

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

.....  
**April 10, 2024**  
**Blazing Star Room**  
**Centennial Office Building**  
.....

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Asp.

Members present: Asp, Flynn, Leppik, Rashid, Soule, Swanson

Others present: Sigurdson, Engelhardt, Johnson, Olson, staff; Stephen Melchionne (on behalf of Nathan Hartshorn), counsel

**MINUTES** (March 8, 2024)

The following motion was made:

Member Leppik's motion: To approve the March 8, 2024, minutes as drafted.

Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Sigurdson provided an update regarding the 2023 Lobbyist Principal Report which was due on March 15, 2024. The reports filed so far disclose that \$90,012,463 was spent in 2023 to influence the legislature, administrative agencies, and the official actions of metropolitan governmental units. Additionally, the amount spent to influence administrative action by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in cases of rate setting, power plant, and powerline siting, and granting of certificates of need came to \$6,359,039. Total lobbying expenditures currently reported for 2023 amount to \$96,371,501. The total amount reported for lobbying disbursements represents the highest amount ever reported in Minnesota and represents a 16% increase over the previous high reported for 2022.

Mr. Sigurdson reported that the Governor has not made appointments for the positions currently held by Members Swanson and Leppik. Mr. Sigurdson updated the Board on the status of proposed legislation that would impact Board operations.

**ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

**A. Consent Items**

**1. Lobbyist registration termination of Ade Salami (#4850)**

The Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA) (#7646) and MN-FISH Coalition (#7892) requested the lobbyist registration of Ade Salami be terminated. Salami left Park Street Public on September 15, 2022. Park Street Public is the contract lobbying firm that represents WSIA and MN-FISH at the Minnesota State Capitol. WSIA and MN-FISH have tried to contact Salami several times and could not reach her.

**2. Lobbyist registration termination of Manilan Houle (#4190)**

OutFront Minnesota (#3628) requested the lobbyist registration of Manilan Houle be terminated. Houle has not been associated with OutFront MN since 2017. In 2023, the designated lobbyist left, which resulted in everyone on OutFront MN’s report becoming a self-reporting lobbyist, including Houle. Board staff requested to backdate Houle’s termination to May 31, 2023. Houle has not filed his lobbyist disbursement report covering the first reporting period in 2023. If the termination is backdated, he will not have to file that report.

The following motion was made:

Member Leppik’s’s motion: To approve the requested lobbyist terminations.

Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

**B. Waiver Requests**

Entity	Late Fee / Civil Penalty	Report Due	Factors and Recommended Action	Board Member's Motion	Motion	Vote on Motion
1. Lawrence (Bryan) for MN (19050)	\$50 LFF	2024 Pre-Special Election	Board staff mistakenly failed to update the database to indicate that the candidate won the primary as he was the only candidate in the special election that had created a principal campaign committee. Because of the staff error, the committee was unable to file the correct report in CFRO. After being contacted by staff the next day, they filed the correct report. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Waive	Leppik	Approve staff recommendation for requests 1-9	Unanimously passed

2. Jay Wood (DPS)	\$80 LFF	2023 EIS	Report due 1/29/24 and filed on 3/6/24. Wood states he left DPS on 3/4/23 and CFB was not given an updated address for Wood. Wood states he hadn't received any communication from DPS regarding his 2023 EIS until Feb 2024. It was only when CFB asked DPS to contact Wood that he was informed about it. DPS said that they had forwarded the mailings from CFB to Wood in early February. Wood states that when he received the notice he was recovering from surgery, but promptly filed the statement once he recovered. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Waive	Leppik	Approve staff recommendation for requests 1-9	Unanimously passed
3. Baker (Dave) for House (17700)	\$25 LFF	2023 Year-End	Report due 1/31/24 and filed 2/1/24. Phil Cleary, the treasurer attempted to file the report on 1/31/24 but ran into issues with CFRO. Cleary reached out to Ms. Engelhardt and informed her of the problem and let her know he would not be able to file until the issue was resolved. He filed the next day. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Waive	Leppik	Approve staff recommendation for requests 1-9	Unanimously passed
4. Sensible Change Minnesota (7540)	\$50 LFF	2023 LPR	Report due 3/15/24 and filed 3/19/24. Maren Schroeder states, they mistakenly filed an incorrect report on 3/15/24. During the process of filing the corrected report, they also spoke with the Board staff. Schroeder adds that reminders to file the report were sent to her junk mail. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Waive	Leppik	Approve staff recommendation for requests 1-9	Unanimously passed

