

**Help America Vote Act
Idaho State Planning Committee
Minutes, August 19, 2005**

Dr. James Weatherby called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Participants at the meeting included:

Ben Ysursa, Secretary of State
Chris Rich, Ada County
Dan English, Kootenai County Clerk
Elinor Chehey, League of Women Voters of Idaho
Emil Dryzayich, Computer Arts
Noel Hales, Canyon County Clerk
Rose Gehring, Idaho County Clerk
Shane Harris, Computer Arts
Sharon Widner, Washington County Clerk
Tim Hurst, Chief Deputy of the Secretary of State's office

Copies of the February 10th meeting minutes were distributed.

It was moved to approve the minutes. Seconded. No discussion offered. Vote unanimous to approve.

Jim Mairs updated the group about his trip through North Idaho to various counties. He reported that the trip had given him a sense of the problems in terms of storage and maintenance for the accessible voting unit. The positive was that the HHS funding that has been spent has been spent well and polling places are coming into compliance. To date, the HHS grant has been \$78,620 out of a total of \$300,000 that was awarded to the state, leaving about \$221,000 available to be used to address accessibility issues. There are a number of grants pending, but not any large ones. We have not heard from Ada or Canyon counties yet. As we approach the Primary Election, we want to encourage the Clerks that if there is anything that needs to be done, regardless of how small, to call Jim. The goal is to make all the polling places compliant before the Primary Election.

Jim discussed a letter from the Justice Department on how they are defining accessibility. They are linking accessibility to the polling place and the accessible voting device. If the voter cannot get into the polling place to the voting device then the polling place is not compliant. He mentioned that there was discussion in the Clerk's meeting about creative ways to solve polling place access problems.

Tim Hurst emphasized that the HHS funds were funds that must be requested in order for the state to receive them. Although the law says that it is ours until it is spent, HHS and the General Accounting office is saying that the money will revert back to the Feds in 2008 if it is not spent.

Tim reported that the Statewide Voter Registration System has now been installed in all of the counties. He reported that the SOS office has requested that the counties complete the data cleanup, but that there is still cleanup that remains to be done.

Ben Ysursa mentioned that he has sent a letter to the major political parties and indicated to them that he will not release the list until he is comfortable that it is the best it can be and we have removed all duplicates and street overlaps the best that we can. We are getting close, but we need the Clerks to continue to clean up the data. He believes we are within a 2-3 weeks of being able to provide data.

A question was asked about what caused duplicates. Tim Hurst indicated that most of what has been seen is a voter who has moved and the cancellation has not gotten back to the old county for whatever reason, or the person may not have written on the card that they were registered in

**Help America Vote Act
Idaho State Planning Committee
Minutes, August 19, 2005**

Idaho before. Other issues are street overlaps where some people are assigned to two different taxing codes, city precincts or even county precincts at the same address.

Tim also mentioned that there is a discussion underway about the possibility of the northwest states, with support for the EAC for funding, to develop a pilot program to have the states share information to eliminate duplicate registrations within the region. We're looking at the feasibility of sharing information. Everyone wants to make sure that their system works before they start sharing information.

Tim reported on the mock election conducted with Ada County using the statewide voter registration system. Ada County wanted see how the system fits within their election procedures and what may need to be modified. It was also an opportunity to test the system with some volume. The system seemed to run well. We found some problems that we are addressing now and we're also going to do another test around the middle of next month where all counties run poll books on the same day.

Accessible Voting Devices

Jim Mairs started with a synopsis of activity to date. He reported that we have had certification hearings for the ES&S AutoMark and the Sequoia DRE. The public was invited to attend and try the machines. Results were published in the Secretary of State's newsletter. The AutoMark is a mark sense device, it is not a DRE. There are no votes stored in the machine -- it uses an optical scan ballot. The Sequoia voting system was also certified with the VeriVote printer attached to the side so that it produces the voter verifiable paper audit trail as the statute requires.

