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Good afternoon,

Please see below for a brief update on the Otter Tail county caucuses.

Following Chair Hann's email on March 5th, the state exec board held an emergency meeting on March 12th. This meeting was called by Chair Hann. At the emergency meeting, the majority of the board voted to suspend the Chair's decision and create a special committee to review the documents that were completed on caucus night.

On Thursday, March 21st, the exec board met again for their regularly scheduled monthly board meeting and did discuss the committee further. However, no new decisions were made. The date that the special committee will meet has not yet been determined, but we are aiming for a date in the next week or two so that the BPOU can still hold a convention with a call issued 10-days in advance within the 2024 BPOU window.

At this time, the members of that special committee will not be publicized. Given the hundreds of emails, calls, and texts that our board members received in past weeks, it is not in the best interest of the volunteer, grassroots people who will be on the committee to receive the same deluge or in the best interest of a fair and unbiased outcome if they are being influenced or unfairly pressured by any outside group. Once the special committee has met and arrived at a recommendation for next steps, the exec board will have another emergency meeting to review their recommendation.

Once the exec board has reviewed and either accepted or rejected the recommendation, their vote will be conveyed to the Otter Tail County BPOU. Please keep in mind that there is nothing in the MN GOP's constitution or bylaws that allows the exec board to force any BPOU to accept any recommendation of this sort. The only reason that Chair Hann and the Party stepped into this situation in the first place was because the Otter Tail board and the CD 7 board invited us in with hopes that a neutral review of caucus documents would reduce some of the ongoing rancor. They were willing to accept our guidance and our initial recommendation - which was made in conjunction with the Party's legal counsel, CD 7, and the Otter Tail board, not unilaterally as many are claiming - but there is nothing that will guarantee that whatever the special committee decides or whatever the exec board votes on will actually be implemented in the BPOU.

We will send out another email to update you all once the Otter Tail board has received the recommendation from the exec board and the special committee. At that time, we hope that a BPOU convention will be planned and announced as well since to date, no convention has been planned.

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Anna Mathews

Executive Director

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