<p>5. Alyssa Erickson        (Minneapolis Public Housing Authority)</p>	<p>\$80 LFF</p>	<p>2023 EIS</p>	<p>Report due 1/29/24 and filed 3/6/24. CFB is not responsible for collecting economic interest statements for the City of Minneapolis but does have the obligation to ensure they are filed. The City of Minneapolis notified Board staff that Erickson had not filed her EIS on 2/13/24. As a result, Board staff sent Erickson a notice to file. Erickson states that she never received any communication from the City of Minneapolis regarding the EIS due date. Erickson only became aware of the statement when she received a letter from CFB on 3/4/24. Erickson believes that the City of Minneapolis should have informed her to fill out the form, as she has the correct email and home address on file with the city. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Waive</p>	<p>Leppik</p>	<p>Approve staff recommendation for requests 1-9</p>	<p>Unanimously passed</p>
<p>6. Building Systems Holding, Inc. (7166)</p>	<p>500</p>	<p>2019 LPR</p>	<p>Report due 3/16/2020 and filed 4/13/2020. Andy Faulkner states the principal was not aware of this late filing fee until they received a letter from CFB notifying them about a 2023 late filing fee (that they will pay). Faulkner states they did not receive any reminders for the 2019 report due to a change in the primary contact. Faulkner states all the information given to Board staff is up to date to avoid future filing days. Faulkner states the 2019 report was not timely filed due to the global pandemic, which had shut down many business operations. They were unable to file the report within the given time frame due to Governor-mandated office shutdowns. The company was focused on determining the impact of the pandemic on their business's daily operations, clients (primarily K-12 School Districts), and ensuring the safety of their employees. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Waive</p>	<p>Leppik</p>	<p>Approve staff recommendation for requests 1-9</p>	<p>Unanimously passed</p>

7. Goggin for Senate (17969)	\$75 LFF	2023 Year-End	Report due 1/31/24 and filed 2/5/24. Goggin explained that his work schedule made it difficult for him to file before early February, which is why he did not file until then and the committee was working with Board staff on a balance adjustment. The committee was terminated as of 12/31/23. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Waive	Leppik	Approve staff recommendation for requests 1-9	Unanimously passed
8. Ujamaa Place (7245)	\$50 LFF	2023 LPR	Report due 3/15/24 and filed 3/19/24. The new CEO of Ujamaa started less than a year ago and was not receiving notifications from CFB. CFB called Ujamaa on 3/19/24 notifying them they had not filed and they promptly filed the same day. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Waive	Leppik	Approve staff recommendation for requests 1-9	Unanimously passed
9. Big Stone County RPM (20353)	\$75 LFF	2023 Year-End	Report due 1/31/24 and filed 2/5/24. The treasurer, Donald Diekmann, states that he is over 83 years old and has trouble with computers. To fill out reports, he usually has someone help him. Diekmann mentioned that the January report was filed with the help of one of his daughters and sent via email but unfortunately, it did not go through. It was resent on 2/5/24. Diekmann also stated that he has tried to find someone else to fill the role of treasurer, but so far, nobody has stepped up to the task. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Waive	Leppik	Approve staff recommendation for requests 1-9	Unanimously passed
10. Brian Tommerdahl (Clearwater River WD)	\$10 LFF	2023 EIS	Report due 1/29/24 and filed on 2/14/24. Tommerdahl provided several reasons for the delay in his filing, including overseas travel, unexpected surgery, legal matters, and a limited notification timeline of only 60 days from the Board. NO STAFF RECOMMENDATION	Flynn	Waive, for requests 10-11	Unanimously passed

