GREEN PARTY OF TEXAS

Annual State Meeting Minutes June 6-7 2015

location: Bethlehem Center 970 E Humbolt St, Fort Worth, TX 76104

09:00 Welcome given by Diane Wood of Tarrant County who noted the passing of long-time GP supporter Phil Snyder, introduced Tarrant Green Party members who helped organize the meeting, gave a brief history of the Bethlehem Center, and introduced Dr. Carolyn Yusuf, director of the center who made brief welcoming remarks.

Meeting process and flow were explained by CoChairs Kat Swift and Laura Palmer. Functionaries were selected. Note-takers were Josh Merrell & Roy Carl Stanley, queue-keepers were Deb Shafto and George Reiter, and vibes-watchers were Art Browning, Bernadine Williams, and Martina Salinas. Thirty-three delegates were in attendance (confirmed on delegate sign in sheet & paper notes). Images of the agenda, meeting's paper notes, SEC & NC election tallies, and delegate sign in sheet shall be kept as appendices to these consolidated minutes.

09:25 Approval of the agenda was met and the state meeting is officially underway starting with the approval of the bylaw amendments.

Bylaw Amendments

Item 1

Consensus established for Paul Pipkin and Kat swift to continue their terms that end in 2016 and the SEC will fill the two-1 year vacancies left at the end of their terms so that in 2 years all NC members will be approved in non-election years.
Subsection B was withdrawn due to lack of consensus
Don Cook objected to unstaggering, but stood aside
2 opposed 29 yea 2 abstention **passed**

Amendment to Article II Section 1, Subsections C:

C) Members of the Committee shall serve terms of two years, commencing the day after their election. The terms of the Co-Chairs, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be staggered – one cochair with Secretary, the other Treasurer. The At-Large Committee members will be elected as a whole in odd-numbered years. Any vacancies can be filled per Subsection J.

Article II Section 8:
Delegates and alternates to the representative body of Green Party of the United States (GPUS) shall be chosen at an off-year Statewide Convention using proportional approval voting. Terms are not staggered.

09:50 **Item 2**
Regarding the fee to create a county party, it has always been waived so we amend to-
Delete Article II, Section 2, C, iii in entirety
passed by consensus

09:56 **item 3**
Explanation of intent, which is to split description of nominating conventions from annual state meetings as was original intention of founding drafters per David Cobb who was a founder and in attendance. Note need to reconcile dates will need to be done when added to bylaws as stated below.
passed by consensus

Delete Article II, section 2 A & B and replace with:

Article II, Section 2 County Organization

A) Counties may organize in any way they choose that includes Consensus-Seeking Facilitation and horizontal organizing and is not in violation of the State Constitution, State Election Code, and the Ten Key Values.

Renumber "C) County Affiliation with the GPTX" to B)

Rename Article V: Party Nominating Conventions

Renumber Articles VI, VII, VIII, and IX to be under article V

Article VIII, Section 1 – to include public phone or video conference calls

Article IX, Section I Section 1:
State Nominating Conventions shall be held when and in the manner prescribed by the Texas Election Code. (Election Code § 181.061)

Article IX Section 2 – delete "parliamentarian" as we never use that term

Move Article IX Section 8 to new Article VI Annual State Meetings

Move Article IX Section 9 L), 10, and 11 to new Article VI Annual State Meetings

Article IX Section 9K, 9L,10B, 11B, – reconcile deadlines – Amendments 45 days, dissemination of amendments 1 week after 45 days – before delegates due 30 days, State nominating convention delegates elected Saturday after 2nd Tuesday in March = less than 30 days

New Article VI Annual State Meetings

Section 1:
A State Meeting shall be held every year between June 1 to September 1. These non-nominating Meetings will be held as called by the State Executive Committee and they are encouraged to hold them in cities outside the major metropolitan areas to foster outreach to all of Texas.
Section 2:
The State Executive Committee shall be charged with planning the logistics of such a meeting and preparing an agenda. Meetings shall use consensus-based process with co-facilitators, process observers, and timekeepers.
Section 3:
The State Meeting shall seek consensus on all decisions. In the event unanimous consensus is not

reached, a 2/3 vote of members present is required for adoption of any proposal.

