



STATE OF MAINE
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
AND ELECTION PRACTICES
135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

Agenda

Meeting of January 25, 2008

9:00 a.m., Commission Offices, 242 State Street, Augusta, Maine

1. Ratification of Minutes of the December 7, 2007 Meeting

2. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty/Gary C. Wood

Gary C. Wood is registered as a lobbyist for the City of Portland. He was one day late filing a monthly lobbyist report due October 15, 2007. The amount of the statutory penalty is \$100. He has requested a waiver of the penalty. *Staff recommendation: the staff recommends assessing the \$100 penalty.*

3. Failure to File Report and Return Unspent Campaign Funds/David Hughes

David Hughes was a Maine Clean Election Act (MCEA) candidate for House District 72 in the 2007 special election, after the incumbent, William Walcott, resigned. He received \$4,287 in MCEA funds for his campaign. He has not responded to eight communications requesting that he file a post-election campaign finance report disclosing how he spent the funds and that he repay unspent campaign funds to the Commission. *Staff recommendation: the staff requests permission to investigate Mr. Hughes' expenditures of MCEA funds to verify whether all funds were used for campaign-related purposes.*

4. Results of Staff Investigation/Lobbying for Maine Community Cultural Alliance

On the Commission's own motion, the staff has investigated whether two attorneys providing services to the Maine Community Cultural Alliance during 2004 - 2007 were required to register as lobbyists. The staff has concluded that no registration was necessary because the attorneys did not meet the threshold of lobbying for more than 8 hours in a calendar month. *Staff recommendation: the staff believes no further action by the Commission is required.*

5. Adoption of Rule Amendments

At its meeting on October 30, 2007, the Commission voted to invite public comment on proposed changes to the Commission Rules drafted by staff. The Commission held a public hearing at the December 7 meeting and interested persons were invited to submit comments through December 17. *Staff recommendation: The staff recommends adoption of the rule amendments.*

6. Proposed Advice to Section 1056-B filers

The staff seeks the Commission's approval to provide further advice to organizations that raise or spend more than \$1,500 to influence a ballot question but do not qualify as political action committees. On November 14, 2007, the staff distributed a notice of

opportunity to comment on the proposed guidance. In response to comments received, the staff amended the proposed advice in the first week of December. At the December 7 meeting, the Commission requested that the staff distribute the currently proposed advice for additional comment because the most recent amendments were not publicly available until the morning of the meeting. Following a second invitation to comment, one more set of comments were received. *Staff recommendation: the staff recommends adopting the proposed advice.*

Other Business

EXECUTIVE SESSION

If necessary.

ADJOURNMENT