<p>11. Committee to Elect Jim Bean III (18867)</p>	<p>\$125 LFF</p>	<p>2023 Year-End</p>	<p>Report due 1/31/24 and filed 2/7/24. Aula Yarnes, the treasurer of the committee, filed an amended 2022 year-end report on 1/31/2024 instead of the 2023 year-end report. Board staff contacted the committee to explain the problem and asked them to file the 2023 year-end report, which would allow them to record the 2023 expenses and terminate. After this, Yarnes worked with the Board staff to record the new year's expenditures and file the 2023 year-end report. The committee has terminated as of 12/31/23. NO STAFF RECOMMENDATION</p>	<p>Flynn</p>	<p>Waive, for requests 10-11</p>	<p>Unanimously passed</p>
<p>12. Minneapolis United for Rent Control (60071)</p>	<p>\$800 LFF</p>	<p>2023 Year-End</p>	<p>Report due 1/31/24 and filed 3/18/24. Nicole Buehler became the treasurer of Minneapolis United for Rent Control in February 2023. However, all the mail from CFB was sent to a PO box then forwarded to Buehler's previous home address, which resulted in her not receiving any communication from CFB. As of now, the organization is no longer active, and neither the previous nor current treasurer had access to the old email account. In 2023, the committee had limited expenditures, and no money was spent on ballot measures or Hennepin County elections that would have required additional reporting. As soon as the CFB brought the oversight to their attention by making a phone call on 3/18/24, Minneapolis United for Rent Control promptly filed its 2023 annual report. NO STAFF RECOMMENDATION</p>	<p>Swanson</p>	<p>Lay over to the May meeting to give the Committee time to terminate</p>	<p>Unanimously passed</p>

<p>13. North Central States Carpenters PAC (30561)</p>	<p>\$1,000 LFF</p>	<p>2023 1st Quarter (April)</p>	<p>Due 4/15/23 and never filed, but activity was disclosed within June report filed 6/13/23. Richard Kolodziejski, speaking on behalf of Treasurer Pat Nilsen, states that a former employee of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) had requested to donate multiple \$500 contributions to Minneapolis City Council Candidates. However, due to the absence of the administrative staff responsible for processing the checks and completing the Report of Receipts and Expenditures, the report was not completed on time. Kolodziejski assured that the PAC will have two individuals with calendar reminders set up at NCSRCC to prevent such errors from occurring in the future. All other 2023 reports were filed by NCSCP. NO STAFF RECOMMENDATION</p>	<p>Swanson</p>	<p>Reduce to \$500</p>	<p>Unanimously passed</p>
<p>14. Latasha Lee (Board of Nursing)</p>	<p>\$100 LFF \$1,000 CP</p>	<p>2023 EIS</p>	<p>Report due 1/29/24 and filed 3/20/24. Lee states that she has been filling out the EIS for the past four years and has always submitted it on time. However, this time she missed it due to an oversight on her part. She was feeling overwhelmed because she had to take care of her father, who was suffering from various medical issues. NO STAFF RECOMMENDATION</p>	<p>Soule Leppik</p>	<p>Waive Amend motion to waive CP only</p>	<p>Leppik's motion to amend motion failed 3-3. Soule's motion to waive entire amount unanimously passed.</p>

**C. Informational Items**

**1. Payment of late filing fee for 2023 EIS**

- Rebecca Petersen, \$25
- Tyler Ask, \$40
- Troy Larson, \$20
- Ed Prudhon, \$10
- Andy Weaver, \$10
- Billy Menz, \$65
- Kim Miller, \$70
- Luz Frias, \$40
- Louise Segreto, \$100
- Paul Traderwall, \$65

Paul Huneke, \$110

**2. Payment of late filing fee for 2023 lobbyist disbursement report**

Nancy Haas, \$25

Robert Doar, \$150

Stacey Mickelson, \$75

**3. Forwarded anonymous contributions**

Douglas County RPM, \$50

Carver County RPM, \$50

**4. Payment of late filing fee for 2023 year-end report**

Lenz (Paul) for House, \$100

Jim Nash for Minnesota, \$100

Pipestone County RPM, \$175

**5. Payment of late filing fee for 2023 pre-primary report**

Winthrop & Weinstine, PA Political Fund, \$1,000

**6. Payment of late filing fee for 2023 September report**

Faegre Drinker State Political Fund, \$600

St. Paul Pipefitters Local 455 PAC, \$1,000

**ADVISORY OPINION REQUESTS**

Mr. Sigurdson provided an update to the Board on the status of the request. As the opinion request is not public, no entities or individuals were mentioned. Member Swanson expressed concerns about whether requests for advisory opinions are becoming increasingly political, and if the Board responds to this one, where should the line be drawn on future responses?

Vice Chair Rashid made a motion to approve the layover request and also suggested having a more in-depth discussion on this matter at a later date. In addition, Chair Asp requested that Board staff look into the Board's history of seeking additional information from opinion requestors prior to issuing an advisory opinion.

The following motion was made:

Member Rashid's motion: To lay the matter over.

Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.