10:40 **Item 4**
friendly amendment accepted to change “nonbinding” to “binding”
with caveat that if state disallows “binding” amendment, return to “non-binding”.
Art Browning- against nomenclature for binding , in favor of “guide”
action - we are unsure the SOS will accept this change. It will be the responsibility of the SEC to change it if the SOS rejects it.
6 opposed 22 yea 3 abstentions passed

To be put under “Precinct Conventions” in GPTX Electoral Rules. (numbering will be changed to reflect appropriate position in existing rules.)

1. Precinct Ballots

(This is a decentralizing & participatory democracy modification to the Texas Election Code in an effort to replicate the Primary Process (where all voters are allowed to vote) in the Convention Nominating Parties (where only delegates are given a vote according to the TX Election Code)):

a. Precinct Attendees shall vote on candidates seeking the party's nomination as applicable to their precinct using Approval Voting for all positions except President of the United States which will use Proportional Approval Voting

b. Ballots must include a "None of the Above" option in each race.

c. Attendees can vote only for offices for which they legally can vote for in the General Election.

d. These ballots are binding to the County, District, State, and National Delegates when casting their official votes.

10:48 break

11:04 **Item 5 passed by consensus –** General consensus was achieved, but it was thought at the time that the specific instructions for counting votes could be included in a policy manual rather than in the by-laws. [Note: Since then, kat has confirmed with the election code that the counting method does in fact have to be detailed in the by-laws, and so this item has been added in the updated by-laws as Article II Party Organization, Section 4.]

Approval Voting Explanation and Count Instructions:
In **Approval Voting**, one may vote for (*approve*) **as many candidates as one wants**.

Below is a sample ballot, where the voter has voted for Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King, and Anna Mae Pictou Aquash. (Add image from delegate packet to final bylaw document-or reword to describe image)

Counting Approval Votes:

Single Seat Elections:

Every vote is counted and tallied. The candidate with the most votes (i.e. the "most approved" candidate) wins.

Multiseat Elections:

The candidates are elected one round at a time. In each round, the candidate with the most votes wins. However, each voter's ballot is "weighted" (divided) by the number of previous winners approved by that ballot, *plus one*. This creates a *proportional* outcome, which gives fair representation to the diversity of opinion within the electorate.

In every round, for each ballot, the weight of the votes is 1 / (1 + w), where 'w' is the number of winners-that ballot has approved.

In the first round 'w=zero(0)' on every ballot; therefore each approval counts fully. Once the ballot has approved two (2) of the winners, 1+**2** is **3** — so your votes are equal to 1/**3** of a vote.

The principle is that a person's ballot becomes weaker as it influences the election, to give other voters a chance to be heard in subsequent rounds.

The first run through the ballots leaves you with two stacks:

A. All ballots who approved of the winning candidate of the first round;

B. All ballots who disapproved (did not vote for) of the first round winner.

Stack B's votes for the second round are counted fully. Stack A's are counted as one-half (1/2). And so on.

Let's demonstrate with an example:

Suppose we wish to elect four candidates.

Now suppose that Aquash is the first candidate elected.

Because this ballot approves of Aquash, that's *one* winner that's approved by this ballot so far.

So in the second round, each vote on this ballot now counts for *half*.

Now suppose that the second round winner is Roosevelt. This ballot did not approve of Roosevelt, so its votes still count for half.

Now suppose that the third round winner is Chavez. Since this ballot approves of Chavez, *two* winners have been approved by this ballot. So each vote on this ballot now counts for *a third*.

Now we elect our fourth round winner, and we're done.

Ties:

In the event of a tie, a coin is tossed – each candidate picks a side and a vote counter flips the coin.

Item 6 was **withdrawn** by submitter.

Item 7.**passed by consensus**

Amendment to Article II, Section 2, Subsection C, Sub-subsection i:

"i. To affiliate with the Green Party of Texas, County Green Party organizations shall make an application in writing **(physical or digital)** to the State Executive Committee. The application shall include written **(physical or digital)** democratic bylaws and a list of the County Officers or Executive Committee."

