

The Illinois Ballot Integrity Project

-----  
Minutes of the July 13, 2005, Meeting  
Compiled by Roy L.

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:08.

Present

-----  
Lora C.  
Roy L.  
Larry Q.  
Neal R.  
Clare T.  
Bill W.  
Delphyne W.  
Kevin M. (observer)

Reports

-----

1. Cook County Board meeting.

Lora reported on the Cook County Board meeting of July 12.

She said the Board voted to accept the contract with Sequoia, and only then accepted comments from the public on any matters.

Still, the contract seemed to have something less than total support among the Board members, and Lora thinks this may provide an opening for further action on our part.

Lora said Bev Harris's upcoming report on Sequoia machines is still not ready for publication. When it is, Lora will make it available to the members of the County Board.

Though the Board normally meets every two weeks, it takes a break in the summer, and will not meet again before September.

Lora also said she checked into the reports that Sequoia's president cited two weeks ago.

- a. Lora was unable to locate the report prepared by the University of Missouri.
- b. Lora located two reports from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The first said there was no discrepancies between the exit polls and the voting machines. The second refuted the first, and said the first was flawed because it used the pollsters' altered data instead of their original data. So these two reports from MIT did not support Sequoia's reliability.

After Lora's report, we discussed possible courses of action.

Neal asked whether public hearings were required before this contract could be signed. If so, the Board may have overreached its authority to sign that contract. Several County officials claim that public hearings were held--the voting machine demonstration at the County Building, the Finance Committee hearings--but it's dubious that these meet the legal definition of a "public hearing." Lora said

she would raise this question with an attorney she knows.

Someone suggested that we should also verify whether the City of Chicago was in compliance on any such requirement.

Another suggestion was to check whether there was sufficient input from the handicap community. But Kevin says that representatives of handicap groups did meet on several occasions with officials of the County Clerks office.

Roy suggested that, since the Sequoia contract is now a public document, we get a copy and study it. He also suggested that we get "in the loop" on public notices and agendas of upcoming meetings of the Board and its committees.

Kevin commented that the Sequoia contract includes four types of machines:

- a. Touch-screen voting machine.
- b. Optiscan ballot reader.
- c. "Accumulator," which combines the totals from two above machines.
- d. A central tabulator, which combines totals from all the accumulators.

## 2. 5% "Discovery Recount"

a. The newly passed Illinois HB1968 requires a mandatory random 5% "discovery recount" in each County. But this seems to apply only to touch-screen systems. We should push the County to implement a mandatory recount for optiscan machines as well.

b. There is some question whether a 5% discovery recount is adequate under all circumstances. Lora is working with Ron Baiman to develop a chart showing the minimum required percentage for various sized counties and various levels of fraud. They will also design a proposed set of procedures for performing the audits.

## 3. Source code review.

The contract with Sequoia allows for County to inspect the machines' source code. The County is free to select experts of its own choosing.

## 4. Touch-screens as HAVA compliant.

Lora questioned whether the paper trail produced by the Sequoia touch-screen system will meet HAVA requirements for handicap use.

HAVA requires that the voter be able to independently verify the ballot. But blind voters cannot verify the Sequoia paper trail. The auditory feedback provided by the Sequoia machine is generated not from the paper trail, but from the digital ballot.

She also says that the Sequoia paper rolls that constitute the paper trail can easily be smudged. Moreover, their physical makeup makes them almost impossible to use for a recount. Nevada tried to use them in doing a recount, but finally gave up and outsourced the task to Sequoia.

Lora reports that tactile, non-digital devices for accessible voting are available, including ones from Accupoll and Automark. A list of

such devices is posted at <http://verifiedvoting.org>. Rhode Island has experience using such devices.

#### 5. "Ten Essentials"

Larry introduced his paper on the "Ten Essentials" for honest elections.

#### New Business

The meeting decided on the following organization elements:

1. A voting member shall be any person who attends at least three Illinois Ballot Integrity Project meetings in the prior twelve months.
2. A meeting quorum shall consist of seven voting members.
3. A yea-vote of five voting members is required to pass any measure.

#### Announcements

Neal announced that there will be a showing of the film "Invisible Ballots" on Sunday, July 31, 7 pm, at Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark, in Chicago. Kevin M. and Larry Q. will introduce discussion of the film. More info at 773/250-3225 or email [andersonvilleneighborsforpeace@yahoo.com](mailto:andersonvilleneighborsforpeace@yahoo.com)

#### Action items

#### Volunteer

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Obtain legal opinion on whether public hearings were required of the Cook County Board before it voted on the Sequoia contract. Do the same for the Chicago City Council. | Lora                 |
| 2. If public hearings were required, consider available courses of action.   | All                  |
| 3. Contact the "Election Reform Meetup" and consider inviting them to join our group.  | Lora                 |
| 4. Contact County Board members to discuss whether and how the Sequoia purchase might be stopped.  | Lora<br>Neal<br>Bill |
| 5. Check whether Thelma is available to examine the Sequoia contract.  | Roy                  |
| 6. Recruit for our group at the Disabled Pride Parade on July 23. (Lora and Neal ask that other members of our group also help.)   | Lora<br>Neal         |
| 7. Propose to the County a pilot project for a 100% handcount in a small number of precincts.  | Lora                 |

The proposal is to be modeled on one of the four methods offered by Lynn Landes at <http://www.ecotalk.org> .

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.