

Montrose County Republican Party ('MCRCC')  
**DRAFT      Minutes of Central Committee Meeting**  
**March 9, 2017**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Schram called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. **Dr. Canfield** let the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Keith Caddy**.

Welcome of Elected Officials, Guests & Attendees: County Commissioner Keith Caddy, County Treasurer Rosemary Murphy, County Assessor Brad Hughes, County Coroner Dr. Tom Canfield.

Chairman Schram announced that several Executive Committee members were absent; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Spencer Hamner (Army Reserve Duty); 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair David Laursen (illness); Secretary Charli Oswald (illness). PR Chair Kerri Catlin was absent due to Parent/Teacher Conference.

Strategy & Planning Chair Tricia Joy would take Minutes;

**Minutes Approval:** February 8, 2017

Motion to approve by Ray Langston, Second by **Jim Isler**

**Treasurer's Report:** Chairman Schram presented the Treasurer's Report, as a Treasurer Carla Logan has resigned. Chairman Schram confirmed and reviewed several items that may have been addressed in full or part, at MCRCC discussion of the Accounting & Tracer audit and review ("A/R") but were being highlighted here, in whole or part, to provide a baseline of financial information for the 2017 MCRCC Executive Committee and those attending.

The completed A/R resulted in an Amended Treasurer's Report for December 2016, with a bank balance \$6,059.49. As a result of the Tracer Report\* Review, it was determined that \$4,801.03 would be returned to businesses (Corporate or LLC) that, over the course of prior years, had inadvertently paid sponsorships, contributed items for auctions, and/or made donations or provided in-kind (non-monetary) value that had been incorrectly entered. These cash, tangible items (e.g. load of gravel) and/or in-kind donations should have been made by individuals, or, in the case of LLC entity, LLC member info was to have been provided. Cash donations are being returned, where the donor can be located. Of the business donors contacted to date, verbal discussions anticipate that several thousand dollars is anticipated to be donated in the name of individuals.

The balance of \$6,059.49 was adjusted for deduction of \$4,801.03, three January deposits totaling \$474.66 were received, for a December balance of \$1,733.18. A payment of \$ 580.13 was made to **Marty Neilson** for the A/R services provided, a significantly reduced fee relative to the time and expertise required for the A/R. February income was \$300 **resulting in an February end of month balance of \$423.17.**

Ray Langston made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, which was seconded by Kay Heinschel, and unanimously approved by voice vote.

Chairman Schram noted that the State GOP Treasurer **Marty Neilson**, who completed MCRCC's A/R, acknowledged that the Tracer entry processes are generally difficult to comprehend, and she suggested that MCRCC identify a single person to be trained for specific entry duties. It was noted that Tracer reports do not, nor are they intended, to align with general accounting procedures. As a result, the monthly Treasurer's report and the Tracer report cash balance will not, nor are they intended to reflect each other, ("balance") due to timing of entries, in-kind entries, etc.

Discussion followed on potential for a volunteer to attend CO Sec'y of State training(s) to assure accurate future Tracer reporting.

*\*The CO Sec'y of State provides the campaign finance report software known as Tracer Report*

**Old Business:** Chairman Schram addressed the on-going challenge of our Constant Contact communication channel, which appears to arbitrarily eliminate addresses, or which have possibly been blocked by receivers' spam filters. As initiated by the prior Chairman, the options to override, or replace, the system is being investigated. He and Dave Laursen are working to resolve. Sharon Mitchell, who has assisted to resolve offered suggestions to consider, and it was acknowledged that this is a system that MCRCC pays for.

**New Business:** Chairman Schram opened an discussion regarding the challenges and potential to evolve the MCRCC forward, to overcome past divisions, and focus on the opportunity to narrowly focus on election of local republicans, and to assure that we elect a Republican Governor in 2018. We have established communications with other GOP groups, including Ouray, Delta, San Miguel, Mesa, Pitkin, Garfield and Summit County. As a result, Geoff Schram was invited as a Speaker for the recent Lincoln Reagan dinner held by the Summit County Republicans.