11:45 **Item 8**. to include amended-(changes made to allow counties to nominate coordinators before SEC approves) section (F), about the creation of PACs, was removed from submission before approval **passed by consensus**

Amendment to Article II, Section 3: Regional Coordinators

A) Regional Coordinators shall be nominated by county parties and appointed by the SEC where possible or appointed by the SEC where not possible for a one-year term and are subject to dismissal anytime before term expiration by either the SEC or a majority vote of County Parties within the region. Each region may have as many Co-Coordinators as is deemed necessary.
B) Regional Coordinators are appointed to facilitate communication between County Parties within a designated region and between GPTX and County Parties.
C) Regional Coordinators are responsible for contacting and recruiting registered persons in chairless counties, maintaining notes for quarterly meetings, facilitating inter-county cooperation, reporting regional needs to GPTX, utilizing social media for chairless counties, and promoting County Party growth.
D) Regional Coordinators exist solely for communicative and organizational purposes, wielding no veto authority over County Parties.
E) Regions are set by the SEC and are subject to change depending on the organizational needs of the state.

11:57 **Item 9 passed by consensus**

Amendment to Article II, Section 2:

Adding a new Subsection below B concerning regional meetings.

"C) It is the responsibility of each County Chairperson or a designated stand-in to meet quarterly (in-person or digitally) with their Regional Coordinator and fellow Chairpersons. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss upcoming events, contacts, and other important information that facilitate inter-county cooperation."

12:02-13:04 **lunch**

13:15 Explanation of SEC and NC delegate responsibilities to ensure nominees understand their roles and are given the ability to withdraw. Funding and strategy was briefly discussed about merchandise, specifically shirts which Deb Shafto had provided for sale at 10$ and campaigning ideas such as wearing the shirts for simple good deeds to gain positive attention

new nominations
Alan Alan Apurim, self nominated from the floor for secretary
Frederick Clarkson, Remington Alessi, and MariaElena Castellanos nominations for at large from floor and accepted
George Reiter, Don Cook, Valerie Alessi nominated for National Committee and accepted

13:34 nominations closed

13:45 Candidates made statements and delegates were directed to written candidate statements in their convention packets. David Wager made a statement against MariaElena and Alan Alan's candidacies asserting that neither had fulfilled their duties when formerly in positions of Harris Co CoChair and GPTX Secretary respectively.

13:56 party building workshop which included Nation Builder training

14:35 MariaElena has volunteered to work on the Spanish version of the web site. This was mentioned by Laura, which lead to MariaElena realizing how much work she had already taken on and withdrawing her previous nominations. Laura continued her workshop.
action - media committee to meet with MariaElena about Spanish web site

15:14 break
15:45 voting
16:00 ballot counting – Ballots were counted before all meeting participants until we ran out of time at our venue & had to relocate. Results for SEC elections:

CoChair
Aaron Renaud 28 Elected
Roy Stanley 11
undervote 1

Secretary
Roy Stanley 27 Elected
Alan Alan Apurim 5
none of the above 2
undervote 1

SEC at-large members
Martina Salinas round 1
Dan Monahan round 2
Remington Alessi round 3
Joel Brotzman-Gonzales round 4
Fred Clarkson round 5
David Orr not elected

17:30 Ballots were sealed by tape and signature of two cochairs, Laura and kat and carried by kat, escorted by Fred and Roy to another location where it was decided to finish the tally for the National Committee members later this night in a hotel room. The votes for NC delegates were tallied in the hotel

room by a group that included: kat swift, Laura Palmer, Don Cook, Deb Shafto, Remington Alessi, Alan Alan Apurim, and Art Browning, who shared & rotated through counting and observation duties.

Day Two
08:55 Delegates signed in - 25 in attendance - and immediately started the meeting

09:00 Meeting opened with the Treasurer report given by David Wager. *see last page
Fundraising and media ideas were discussed.
billboard, online videos, social media ads, online company to help with web presence, etc
David Cobb offered as a GPTX founder to help with fundraising ideas and volunteered to coordinate region 8.

