

**MINUTES**  
**NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY**  
**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CONFERENCE CALL**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2018**

**State Party Chair Wayne Goodwin called the Conference Call to order at 8:00PM. The roll call showed that 24 of the 47 Members were on the call.**

**The State Chair and the Members welcomed Julia Lee, Chair of the Building Committee, to the call. She reported that the renovations on the exterior of the State Headquarter have been completed and the Committee has now turned its attention the renovations that were needed in the interior. The needed repairs include refinishing the floors in the public areas, refinishing the floors in the offices on several floors, painting the interior, new flooring in the kitchen, and replacing all the worn-out carpeting.**

**Julia reported that bids had been solicited from all 55 minority owned businesses that were on a list provided by DNC Member John Verdejo. Only three firms replied and only one of them submitted a bid.**

**The one business that submitted a bid was a female-owned business and the bid was \$166,000.**

**A bid for \$94,000 was submitted by Sigmon Construction, the firm that performed the highly satisfactory work on the exterior of the Headquarters.**

**DNC Member Cliff Moone made a motion to accept the bid of Sigmon Construction. John Verdejo seconded the motion.**

**John talked about how hard it is to get good construction done.**

**Julia Lee said her committee's goal was to have the renovation work done from mid-June to the end of July. She said the renovation work will require the Headquarters staff to work remotely on a rotating basis as the workers move from office to office throughout the Headquarters.**

**DNC Member Rev. Ray McKinnon said he wanted to see all future bids.**

**Tenth District Chair Betsy Wells said she would like to see the two bids that have been submitted for the renovation work.**

**First Vice Chair Bobbie Richardson asked if there was a mechanism by which Members can submit questions and receive answers before a vote is taken on the bids.**

**Chair Goodwin replied there certainly will be an opportunity for that. Even though there was already a motion and second on the floor, and thorough discussion on the motion had occurred, and the Headquarters Renovations Committee had reviewed the documents previously, the Chair said as a courtesy to the Executive Council Members the bid documents will be emailed to all the Executive Council Member from Doug Wilson by the next morning, at the latest. The Council Members will be given up to three days to ask questions and then a vote can be taken by email on Friday. The State Chair and Cliff Moone agreed that in the interim period the Council would be in recess, then come out of recess when the ballot is sent by email, and then automatically adjourn once the vote was over.**

**State Chair Goodwin brought up the process by which a new Executive Director will be selected.**

**He announced that he is setting up a 19-member Search Committee composed of:**

- the seven State Party Officers**
- Executive Council Members Julia Buckner, Mark Edwards, Shelia Huggins, Francisco Diaz, and the incoming President of the Young Democrats of North Carolina**
- The following elected officials or their representatives:**

<b>Governor</b>	<b>Senate Minority Leader</b>
<b>Attorney General</b>	<b>House Minority Leader</b>
<b>Secretary of State</b>	<b>Senator Floyd McKissick</b>
<b>State Auditor</b>	

**These Search Committee Members will receive all applications and rank them in order of preference. They will then conduct live interviews with the highest ranking applicants in May and June.**

**Chair Goodwin said the goal is to select a new Executive Director before the June 8<sup>th</sup> State Executive Committee meeting.**

**Chair Goodwin saluted Kimberly Reynolds for her work as Executive Director.**

**Kimberly told the Council that it had been an honor and a privilege to serve as ED and that she hoped our paths will cross again.**

**The State Chair opened the floor for questions and suggestions.**

**Rev. Ray McKinnon asked if there will be any holes left open when Kimberly leaves. Chair Goodwin said there will not be any holes due to the combined efforts of everyone at the Headquarters and that Kimberly will still take care of**

**the payroll and compliance matters. He said that he, Deputy ED Doug Wilson, and Finance Director Meredith Cuomo will make sure nothing is overlooked.**

**Tenth District Chair Betsy Wells expressed her appreciation to Kimberly. She said should the Search Committee should remember how unique North Carolina is and the new ED must have some knowledge of our state.**

**Richard Poole, President of the State Association of County Chairs, thanked Kimberly and said we need an ED that cares about county parties. He said we need an ED who is more responsive to the county parties.**

**Sustaining Fund Co-Chair Kennis Wilkins thanked Kimberly. He said he hoped that in the future we can develop clones so that we will have someone ready to move into the ED position when a vacancy develops. He asked what will the salary range of the new ED be? He also asked if we have checked on ED salaries in other states? Kimberly replied that ED salaries in other states have been checked. Kennis asked if the salary range will be shared with the Search Committee?**

**Kennis said he hoped the Search Committee will select a person who can connect with all groups across the state.**

**At-Large Member Brenda Pollard thanked Kimberly. She said she hoped we can get an ED who has a love for our Party and might already be in North Carolina. She also asked if Council Members can contact Kimberly during the interim period while the Search Committee is carrying out its selection process. Kimberly replied: "Yes."**

**David Salazar, State President of the Hispanic American Democrats, said we need an ED who will try to make more contact with Latinos. He said we need to devote more attention to Latinos and to spreading Spanish language materials.**

**Twelfth District Chair Cozzie Watkins thanked Kimberly for paying a lot of attention to the election of judges. Cozzie said she is concerned about the lack of diversity among judges nationwide. She said the new ED needs "a heart for judges."**

**Ninth District Chair Cynthia Wallace said the new ED needs to develop a "bench" ready to fill vacancies. She said we need a diversity of ED candidates.**

**Chair Goodwin asked Kimberly to talk to the Council about filling the vacancy in the Data Director position. She said a nationwide search had been conducted. She had selected Vicky Szufliita who had worked for Break The Majority and under Jesse Presnell.**

**Labor Caucus President Randy Voller thanked Kimberly for her service. He said it is important to have a diverse field of ED candidates. He reminded everyone that it has been a long time since we had an African American ED.**

**NCDP First Vice Chair Bobbie Richardson asked if the Party will post the salary range for the ED position. She said that posting the range will attract good people. Kimberly replied that the salary is not currently posted. Chair Goodwin said applicants can ask about the salary.**

**As the call neared its close, Chair Goodwin reminded everyone that this Conference Call meeting will be recessed, not adjourned. State Headquarters renovation bids will be emailed to Council Members by Doug Wilson as soon as possible. The Chair said everyone will have until Friday for Members to review bids and ask questions.**

**He said that Council Members will cast their online votes on the Headquarters renovation bids on Friday. When the required simple majority of votes – up or down – is reached on the motion, the voting will close and the Conference Call meeting will adjourn. There were no objections to this procedural plan.**

**At 10:10AM, Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, Deputy ED Doug Wilson emailed a ballot to every Executive Council Member asking them to accept or reject the bid of Sigmon Construction for renovations of the State Headquarters.**

**At 7:35PM, Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, Deputy ED Doug Wilson emailed the following message to all Executive Council Members: “Voting on the Sigmon Construction contract has concluded. An overwhelming majority voted in favor to proceed with the contract. Voting percentages were: YES – 80.6%, NO – 19.4%.”**

**That email adjourned the Executive Council Conference Call. An additional message reiterated that the Council meeting had adjourned.**

**A subsequent email to the Secretary stated that the numerical voting was: YES – 25, NO – 6.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Melvin Williams, Secretary**