He acknowledged that affiliated groups, such as the 9/12 and Tea Party interests, have made positive contributions, both locally and nationally, to the Republican party. Appreciating the diverse viewpoints within the GOP, and individual efforts, can and will move us forward as an effective political voice. Support for each other, as Republicans, is the fundamental goal. Recognizing the value and power, of a unified MCRCC is key to our success in future elections, and our personal experience of committing our time, talents and energy to the success of the MCRCC.

He further acknowledged that continued outreach to youth, Latinos, and Veterans, is identified as a fundamental objective of the MCRCC Leadership committee. He noted the recent success that Kerri Catlin had with returning the Presidential election voting in schools.

**Treasurer's Appointment:** Chairman Schram recognized that the Event & Fund Raising Chair, Deb Hunter has training and experience in business and bookkeeping, and is willing to take-on the responsibility of Treasurer, which includes the Tracer Report training and entries. Chairman Schram noted that, due to the recent audit, our financial records are current and in order. **He asked for any comments or objections to the appointment of Deb Hunter, and seeing none, she was appointed and accepted the appointment.**

Chairman Schram stated the immediate need to fill the Fundraising & Event Chair vacancy, and the necessity of timely fundraising. He briefly spoke to the ideas that are being considered regarding an upcoming Lincoln Reagan dinner and other options, such as MCRCC lunch meeting, to reach out to the diverse demographics of Republicans who may not be able to attend the evening MCRCC meetings, as now scheduled. A recommendation was made to inquire of Terry Leban if she had interest, which was agreed to pursue.

**Standing Committee Members:** The MCRCC Executive Committee members will participate in the Colorado Republican Committee (CRC) election of new officers on April 1, 2017. Chairman Schram introduced candidates **Kevin McCarney**, who is running for Chair and Sherrie Gibson, who is a candidate for Vice Chair. Both candidates made presentations, and questions from the audience were addressed.

**Precinct and District Captain Vacancy Report:** As 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Laursen was absent, Chairman Schram encouraged us to take the initiative to identify individuals within our own Precincts, and others, who are willing to become involved.

**ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS:** State Senator Don Coram and Representative Marc Catlin were represented by Bob Brown, reporting on the status of Legislation. Specifically, S.B 61 that addresses additional funding for Charter schools and SB36, which addressed the State Water Commission and the admission of evidence in water hearings.

**ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS (continued)**

Board of County Commissioners Chair Keith Caddy provided a brief report on the on-going construction and funding of the Events Center. He indicated that a feasibility study is pending. That it does not appear that

the Center will be make money, potentially costing the County \$250,000 per year to support. He acknowledged this is the case in similar public facilities that are undertaking for the purpose of furthering overarching goals of economic development within the community, such as was the case for the Montrose Pavilion.

Coroner Dr. Tom Canfield reported that efforts to focus on the safety deficiencies of Hwy 550 have resulted in the Colorado Department of Transportation earmarking priority funding for installing “rumble strips” in the pavement, which alert drivers when drive lines are crossed.

Treasurer Rosemary Murphy provided an update on the collection of taxes to date, and the positive reduction in the number of foreclosures.

County Assessor Brad Hughes commented on the improving property values.

On behalf of Sheriff Rick Dunlap Undersheriff Adam Murdy was present .....

**Committee Chair/ Affiliation Reports:**

Strategy & Planning Chair Tricia Joy provided a report on the local political opposition force, “D3 Indivisible” being organized on the Western Slope, with intent to disrupt and resist all Republican policies underway, especially at the Congressional and Presidential level -displaying the ‘Dump Trump’ bumper sticker she was given at the first organizational meeting of the group she attended recently in Ridgway. She recommended that all Republican research the means and methods of this, and related “RESIST” groups online, and become engaged in the battle ahead for the political, moral and educational authority that they now claim.