09:35 Election results for the National Committee were announced

Martina Salinas Round 1
Aaron Renaud Round 2
tie Herb Gonzales Round 3&4
tie Valerie Alessi Round 3&4
Nic Freeman Round 5
Art Browning Round 6
Roy Stanley Round 7

NC-Alternates-
George Reiter Round 8
Don Cook - Round 9
A.J. Worthey - Round 10
Maria Elena Castellanos - not elected

9:45 continuation of amendments
new bylaw amendment - request to consider approved by consensus: after review of bylaws it appears our 1999 and 2010 amendments to ban corporate contributions to the party has again disappeared from the document. It was consented to add the line, “The GPTX does not accept for-profit corporate contributions.”
passed by consensus (Record as Article IX: General Provisions, Section 4)

Bylaw Item 10 missed on Saturday due to poor document formatting:
passed by consensus
Due to time constraints during nominating conventions platform amendments were moved to off-year meetings, yet whereas good and necessary proposals are not created exclusively on odd-numbered years, friendly amendment accepted to do platform at annual state party meetings instead of nominating conventions.

D) Amendments to the state platform shall only be allowed at state party meetings.

Platform Amendments
Item 1 – Lively discussion, but no principled objections. specific incorporation in existing text was left TBD. [See notes for where each point can be incorporated into existing Platform text.] **Passed by**

consensus

add the following to the State Platform if not already there:

Once elected, Greens will introduce and work toward enacting the following local, legislative, and state constitutional electoral reforms as a complete package:

(incorporate into I.A.9)- Install a hand-counted paper ballot system

(modify I.A.2)- Switch to a preferential voting method, i.e., “approval voting” method

(present I.B.2)- Include a binding “none of the above”, a.k.a. “against all” option in each race

(modify I.B.1)- Revise voter registration to be fully accessible to all voters and include same day registration and online registration

(modify I.B.1)- Make Election Day a statutory paid holiday

(insert as I.A.10)- Put ballot boxes under live-stream video surveillance from beginning of ballot collection to completion of vote count

(insert as I.A.10)- Make video surveillance of the ballot boxes live-streamed to the general public; no ballot boxes will be moved from the polling locations until the counting process has been completed

(insert as I.B.3)- Remove restrictive ballot access laws modeled after LA and MS

(add to I.A.1)- Create a public clean elections fund modeled after the Maine Clean Election Act

(insert as I.A.8)- Ban corporate contributions to political parties and keep current Texas ban for candidate campaigns

(insert as I.B.4)- create a system of designating boundaries of electoral districts that eliminates gerrymandering.

9:51 process request to group remaining items for general consensus but this was not adopted

Item 2 passed by consensus

Add to Social Justice II A a new #12
"We support giving disabled veterans the help they need, physically and mentally, and stop disabling more."

Item 3 moved to resolution rather than a platform amendment and **passed by consensus**

Add To Grassroots Democracy I A 1
"We encourage the League of Women Voters to resume their presidential candidate debates, whether Democratic and Republican candidates participate or not. Under the old criteria of ballot status in enough states to have a majority of Electoral College ballots, this would permit inclusion of Libertarians, Greens, and Socialist parties, if not more, and would permit the American people to hear more than two increasingly similar viewpoints."

Item 4

some discussion of wording, friendly amendments to sections 1, 15, and 16 were accepted

passed by consensus

Amendment to Platform Section C. (Criminal Justice)

9. We recognize the disproportionate legal abuses faced by minority populations, especially by low income, people of color, queers, transpeople, and cisfemales. We support a balancing of police forces to reflect the makeup of communities being policed and generally the self-policing by communities rather than by law-enforcement.
10. In order to prevent further police brutality, we support the use of full body cameras that cannot be disabled by officers, demilitarization, and gradual across the board disarmament of the police. All video recordings should be stored indefinitely and available to the public online, without charge, except in cases to protect the victim's identity and dignity.
11. Every law-enforcement department should be required to keep and report data to the public regarding police violence statistics.
12. We advocate a shift in funding from policing and prisons on the local, state, and federal levels to minority communities for job creation and educational opportunities.
13. Along with the Black Lives Matter movement and other movements and organizations, we demand justice for all people murdered by the police.
14. We advocate the dismissal of and criminal investigation into all officials that allowed police brutality to continue without acknowledgement or justice.
15. We advocate the establishment and full funding of independent civilian review boards, with subpoena power, at municipal and county levels, to oversee the investigation and subsequent prosecution of law enforcement officers accused of misconduct or brutality.
16. We strongly urge jurisdictions to provide independent prosecution and to require instructions and incentives for prosecuting agencies to pursue indictments against law enforcement officers in cases of alleged misconduct or brutality, rather than withholding evidence from grand juries, as well as comprehensive reform of the grand jury system to prevent no-bills of officers when evidence is clearly sufficient to proceed to trial.

