E-mail dialog with **Robert Dewey Inman**, Director, Haywood County Elections
Ethics Check [re: **Wanda Arrington McCracken**] **Haywood County Elections Board**

&

Don Wright, General Counsel (ncsbe.gov).

The following is an e-mail dialog with Robert Inman, Director of Haywood County Elections, although Inman primarily relied on others to respond to these questions and issues. Inman had the Haywood County Elections Board and Don Wright, General Counsel (other title description unknown, other than he is probably a lawyer) respond for him. The issues started with citizens observing some questionable activity late in the evening of November 6, 2012 at the office of Haywood County Elections, regarding some election material from the Saunook Precinct that was turned in late.

Several voters decided to visit Robert Inman at his office on November 7, 2012 to ask about the incident. They included Debby King and her very young daughter, Jonnie Cure, Ken Henson and myself. The meeting was recorded, and is also linked on www.haywoodtp.net.

The e-mail dialog begins subsequent to the meeting, initiated with ethicscheck2012 who alertly lifted some material from Wanda Arrington McCracken's (Precinct Judge for the Saunook Precinct) facebook page.

[**Editors Note:** Note to Inman, it would be a good idea to start monitoring facebook pages of precinct judges in the future to avoid this kind of meltdown].

The dialog concludes with some guy named Don Wright, General Counsel at ncsbe.gov. For all I know, Wright is subbed out from the NC Department of Justice just as the General Counsel, Robert Croom, the NC Code Officials Qualification Board (NCDOI) uses who is a DOJ employee. One factor that needs to be considered in Wright's reply, and this is a truth of life, "Lawyers can only express opinions, it is the Judges that make the rulings".

Monroe A. Miller Jr. 19 Big Spruce Lane Waynesville, NC 28786 www.haywoodtp.net

Subject: An investigation is needed Date: Fri, 9 Nov 2012 14:02:05 -0500

From: ethicscheck2012

To: monroemillerjr, Jonnie Cure <jcubed41@gmail.com>, rinman@haywoodnc.net,

elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov







Subject: Fwd: An investigation is needed Fri, 09 Nov 2012 18:27:14 -0500 Date:

From: Monroe Miller

To: Robert Inman <rinman@haywoodnc.net>

ethicscheck2012, Jonnie Cure <jcubed41@gmail.com>, elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov,

Denny King, Vicki Hyatt <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Becky Johnson

<becky@smokymountainnews.com>, Jeff Schumacher <jeff@themountaineer.com>, Jonathan
Key <jkey@themountaineer.com>, Caroline Klapper <caroline@themountaineer.com>

Mr. Inman,

Do you have any comment or any response to this query about Wanda Arrington McCracken?

Monroe Miller

Subject: RE: An investigation is needed
Date: Sat, 10 Nov 2012 01:41:35 +0000
From: Robert Inman <RInman@haywoodnc.net>

To: ethicscheck2012, Monroe Miller, elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov

<elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov>, Mountaineer Newspaper (news@themountaineer.com)
<news@themountaineer.com>, news@smokymountainnews.com <news@smokymountainnews.com>,
WMFX Radio PEAK Waynesville (Brian Hall) <bri>brianhall@clearchannel.com>, WPTL Radio

Canton (Bill Reck) <admin@wptlradio.net>

CC: Marty Stamey <MStamey@haywoodnc.net>, Chip Killian

<chip.killian@nelsonmullins.com>

Please find attached an official response, also please find signatures verifying the unanimous agreement and knowledge of event in question on attached document. I will make myself available for any and all inquiries regarding this matter. My apologies for not having all the email addresses listed in your groups inquiry.

Robert Inman, Director Haywood County Board of Elections 1233 N. Main St. Waynesville, NC 28786 rinman@haywoodnc.net (828) 452-6633 From: Robert Inman

Sent: Friday, November 09, 2012 7:40 PM

To: ethicscheck2012; Monroe Miller; Jonnie Cure; elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov; Denny King;

Vicki Hyatt; Becky Johnson; Jeff Schumacher; Jonathan Key; Caroline Klapper

Subject: FW: An investigation is needed

Robert Inman, Director Haywood County Board of Elections 1233 N. Main St. Waynesville, NC 28786 rinman@haywoodnc.net (828) 452-6633

Haywood County Board of Elections

Robert Inman, Director

O.L. Yates, Chairman

Grover Bradshaw, Secretary

Sara Warren, Member



1233 North Main Street, Annex II Waynesville, North Carolina 28786 (828) 452-6633 (828) 452-6750 (facsimile)

November 9, 2012

Dear Concerned Citizen:

The "roll" that you are referencing is the second copy of the results which was signed by the democrat chief judge, republican judge, republican assistant, and democrat judge and was time date stamped at 20:12:10 on 11/06/2012. After realizing she had this item and an audit form in her car after she left from bringing in her supplies, she turned her car around and brought the two items back to the board office and left them with a staff member. In the lobby were various members of the public as well as Grover Bradshaw the democrat election board member and Sara Warren the republican election board member.

On Election Day the machines are activated with a data cartridge and a report is printed that shows every contest and the precinct officials verify with their signature that all contests have "0" (zero) votes. At the closing of the polls, votes are collected on the same data cartridge that was used to open the machines and it collects all the data from the voting machines. After all the votes are collected to this cartridge there are two copies of the results printed. One stays with the zero report and the other (which is the one in question) is sent in with the rest of the supplies. If there are people at the precinct who want a copy of the results more reports are printed and made available. Copies of this results "roll" in question is available to anyone who is at the precinct and in no way can change the outcome of the election.