Tim Hurst continued by reporting that the Secretary of State's office has received a letter from Sequoia informing the state that unless the Secretary of State made a decision to mandate a standardized system throughout the state, that they would not participate. They feel that, as spread out as Idaho is, that they would not be able to dedicate the resources for support unless it was a statewide system. That leaves one choice, which is AutoMark. We are working with the Attorney General's office in putting together a letter to ES&S directing them to provide us with their solution and pricing in writing prior to working on a contract. The Secretary of State will buy at least one AutoMark for every polling place in the state (748 polling places currently). At least one machine in every county for their absentee voting needs will also be provided. The state will pay for the cost of all voting machines (roughly \$5 million), along with all programming costs in the first year. We are also told that ES&S has a DRE device going through User Acceptance Testing right now that will produce a voter verifiable receipt. There is no current timetable for when that system might be certified in Idaho.

Ben Ysursa added that all states are going through this process. Idaho is probably one of the more conservative in how we are approaching replacement of voting systems. Some states are mandating the same system in all counties, Idaho not taken that approach.

The question was asked if the State was going to be negotiating for maintenance and programming costs long term, since the counties were going to have to pick up responsibility for those costs after the first year. Tim answered that the State is hoping to negotiate some long term pricing. We also want to put a clause in the contract stating that if ES&S brings a DRE to market and certifies the device in Idaho, that if a county wishes to upgrade to that system, there will be an agreement in place for the vendor to take back the AutoMark and allow the county to upgrade to the DRE at either no charge or a reduced charge.

**Help America Vote Act
Idaho State Planning Committee
Minutes, August 19, 2005**

It was asked if ES&S has indicated how they will support the State of Idaho in respect to the issue of geographic spread of the state after the sale. Tim replied that it is a concern we have. Ben added that training and support are big, big issues in the process.

Dan English asked if there was going to be a back up supply of spare machines stocked at each county. Tim answered that many counties had indicated that they wanted to keep machines at a minimum required because of storage space limitations.

Ballot costs and availability were discussed as a concern. Tim indicated that we are looking into a number of alternatives such as counties being able to print their own ballots on demand from a file sent to them from the vendor. All of these potential time and cost savings options will require more testing before we will know if they are viable alternatives.

How counties that continue to use punch card ballots will tabulate the AutoMark optical scan ballots was discussed. Most of those counties will simply hand count the optical scan ballots and sent the totals along with their punch card ballots back to the county. The elections will be basically the same next year but accessibility will be improved. There is a need to develop the game plan for tabulating votes from the AutoMark with the various voting systems. Various other issues regarding the implementation of the AutoMark voting system were also discussed, including the time required to vote, set up and take down of the devices, storage, and making people aware that the device is available.

It was reported that the balance in the Democracy Fund as of June 30,2005 was \$15,244,135. Implementation of the AutoMark is anticipated to be \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000, the balance to be paid for the voter registration system is \$1,950,000 and the voting system upgrade grant program will be another \$6,150,000. The balance in the fund will be used to pay for ongoing expenses incurred in the implementation of HAVA.

The Secretary of State will be conducting a 2005 Election Workshop November 30 - December 1, at the Grove Hotel in Boise. The workshop will be a comprehensive training of election laws and procedures and will include presentation of a model poll worker training module that can be used by the counties in training their election workers.

Possible legislative revisions were discussed to help clarify election procedures along with ideas of what can be done to improve voter confidence and simplify elections. Some issues that should be addressed were how to more efficiently deal with in-person absentee voting, ballot rotation, and when a county can begin opening absentee ballot outer envelopes to prepare the ballots for processing. After some discussion about lines at the ballot can, Ben again pointed out that the use of a second poll book is optional. However, as the law now reads, each voter must be recorded as having voted. The counties were asked to look at the voting laws to see what changes they would like to see that would allow us to modify election procedures to make the process more efficient while still complying with the law and protecting the integrity of the elections in Idaho.

The meeting was adjourned.