1036 -11:08 **Item 5**
Amendment to Section B-10
Passed by Consensus

Amendment to existing platform highlighted in yellow.

We are opposed to the corporal punishment of children and will support educational programs and the passage of non-punitive state and national laws to end this practice.

Addition to Section B

Don Cook, Fred Clarkson, and Aaron Renaud had blocking objections regarding calling circumcision "genital mutilation," health effects, and potential for people to feel oppressed by this stance, i.e. those who believe this to be a necessary practice for a child's entry into a religion.
19 yea 4 opposed 2 abstentions
passed

The practice of genital mutilation, called circumcision, when performed on infants or children, who either cannot or do not consent, constitutes a violation of their right to bodily integrity and freedom

from unnecessary harm. Recognizing that the beliefs of the parents or adults whose responsibility it is to care for the children does not preclude these rights, and that the state has a responsibility to protect the children from harm, the Green Party will support educational programs to end this practice.

Item 6 skipped with consent of submitter because of time restrictions

Item 7. passed by consensus
Add additional clause at end of banking section:

> The Green Party of Texas ultimately supports the move toward a monetary system that is not debt-based. Such a system should reflect the limited nature and capacity of the world's resources while accounting for the true cost of environmental degradation on people to encourage good stewardship of our environment. Additionally, such a system should facilitate the greatest level of sustainable human well-being possible along with the highest level of participation on the part of all communities in economic life.

Item 8.
friendly amendments were made, but presenter absent, so delegates decided by consensus to make these changes to ensure items went into platform as the meaning was not changed.
Passed by consensus

1. ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY We support user-controlled businesses, such as cooperatives, buying clubs, credit unions, etc. as a control against private profit corporate control of the economy. IV A 2 (at the end)
2. SOCIAL JUSTICE We oppose giving military combat equipment to civilian police departments, which have neither the training nor necessity for them. II C between 6 & 7
(Make sure this idea is in the platform)
3. IV E 1 Add TransPacific Partnership (TPP) to the ignoble list.

11:20
Item 6 was revisited, with friendly amendments and sent for wordsmithing [Post meeting it was realized this item was pulled from the US platform and not the state platform. To honor the vote of the delegates, this item is to be prepared to be submitted to the national committee to be added to the national platform rather than the GPTX platform. The revision notes have been left here for that purpose.]
1 objection 23 yea - passed

2. ~~AIDS / HIV -~~ Debilitating illness

The Green Party calls for undiscriminating, comprehensive, humane, ~~and~~ competent care ~~of~~ and preventative measures for all people ~~with AIDS/HIV~~ susceptible-to/or suffering from any debilitating illness. We also call for transparent timely access to information and funding for cures.

2.1 AIDS / HIV - (rename and leave content as written)

2.2 We recommend the following actions:

a. Increased funding for ~~AIDS~~ illness education and patient care.

b. Increased funding for comprehensive health and sex education that includes AIDS and aging education.

c. Increased funding for research focusing on ~~a cure~~ cures, methods of prevention, ~~and on~~ bolstering the immune system, and extending healthy life spans.

d. Improved technology, facilities, laboratories, researchers, staff and personnel to cure ~~AIDS/HIV~~ all debilitating illness. A "Manhattan Project" for ~~a cure~~ cures is required.

e. Complete transparent sharing of information among researchers, funding agencies (including corporations), and the public ~~on AIDS/HIV~~ on any illness before awarding the next research grant.

f. More research into better methods of prevention of HIV infection. While we support condom use, better condoms are also required. We support more vaccine research as well as research on prevention methods such as microbicides. People must be provided the means and support to protect themselves from all diseases- sexually transmitted ~~diseases,~~ .airborne, or contractible by any other means.

g. Equal access to ~~AIDS~~ illness education, treatment and medications for all affected. Accordingly, funding and accountability should be increased.

(h.-q. no change to existing these platform items)

r. Providing housing for the homeless and financially disadvantaged ~~poor people~~ with permanent or temporary ~~AIDS/HIV~~ medical disability needs in respect to their physical needs..IE you wouldn't put an amputee on the 10th floor with a small bathroom and no guard rails.

s. Providing treatment for homeless people with ~~AIDS/ HIV~~ debilitating illness.

