

Madison County Board of Elections

Canvass Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2020

The Madison County Board of Elections met on Friday, November 13, 2020. In attendance: Jerry Wallin, Chair; Ray Lewis, Secretary; Dyatt Smathers, Member; Sandra Tolley, Member; Brian Ball, Member; Kathy Ray, Director; Jacob Ray; Deputy Director; and two members of the public.

Call to Order:

Chair Wallin called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Members' Reports:

Member Smathers and Chair Wallin complimented the Deputy Director's presentation and the work that was done at the Thursday, November 12th absentee meeting.

The Board moved the Director's Report to follow Other Matters.

Challenged Absentee Ballots:

The Board reviewed the 3 challenged absentee ballot applications and corresponding incident reports that were entered by Chair Wallin at the 2:00 Election Day absentee meeting.

1. **Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to deny Joanna Skimmiehorn's one stop application and retrieve the one stop voted ballot from tabulated results.** Her voted absentee mail-in ballot was approved and counted.
2. **Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to accept Ashley Marie Adams' one stop ballot that was incorrectly voted, counted, and tabulated on an out of precinct ballot style.**
3. **Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to deny Ellora Mahy McTaggart's absentee mail in application and ballot.** The voter moved from the county after returning her absentee mail-in ballot.

Incident Reports:

One absentee mail in ballot was tabulated twice due to a ballot jam. The ballot is irretrievable as it cannot be identified.

Motion, Seconded (BB, ST) and Carried (4,0) to accept the absentee ballot count that includes one (1) extra ballot. Member Smathers opposed the motion.

One provisional ballot was counted in an incorrect precinct and should have been duplicated on the correct ballot style. Provisional ballots are irretrievable.

The canvass ballot reconciliation spreadsheet reflected 19 mismatched ballots in the one stop reporting group. A review of the total daily voted ballots and corresponding voter history revealed that mismatches were due to incorrectly assigned ballot styles across the one stop sites. The Director reviewed the canvass reconciliation worksheet and discussed the findings of the ballot review with the State Board of Elections Candidacy and Canvass Program Specialist. During that discussion, it was determined that the local Board of Elections will make the decision regarding acceptance of the incorrectly assigned ballot styles and precinct reporting.

Motion, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve the results as is and not attempt re-tabulation or manual edits to the election results.

Motion, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (5,0) to deny the 2 provisional ballots that were received and no identification came forward.

Discussion ensued regarding needed improvements to the process of issuing the correct ballot styles to voters.

The Director reported that a bi-partisan counting team conducted the sample hand eye audit. No difference was found between the hand eye and machine counts for the U.S. President and Vice President contest and candidates.

The Director reported that the bi-partisan team tallied the write-in votes.

Under Board member supervision, the Director conducted a manual edit in the Unity reporting software to remove Joanna Skimmyhorn's voted one stop ballot from the election results.

The Chair recessed the meeting for lunch and report preparation.

The meeting reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

The Director provided the final canvass documents for the Board's review:

- Unity Block Style Canvass Report
- County Canvass Abstract Cover Sheet with correct notarial seal and signatures
- County Canvass Precinct Report
- County Canvass Contest Report
- Election Day Absentee Abstract
- Supplemental Absentee Abstract

Motion, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to certify the November 3, 2020 General Election results.

Member Smathers revisited the request of a voter to see that individual's voted ballot and to have proof that it was counted at the Madison Wellness Center one stop site. He pointed out in his comments that all election equipment has gone through Logic & Accuracy testing prior to use in the election, that no votes were ever recorded without the bi-partisan team looking at the Logic & Accuracy of the machines, that zero tapes were not run until the actual day of one

stop and election day voting, that bi-partisan poll workers and judges were involved in every step of the voting process at the polling sites, that every voter can confirm through the North Carolina State Board of Elections whether their votes have been received and counted, that the hand eye audit at the Madison County Wellness Center one stop site revealed that every vote was counted accurately and there was no difference found between the hand eye and machine counts, and that the Board has certified through the canvass activities and process the election results.

Motion, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) to deny the individual access to that vote.

Discussion ensued regarding the notice of a potential recount. The Board will wait on guidance from the State Board of Elections.


Discussion ensued regarding the disbursement of hazard pay. Member Ball commented that the Board was not quite ready to make decisions. If necessary, the Chair will call a special meeting so the funds can be timely dispersed.

The provisional ballots were removed from the bin and sealed for storage.

Adjournment:

Motion, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to adjourn at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes Approved December 16, 2020.


_____, Director