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**Minutes of the Board meeting held at
11.30 am Wednesday 21 March 2012
National Party Service Centre, Wellington**

Present

Peter Goodfellow (President)
Malcolm Plimmer
Kate Hazlett
Alastair Bell
Grant McCallum
Roger Bridge
Michael Woodhouse left at 1.30

In Attendance

Greg Hamilton

Apologies

Pat Seymour (joined by telephone)
Rt Hon John Key

Conflicts of Interest

None

Previous minutes

It was moved that the minutes of the 02 February Board meeting be recorded as a true and correct record.

Moved: Peter Goodfellow

Seconded: Grant McCallum

Motion Carried

Matters arising

The Board stood for a moment's silence to acknowledge the passing of Barry Leay, former National Party Secretary General from 1973 to 1987. Roger Bridge noted that he was an outstanding administrator and innovator. He held senior office in the Party through difficult times and always put the Party first, and continued to support the Party through his later life.

It was agreed that the General Manager would attempt to arrange some time for the Board and the Prime minister to meet at one of the regional conferences

Alastair Bell requested that it be recorded that he left the last Board meeting at 3.30pm.

Caucus Report

Michael Woodhouse was welcomed to the Board meeting and reported the following:

Caucus report

- The Caucus is in very good shape.
- The Leader of the House is pleased with the progress of legislation passing through the House.

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- The New MPs are settling in very well. All have been through an informal training process with the Whip and Junior Whip.

Candidates College

Michael reported that he has had a discussion with those MPs that have had an involvement with Simon Lusk. He has let them know that it is not appropriate for any MPs to engage with any alternative Candidates' School that is not sanctioned by the Party. He said that this has been understood by all.

He noted that these discussions had given rise to further discussion about the Party's Candidates College and the gap in content that it potentially has.

He reported that Simon Lusk is running a further meeting purportedly aimed at educating local body aspirants. This has led some in Caucus to ask where the Party is positioned with local Body politics particularly in Auckland. Some Caucus members feel that they should be involved in this training programme. Michael believes however that they should remain distant and will have that discussion with those MPs.

Update on Simon Lusk

Michael reported a disturbing discussion that he has had with Simon Lusk that highlighted his motivations and a very negative agenda for the Party. It was agreed that light needs to be shed on these issues with key influencers within the Party. It was further agreed that his agenda represents a serious risk to the Party and this issue will be followed up with a further meeting between the President and the Whip.

Candidates on the list

Michael reported that he has had a discussion with both Aaron Gilmore and Paul Quinn and will keep in touch with both.

List MPs

Michael reported on discussions and progress in reviewing a resource allocation strategy for list MPs considering ethnic outreach and regional support programmes. He welcomes direction from the Board regarding some principles that would guide list candidate resource strategies. It is important that a clear strategy be in place for 2013.

MMP review

Michael acknowledged the great job that Cameron Cotter has done in preparing background research and data in regards to the Party's MMP review submission.

A discussion paper was presented to the Cabinet and Caucus outlining the various MMP review considerations. Outcomes of those presentations were:

- The Party should be directive to its members in regards to the Party's view
- Members need to suspend their view of whether MMP is their preferred system as this has already been determined by the 2011 referendum. They now need to consider possible improvements to MMP. Furthermore the Party and members should take care to avoid the suggestion or appearance of any political bias.
- There was a general consensus that the Party's submission should be principled and argue the status quo in all areas being considered by the Electoral Commission.

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Pacific Island Strategy

The Board welcomed Alfred Ngaro and Sam Lotu-iga.

The pair presented a Pacific Island Strategy prepared in collaboration between Ministers and the Party's Pacific Blues Special Interest Group which they plan to re-invigorate with the mission of maximising the Pacific vote in 2014.

They highlighted aligned values between the Pacific Island community and National noting a solid opportunity to engage better with our messages in this community.

A Caucus committee has been established and includes MPs that have a large Pacific Island community in their electorates.

The strategy is made up of five core strategic initiatives.

- 1) Commission a National survey
- 2) Implement a communications strategy
- 3) Strengthen and build capacity of Pacific Blues
- 4) Work with Pacific Caucus
- 5) Co-ordinated team approach

Grant McCallum asked about the importance of the church in the Pacific Island community. Sam said it still remained a great avenue for engagement but not the only avenue.

The Board noted that one of the Challenges for the Party was to ensure senior Members from the Parliamentary wing be made available to support the communication strategy of the Pacific Blues.

The Board thanked Alfred and Sam and congratulated them on the quality of the plan.