(no change to items t. and u.)

v. Lifting the ban prohibiting ~~HIV positive~~ viral people from entering the U.S. as visitors or as immigrants and getting them the medical attention needed.

w. Make it unlawful to limit the extension of ones life span or sentence one to death by restricting access to cures in respect to religious, financial or otherwise bias means with the exception of a family member with legal rights to end life support on a brain dead or otherwise unrevivable patient

w.2 Any legal action to be taken in ending the life support of a patient should be investigated before the action, not after.

x. Fund a global database for real time transparent medical research sharing and development

y. Encourage development of accessibility technologies that enable natural actions to be made that were previously removed by an illness, loss, or birth defect, as to allow the same basic functionality as an able-bodied person, e.g., Walking, Talking, Breathing, Typing..

z. Encourage regenerative medicine research to be expanded on with no respect to religious bias IE stem cell research, Negligent senescence research, telomere research, organ transplants, etc

Resolutions - See full text below end of minutes
1. passed by consensus – fracking ban
2. passed by consensus – GPUS military aid to Ukraine

11:52 Candidate Support and recruitment workshop
Action - call for candidate guide, media kit and liaison, candidate support committee

12:30 Paul Pipkin, elected delegate to the Coordinated Campaign Committee (CCC) at the national level described their initiative for a National Electoral Strategy and Bernadine Williams reported she had received the CCC survey and reposted it to party lists. Pipkin requested the incoming SEC to designate a Texas Liaison to liaise with the GPUS Coordinated Campaign Committee. SEC will do so at first meeting.

12:35 Dr Laura Pressley spoke on her election fraud case in Travis County and requested support to appeal the summary judgment that denied her access to the state election code required ballot images for a manual recount and set a dangerous precedent for future election recounts.

13:00 Meeting adjourned and SEC departed to meet informally for the first time with new members and old.

Minutes submitted by State Secretary, Roy Carl Stanley
Contributions to minutes by Kat Swift, Laura Palmer, Josh Merrell, Aaron Renaud, and Alan Alan Apurim

Resolutions

1. RESOLUTION DEMANDING A STATEWIDE AND NATIONAL BAN ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING (FRACKING) FOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS

WHEREAS, the hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for oil and natural gas involves the use of chemicals and hazardous materials during construction, drilling, hydraulic fracturing, gas production and delivery, well maintenance, and workover operations; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing of underground geologic formations is often accomplished by injecting a complex mix of fluids and chemicals, including large volumes of water, on average 4.5 million gallons per well, under very high pressure to create fractures in gas bearing geologic formations[1]; and

WHERAS, Texas's source(s) of drinking water, as well as other surface and groundwater sources throughout the United States, must be protected from contamination; and

WHEREAS, many of the chemical constituents injected during hydraulic fracturing have documented serious adverse health effects and/or adverse environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, there have been more than a 1,000 documented cases of water contamination near fracking sites[2] and some people who live near these sites can now light their drinking water on fire; and

WHEREAS, wastewater from fracking can contain radioactive elements and has been discharged into rivers that supply drinking water for millions, according to the *New York Times*[3]; and

WHEREAS, use of these hydraulic fracturing mixes exposed adjacent air, land, and surface waters to the risk of contamination through open pit storage, truck transport on roadways, and activities during well development; and

WHEREAS, the pollution of water caused by fracking threatens the long term economic well being of communities, as businesses and consumers depend on clean drinking water; and
WHEREAS, in 2005, as part of the federal Energy Policy Act and over objections of health care, scientific, environmental, and conservation communities, regulation of hydraulic fracturing fluids under the Safe Drinking Water Act by the Environmental Protection Agency were exempted, thereby allowing oil and gas companies to use these substances without these important federal standards and oversight; and
WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry is not required by federal law to publicly disclose chemical

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1 *New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, "Natural Gas Development Activities and High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing," revised draft, Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement, 2011, www.dec.ny.gov/ docs/ materials_minerals_pdf/ rdsgeisch50911. pdf .Bamberger, Michelle; Oswald, Robert (2014-08-05).*

