

## BCD Members Meeting Agenda April 2021

Meeting began at 7:03 pm  
13 members in attendance

Meeting minutes approved.

- Land Acknowledgement: We recognize Michigan's federally recognized Native Nations, and historic Indigenous communities who live here now, and those who were forcibly removed from their homelands. In offering this land acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty, history and experiences.
- Bylaws
  - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/17t0Y0TVbUZ5waEHrwROkyYKfOeL7jMv3/view?usp=sharing>
  - Open floor for discussion
    - Dorothy suggested changing the wording of club in reference to our group to the local democratic party or unit. This is a term that is used by the MDP but is not necessarily reflective of our group
    - Anyone on the checking account must take themselves off of the account but it will be considered a gentleman's agreement rather than in the specific bylaws.
    - 7.2 certifications of committees. Proposed changing committees to the current group of committees.
      - Finance committee is included in these bylaws. Is this the executive committee? Would we be able to consider this the finance committee. We could also take the finance committee out.
    - Bylaws need to be dated, Dorothy Cherry suggested changing these to the current committee and any committee that would happen in the future.
      - Moved by Dorothy Cherry, Seconded by Dave McMillan, All in favor (11 yes, 0 no)
    - Moved by Amy , seconded by David
      - All in Favor (11 yes, 0 no)
  - Vote for Adoption - Recorded by Hillary
- Treasurer's Report (Anita)
  - Administrative
    - Checking: \$2138.08
    - Savings: \$1507.32
  - State
    - Checking: \$80.04
    - Savings: \$20.73
  - Federal
    - Checking: \$5.62
    - Savings: \$22.72
- MDP Leadership Conference Recap
  - Jeff attended the redistricting and rapid response sessions and found it helpful

- Regen went to recruit and maintain members and candidate recruiting and bench building.
  - Call for candidates! We need to be actively recruiting and encouraging others to run.
- Candidates, Candidates, Candidates
  - Coldwater Mayoral position is open. Application deadline is the 10th of May.
- Chair's Call Updates
  - State Conventions will have hybrid attendance in the future
  - Plug webinar series
- Chamber of Commerce Meeting with Rep Fink Update
  - The subject and purpose of the meeting was to discuss how covid has represented our area. John Hutchinson attended
    - John reported that 8 people attended. Only one employer attended.
    - John posed the question of what would happen if we actually ceded the power
    - Fink was unable to answer and the paper reported his answer
    - Send out emails about attending chamber of commerce meetings specifically democrats and forward leaning independents.
- Rural Caucus Update
  - Speaker: Gary McDowell, the Director of Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)
  - Reviving our American Democracy (ROAD)
  - Media Neutralization Project
  - Rural Caucus Membership
    - Goal is 2000 members
    - [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqgnvs0jk45VtIR50ffQzkjPkt\\_hYcFw-TBKYfdPZGeyDvDIw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqgnvs0jk45VtIR50ffQzkjPkt_hYcFw-TBKYfdPZGeyDvDIw/viewform)
  - RC PAC and Super PAC have been created
    - \$2-5 million donation goal over 2 years
    - Allows for corporate donations
- Anita brought up the idea of sending out postcards specifically with "Farmers are essential" Rural Caucus will get back to us.
- 7th CD (Regen)
  - **CD7 Anti-Wahlberg Billboard Campaign**
    - Help us hold Republican U.S. Representative Walberg accountable for his treasonous and anti-democratic behaviors.
    - <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/mi7cdbillboard?refcode=branch> (This link is specific for Branch County donors to use)

- Previous meeting minutes (3/21):  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YPKYE3EtORWcTjICsNvyzv8pZbyjHPOz7Xco2yn9Qco/edit?usp=sharing>
    - New meeting date April 22 at 7:00 PM
- Michigan Redistricting Updates
  - Public Hearing Schedule
    - <https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/0,10083,7-418-92033-547695--,00.html>
    - Jackson meeting May 11
  - Working with MDP to produce a fair branch county/7th CD map
  - County Commission
    - Clerk, Treasurer, Prosecuting Attorney, Dem Chair, GOP Chair
    - Meetings will start when census data arrives
    - The mdp suggests having a lawyer available, but there was a question and non commitment to having a lawyer available to our small organizations who cannot afford this type of
      - Chuck Lillis, John Hutchinson, Backert, Dorothy Cherry is retired but still licensed and offered to assist if needed
- MDP April Webinar Series
  - Links to register for the webinar are included on the document and are open and free to any MDP member
  - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/14urstBW5Tt9vVVskNu2uC1XvXm-mDEC4MIZbhGNC0E/edit?usp=sharing>
- Upcoming Events (Jeff)
  - Highway Cleanup - Saturday April 17th @ 9:30am
  - Strawberry -June 19th
  - Branch County Fair Aug 7th-14th
  - BCD Annual Picnic: Thursday, August 26 (6-7:30)
  - Apple Fest - Sept 18th
  - Sometime in July and September
- Call for event planning committee members
  - Hillary, Jeff, Amy and Anita will be on the planning committee for the events.
- Are we able or willing to safely meet in person.
  - Would the outdoor pavilion at the coldwater township hall be acceptable for meeting?
    - We will wait until the positivity drops below 5% and the weather is more appropriate for an outdoor meeting.
- Adjournment at 8:07 pm

Meeting Minutes Submitted Respectfully,  
 Hillary Raymond  
 Secretary