### **ADMINISTRATIVE RULEMAKING UPDATE**

Mr. Olson stated that staff is preparing a Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR). Mr. Olson explained that if H.F. 4772 is enacted in its current form, the legislation will codify in statute language similar to that found in some of the draft rules, in which case the proposed rule language will need to be modified accordingly. In response to a question from Chair Asp, Mr. Olson stated that Board staff hopes to have the SONAR drafted by the end of April.

### **LEGAL REPORT**

Mr. Melchionne updated the Board on the Mariani matter and mentioned that it would be taken off the list of active files soon. The Board discussed the available payment options for Mr. Mariani's debt.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Asp 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 layover of Advisory Opinion Request 462

Legal report



# MINNESOTA CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

**Date:** April 24, 2024

**To:** Board Members

**From:** Jeff Sigurdson, Executive Director

**Telephone:** 651-539-1189

**Re:** Executive Director's Report – Board Operations

## **Board Appointments**

As of the date of this memo, the Governor has not made appointments for the positions currently held by Members Swanson and Leppik. Because the legislative session typically ends in the third week of May, I think it very unlikely that the appointments will be made prior to the end of session. Members Swanson and Leppik may continue to serve until July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, pending reappointment or the appointment of a new Board member.

## **Legislative Action**

The House Election Finance and Policy Committee omnibus bill, [HF 4772](#), has passed both the Senate and House. There are differences in the Senate and House versions of the bill, so a conference committee will be needed. The House conferees are Representatives Freiberg, Greenman, and Virnig. The Senate conferees have not yet been appointed.

[SF 4431 \(Westlin, Koran\)](#) – [HF 4728 \(Bahner, Torkelson\)](#) This bill streamlines the process for submitting a political contribution refund, and requires the Dept. of Revenue to develop a website for requesting the refund online. The bill requires an appropriation for the Dept. of Revenue, so it was not included in the respective omnibus bills. Neither bill has been to the floor for a vote.

## **CPI Increase for House Spending Limits**

During a state election year, the spending limits for offices on the ballot are adjusted to reflect the consumer price index for the two prior years. The spending limit increase for House candidates increased by 10.36% to \$80,300 for the 2024 election cycle. The special source contribution limit is calculated from the spending limit, so the special source limit for House candidates also increased for the 2024 election cycle to \$16,100.



# MINNESOTA

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

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**Date:** April 3, 2024

**To:** Board Members

**From:** Jeff Sigurdson, Executive Director

**Telephone:** 651-539-1189

**Re:** Layover of Advisory Opinion Request 462

The Board received the request for Advisory Opinion 462 on March 6, 2024. The date the request was received was too close to the March 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to allow staff to draft an opinion for Board consideration, so the request was laid over by the Board. The opinion request is non-public. The request is from the representative of a partnership that wishes to provide support to a political committee that will be registered with the Board. The request asks questions related to the partnership providing a line of credit for the committee, and more generally on the involvement of the partnership with the committee.

In order to provide sound guidance in the opinion, staff has requested additional information from the requestor. In particular, the guidance in the draft opinion will differ depending on whether the partnership is made up of individuals, or if one of more of the partners is a corporation. Staff has also asked for clarification on the type of committee the partnership wishes to register, and how contributions for the committee will be raised. Staff has no reason to believe that a response to the request for additional information will not be provided, but as of the date of this memo it has not been received.

The request will need to be formally laid over to the May Board meeting because Minnesota Statutes section 10A.02, subdivision 12, requires advisory opinions to be issued within 30 days after receipt unless a majority of the Board agrees to extend this time limit.

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD  
 APRIL 2024  
ACTIVE FILES**

Candidate/Treasurer/ Lobbyist	Committee/Agency	Report Missing/ Violation	Late Fee/ Civil Penalty	Referred to AGO	Date S&C Personally Served	Default Hearing Date	Date Judgment Entered	Case Status
Mariani, Carlos	Neighbors for Mariani	2022 year-end report  Late filing of 2018 year-end report  Late filing of 2020 pre-primary report  Late filing of 2018 pre-primary report  2018 pre-general report  2020 pre-general 24- hour large contribution notice  2022 annual statement of economic interest  Late filing of 2018 annual statement of economic interest  Late filing of 2018 candidate statement of economic interest	\$1,000 LFF \$1,000 CP  \$525 LFF  \$1,000 LFF \$1,000 CP  \$1,000 LFF \$100 CP  \$1,000 LFF \$1,000 CP  \$1,000 LFF  \$1,000 LFF \$100 CP  \$95 LFF	11/22/23				Draft complaint forwarded to the Board.