2 S.G . Osborn, A. Vengosh, N.R. Warner, and R.B. Jackson, "Methane Contamination of Drinking Water Accompanying Gas-Well Drilling and Hydraulic Fracturing," Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA 108 (2011): 8172– 76.Bamberger, Michelle; Oswald, Robert (2014-08-05)

3 Regulation Lax as Gas Wells' Tainted Water Hits Rivers, New York Times, February 26, 2011

formulas of hydraulic fracturing fluids so that this information is publicly available for health and safety purposes; and

WHEREAS, Oil and gas Extraction Industries have fatalities seven times higher than the rate for all U.S. industries[4]; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of cities, counties, states, and countries across the globe have passed measures to limit or ban fracking citing negative impacts on, among other things, climate change, earthquakes, air contamination, water contamination, and land contamination[5]; and

WHEREAS, the wise stewardship of our natural resources involves protection of Texas's water, land and air supplies and water and air resources for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, protection of Texas's water, land and air supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to cleaning up contamination and restoring degraded environments after the fact; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Green Party of Texas supports and demands a statewide and national ban on hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Green Party of Texas calls on the Texas Legislature to pass measures banning hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas within Texas's geographical and political boundaries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Green Party of Texas calls on the Green Party of the United States to pass a similar resolution and demand that the United States of America ban hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas within its geographical and political boundaries.

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[4] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NIOSH Program Portfolio, "Oil and Gas Extraction, Inputs: Occupational Safety and Health Risks," last updated December 13, 2012, www.cdc.gov/ niosh/ programs/Bamberger, Michelle; Oswald, Robert (2014-08-05).

[5] Food and Water Watch, http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/fracking/

2. Green Party opposes U.S. military aid for Ukraine

Washington is using Ukraine to provoke a NATO vs. Russia face-off in a new Cold War, say Greens

View and download Green Party responses to the 2015 State of the Union:
http://tinyurl.com/greenplaylist-2015sotu

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Green Party opposes proposed plans to provide Ukraine's armed forces military aid to fight rebels who are allegedly receiving assistance from Russia and urges President Obama to reject the advice of warhawk advisors and Congressmembers.

"Washington has used the people of Ukraine as chess pieces in a bid to strengthen NATO and isolate Russia politically, militarily, and economically, taking advantage of Russia's vulnerability in the wake of sanctions and Saudi Arabia's reduction of oil prices. Instead of seeking peace, the U.S. is aggravating tensions, risking a face-off with Russia that could spark a proxy war or even a global conflict. This game isn't about self-defense for the U.S., it's about expanding the power of NATO and enforcing the U.S.'s superpower status," said Starlene Rankin, co-chair of the Green Party of the United States.

Green Party leaders strongly criticized comments by Sen. Lindsey Graham (R.-SC) and U.S. Air Force general Philip Breedlove directed at German Chancellor Angela Merkel during last week's Munich Conference (http://www.commondreams.org/news/2015/02/07/munich-conference-us-hawks-press-military-escalation-towards-russia). Chancellor Merkel, who favors a diplomatic solution, was in Washington last week to meet with President Obama.

"The insistence on military escalation by Sen. Graham and other warhawks in Munich indicate that the neocon ideology that led the U.S. into a pointless invasion of Iraq has become permanent foreign policy. A more constructive policy would maintain diplomacy, emphasize cooperation with Russia, and avoid the kinds of threats that put President Putin on the defense," said Darryl! L.C. Moch, co-chair of the Green Party of the United States.

Greens said that Americans should be wary of "drumbeats for war" in the media: propagandistic news reports that uncritically repeat official statements, recreating the media's role in the months before President Bush ordered U.S. troops to invade Iraq ten years ago.

Supporters of arms shipments include the "liberal-centrist" Brooking Institution, which published a paper recommending that the U.S. send Ukraine $3 billion worth of anti-armor missiles, reconnaissance drones, armored vehicles, and radar systems (http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2015/02/ukraine-independence-russian-aggression).

Green Party leaders cited a report from Human Rights Watch that "Ukrainian government forces used cluster munitions in populated areas in Donetsk city in early October 2014" in violation of the laws of war (http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/10/20/ukraine-widespread-use-cluster-munitions) and noted the presence of extreme nationalist and Neo-Nazi groups among Ukraine's leadership. These factors suggest that U.S. arms shipped to Ukraine might be used against civilian populations, especially ethnic minorities and separatists in the eastern Donbass region of Ukraine.