Report from the Policy Committee Chairman

The Board welcomed David Patterson.

David presented two new PAG chairs for approval

It was moved that the nomination of Mike Walsh be approved by the Board as Chair of the Economy PAG and Murray Spackman be approved by the Board as Chair of the Education PAG subject to confirmation of approval by the respective Ministers

Moved: Peter Goodfellow

Seconded: Roger Bridge

Motion Carried

David presented a paper containing a number of initiatives for improving the policy consultation process within the PAG and PCC environment. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the paper be given further and more detailed consideration at the upcoming Policy day.

Finance and Audit Committee report

As Directors present were also in attendance for the Audit Committee meeting, it was agreed that the Board accept the Audit Committee report and the resulting action items without it being presented again.

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It was moved that the Audit Committee report be taken as read.

Moved: Roger Bridge

Seconded: Peter Goodfellow

Motion Carried

Membership, Supporter and Communication (MSC) report

The Board adjourned for the MSC committee meeting 3pm.

The president reconvened the Board meeting at 3.45pm

As Directors present were also in attendance for the MSC Committee meeting, it was agreed that the Board accept the MSC Committee report and the resulting action items without it being presented again.

It was moved that the MSC Committee report be taken as read.

Moved: Grant McCallum

Seconded: Roger Bridge

Motion Carried

President's Report

The President reported:

- Much of his report has been covered in the Audit Committee meeting.
- The government is firming up its agenda for the next three years and has set some tough targets, eg, in delivering better public services, welfare reform and improving local government.
- Our presentation at Caucus covering campaign and head office expenditure was very well received.
- That the recent O-day promotions run by the Young Nationals had been very successful particularly in Auckland where they had achieved 715 sign-ups. The Prime Minister was on the Auckland Campus. The President reported that he has subsequently talked to the Prime Minister about the value of him being on more campuses next year.
- It was agreed that the Young Nats are doing an excellent job and are very active at present. The Party has a good opportunity to grow its membership through this vehicle.
- Roger Bridge feels that the Party needs to do better in getting other senior MPs to be available for other regional Party events.
- Alastair suggested that the Party set up some form of recognition system with the Young Nats to encourage regional competition with O-day activity and resulting membership.
- The General Manager will liaise with the Young Nat's Chair to develop a Young Nat's membership strategy.

General Managers Report

The General Manager presented his February report, red flag and outstanding items, and priorities per the Board Pack.

He presented the membership renewal numbers and explained the additional information now provided on the membership report.

The Board discussed that it would be important to pro-actively manage Levy payments now that Levies have replaced membership targets for Membership Plus electorates. To this end, the General Manager will establish a new report on all Levies for the Board and will ensure that our Regional Coordinators are actively involved in managing electorate membership growth plans.

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The General Manager took the Board through the communications strategy as provided in the Board Pack.

Grant McCaillum reported that Blue Greens have put together an impressive vision document and suggested that this type of document could also be useful in attracting new members to the Young Nats. The President noted that he had discussed with the Young Nats their need for a brief pamphlet along these lines, particularly during O-week.

Roger Bridge asked that the General Manager present a membership renewal and new member workflow to the Board at the next meeting

General Business

Hutt South Strategy

The Board noted and thanked Katrina Shanks for her Hutt South Strategy document as provided in the Board Pack. The General Manager will advise her that the strategy will be considered in conjunction with the overall list candidate resource strategy.

Northland Resolutions

The Board received correspondence from the Northland electorate advising two resolutions that the executive had passed.

- 1) Regional and national conference membership interaction. It was agreed that the General Manager respond by advising that the Northland Conference would be very interactive and that the Service Centre would take their recommendations into account in the planning of the National conference
- 2) Regarding the recommendation for a three term period for List ranking committee members, the General Manager will advise that the rule had not been passed, outlining the process for rule changes and that any rule change would not be possible before the regional conferences. He will suggest that Northland may wish to pursue a remit on the issue.

Candidates College Paper

The General Manager presented a Candidates' College paper as provided in the Board pack that covered a number of initiatives to improve the outputs of the Candidates' College. There was some discussion, however it was agreed that more work was required to determine which, if any, of the initiatives should be adopted.

MMP

After some discussion by the Board it was agreed that the Party submission argue the status quo in all areas being considered by the Electoral Commission.

The General Manager will circulate a paper on the Party's position to the regional Chairs.

Next meeting – 11 April (by conference call) TBA

The meeting concluded at 5.30 pm

Signed:

Dated:

Peter Goodfellow, President