and a busload of people appearing to be of Asian descent toured the site with the head of LEAP. Ken Mitchell, County Commissioner spoke to the plan stating that Eagle still has to adopt the county Master plan through a planning commission before they become legal. Ken was asked numerous questions and a resident from Watertown Twp. asked about Ken’s work with LEAP and the payments the county level to LEAP as well as the hiring of a LEAP employee to do M-21 Corridor Economic Development for \$100,000.
- e. The recall petitions of the supervisor and others were denied by the panel for petition approval. Now the petition language is being revamped and resubmitted.

9. Committee Reports:

- a. Legislation and ordinance tracking and review
David Smith is on the subcommittee for solar and wind. There is a moratorium on any new business. David explained that there are 11 townships with no planning commissions. There will be a presentation by Chris Khorey on July 12th at 7:30 p.m. in Duplain Twp. regarding planning commissions.
- b. CCRP events – Lincoln Day Dinner had 172 attendees and to date brought in \$21407.97 before expenses.
- c. Summer BBQ will be on July 20, 2023 at the St. Johns City park from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Details still be worked on.
- d. Discussion on whether we want to attend any of our county fairs and festivals to promote the CCRP or just mingle and talk to people and try to recruit new people to our meetings.
- e. Election Integrity – 4-5 people working on voter rolls and PIME and Mifairelections with that process.
- f. Social Media – Monthly meetings are now being taped and put on Facebook. Aug. 26th is the 7th District picnic and September 7th is Euchre night at the district level as part of their fundraising plan.
- g. School Board Elections – There are 14 school districts and emails have been sent out to recruit those who would like to run for a school board position. The committee will try and get a contact person from each district to help with candidates. The committee will also work on vetting current board members.
- h. Precinct delegate recruitment – This committee has not met yet but Steve and Lisa Barrone will be meeting.
- i. Candidate Recruitment – An email requesting anyone seeking to run for office communicate with Nancy Bareham. She will be setting up a meeting to discuss what running for office involves and who wants to run for what positions. She also would like a candidate to run against both House Reps in 75th and 77th.

10. CCRP resolutions for consideration – POSTPONED

11. Elected Officials Report:

- a. Tony Spagnuolo County Prosecutor explained legislation going through the House that would get rid of cash bonds called Bail Reform Legislation and Truth in Sentencing which the democratic led legislature wants to get rid of so they could reduce the sentence of criminals and he explained the Supreme Court rules of ethics. Also a package of bills in the legislature is Jury Reform which would allow convicted criminals to sit on a jury. He is not in favor of most of these reforms and is working

with the Prosecutors Association to stop them. The red flag laws that passed opens a pandora's box and it's difficult to defend yourself if you are charged.

- b. Dave Seeger Dewitt Township Trustee – the south public safety building project off of business 27 is almost complete with \$32 million.
- c. Sheriff Sean Dush – his department is now fully staffed. He believes the red flag laws that passed are unconstitutional and that our three county judges have concerns with them as well. He is still working with the Sheriff's Association on any guidance they have and several counties have stated they will not enforce these laws. The commissioners gave his department funding for a forensic detective who works on technology involving scams and pedophilia. It is a huge issue all across the country. The county commissioners also gave funding for his department to buy a new scanner which will help identify if a prisoner has drugs on their person. Fentanyl is a huge problem and this will help keep this drug from entering the prison and possibly harming deputies and other staff.

12. Other Business:

- a. Gail Waddell would like the CCRP to do the adopt a highway clean up. Nancy will look into the issue.
- b. Turning Point USA – Miguel Pilar joined us to discuss how they are working in Michigan to recruit delegates and endorse candidates. They are also developing a transparency scorecard for the legislators and Congress.

13. Next meeting - Thursday, August 17, 2023 at the Victor Twp. Hall.

14. Adjournment - Mark Balfanz motioned, Paul Caltrider second. Meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.