Greens said Americans should take seriously former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's warning that "The U.S. has already dragged us into a new Cold War, trying to openly implement its idea of triumphalism." (http://rt.com/news/227423-us-russia-cold-war/)

See also:

Freedom Rider: War is Peace in Ukraine
By Margaret Kimberley, Black Agenda Report, February 11, 2015
http://blackagendareport.com/node/14661

MORE INFORMATION

Green Party of the United States http://www.gp.org
202-319-7191

Green candidate database and campaign information: http://www.gp.org/elections.shtml
News Center http://www.gp.org/newscenter.shtml
Speakers Bureau http://www.gp.org/speakers
Ballot Access Page http://www.gp.org/2012/ballot-access.html
Video Page http://www.gp.org/video/index.php
Green Papers http://www.greenpapers.net/
Discussion Forum https://secure.gpus.org/secure/GreenPartyForum
Google+ http://www.gp.org/google
Twitter http://twitter.com/GreenPartyUS
Livestream Channel http://www.livestream.com/greenpartyus
Facebook page http://www.gp.org/facebook

Green Pages: The official publication of record of the Green Party of the United States
http://gp.org/greenpages-blog

Green Shadow Cabinet http://greenshadowcabinet.us
~ END ~

Delegates in Attendance

Denton

Aaron Renaud
Kristel Escamilla
Wesson Gaige
Nancy Gaige
Benn Johnson - Day 1 only

Bexar

Paul Pipkin
Rachell Tucker
Jake Tucker
Ellen Berky

Fannin

Paul Cardwell - Day 1 only

Travis

kat swift
Haithem El-Zabri - Day 1 only

Medina

Warren Christilles - left early day 2
Anastasia Christilles - Day 1 only

Tarrant

Troy Sanders
Martina Salinas - present both days but signed in Day 1 only
Roy Carl Stanley
Scott Kern - present both days but signed in Day 1 only
Diane Wood

Dallas County

Kevin McCormick
Joshua Merrell

Collin County

Emmett G Merwin
Paul Blair - left early Day 1

Harris

David Wager
David Collins
Alan Alan Apurim
Laura Palmer
Don Cook
Fred Clarkson
Bernadine Williams
George Reiter - present both days but signed in Day 1 only
Deb Shafto
Art Browning
Paul Garner - Day 2 (was present for end of Day 1 but did not sign in)

GPTX								
FINANCIAL REPORT								
6/7/15	12/31/15	1/31/15	2/28/15	3/31/15	4/30/15	5/31/15	6/6/15	YTD
REVENUE FROM CONTRIBUTIONS		$ 333	308	343	1,056	463	35	$ 2,538
EXPENSES								
BANK		120	119	121	145	121	114	740
EVENT					350		743	1,093
INTERNET		123	123	123	123	123		615
TRAVEL						136		136
TOTAL EXPENSES		243	242	244	618	380	857	$ 2,585
NET SURPLUS		90	66	99	438	83	(822)	**$ (47)**
ENDING BALANCE								
BBVA	$ 172	201	229	257	513	477	121	
PAYPAL	123	185	222	293	475	594	128	
TOTAL IN BANK	$ 296	$ 386	451	551	**$ 988**	**$ 1,071**	**$ 249**	
		-	-	-	-	-	-	
NOTES:								
$537.50 INCOME FROM GPUS, April								
PAID $350 DEPOSITS FOR STATE MEETING, April								
BALANCE ON MEETING ROOM: $200, PAID $200 + $100 EXTRA TIME ON 6/7/15								
BALANCE ON CATERING: $543.21, PAID 06/06/15								
$78 PER MONTH FOR NATIONBUILDER PAID BY DAVID WAGER, CONTRIBUTION								
$55 per month in sustainers Paypal								
$75 per month old system to move.								
RECEIVED $335 IN DONATIONS NOT RECORDED ABOVE AT STATE MEETING								
PAID $136 TO KAT IN MAY FOR TRAVEL TO STATE MEETING AND $67 IN JUNE NOT RECORDED ABOVE.								