The data cartridge has all the voting data and is read into our election night reporting program. When the paper curbside ballots (which are offered to individuals who are not able to enter the polling place) are added to these results you have the Election Day results. The data cartridge and the curbside ballot tally sheets are the only sources from which any votes counted or recorded for Election Day.

We have compared the precincts hand written Statement of Returns Form, curbside tally sheet to the results that we have posted on line. This incident was only an honest mistake that the precinct official corrected and at no time was the sanctity of this election ever in question.

This is a link so you can review the election day results at the Saunook Precinct.

http://results.enr.clarityelections.com/NC/Haywood/42967/110358/Web01/en/filters.html

Sincerely,

O.L. Yates, Chairman

Sara Warren, Member

Fwd: RE: An investigation is needed Sat, 10 Nov 2012 09:06:52 -0500 Date:

Monroe Miller From:

To: Robert Inman <rinman@haywoodnc.net>

ethicscheck2012, elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov, Vicki Hyatt

<vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Jeff Schumacher <jeff@themountaineer.com>, Jonathan Key <jkey@themountaineer.com>, Becky Johnson <becky@smokymountainnews.com>, brianhall@clearchannel.com, admin@wptlradio.net, Denny King, Jonnie Cure <jcubed41@gmail.com>, Chip Killian <CKillian@haywoodnc.net>, Leon Killian <chip.killian@nelsonmullins.com>, Marty Stamey <MStamey@haywoodnc.net>, Mark Swanger
<markswanger@bellsouth.net>, Bill Upton <billupton@bellsouth.net>, Michael Sorrells <sorrells@cbvnol.com>, Don Yelton <yelton221@charter.net>, Art Patten <arthurpatten@gmail.com>, Terry Ramey <ramdogllc@gmail.com>

Please see attached.

Monroe A. Miller, Jr. 19 Big Spruce Lane Waynesville, NC 28786 November 10, 2012

Robert Dewey Inman, Director **Haywood County Elections** 1233 North Main Street Waynesville, NC 28786

Subject: Wanda Arrington McCracken

Mr. Inman,

Thank you for forwarding an official response from the Election Board dated November 9, 2012, but you failed to answer my question: "Do you have any comment or any response to this query about Wanda Arrington McCracken" [from the Concerned Citizen]?

The query was [reprinted here]:

"The woman who posted these horrible posts against Republicans was one of the judges at the Saunook, NC polls. She was also the person that was seen bringing in a roll (that was in her purse) very late to the Board of Elections. This roll of tape appeared to be like the ones that are in the voting machines. There was conversations overheard by several people and I believe those people need to be questioned. What is going on here? I believe this merits an investigation! As a concerned citizen, I want to know.......what is going on here! I am not accusing anyone of anything, however I do not believe that a person who has this much hatred for Republicans could be completely objective and non-biased in all of her actions within a polling location. So once again, what is happening here?"

You know, after reflecting on the meeting with you and your staff on November 7, 2012 with Debby King, her very young daughter, Ken Henson and Jonnie Cure, I was bothered by a couple of things. I hope that you can address these. Let's start:

- Wanda Arrington McCracken spewed vile hatred against Republicans on her facebook page, including "We survived Bush. You will survive Obama". Who the hell appointed this Democrat woman to be a polling judge? It has been established previously that you are a Democrat.
- Were there any Republican Judges to offset **Wanda Arrington McCracken**?
- Why did **Wanda Arrington McCracken** screw up with the late delivery of election material? Was she not competent? My view is that she never be allowed in this position of authority again.
- Late in the evening on election night, you were notified that there was a ruckus in the lobby by someone [re: recording] while you were standing outside about to enter the lobby. There were [unidentified] people inside making accusations about votes not being counted, and observed by other citizens, including Andrew Jackson and Ken Henson. Why didn't you resolve the issue on the spot, rather than let it go unresolved and risk this thing exploding into an exponential fiasco?

• The only reason I attended the meeting on November 7th in your lobby with Debby King, Jonnie Cure, and Ken Henson, was because I had also heard the rumors and I wanted to get an understanding of what happened, and I wanted to insure that King, Cure and Henson got straight answers. I placed my recorder on the counter and recorded the entire session. I was struck by the <u>defensive</u> nature that you and your employees demonstrated [re: recording].

• Why didn't you admonish your staff for constantly chiming in and constantly interrupting during the discussion you were having with us [re: recording]? Jonnie made the comment [re: recording] that she never expected to be placed in such an uncomfortable position simply coming to your office and asking questions.

• Finally, you decided to attack [re: recording] Debby King and myself regarding references to the "Hit Piece" by Vicki Hyatt back in March, something I guess that does still not sit well with you.

One of your staff did come out in the parking lot and apologized for her behavior during that meeting, which I accepted and truly appreciated. There was also another member of your staff, a gentleman (unidentified) that also remained calm and silent during the encounter. Both are to be commended for being stand-up people.

You explained the incident with the **Wanda Arrington McCracken** screw-up during the meeting, and the letter to the Concerned Citizen by the Election Board similarly explains the incident.

Do I still believe this warrants an investigation? Yes, for the reasons stated above. At a minimum, it appears as though you need to take a refresher class in how to interact with the public, and another on how to control your staff.

Sincerely,

Monroe Miller

cc: See e-mail list

bcc:

Subject: FW: RE: An investigation is needed
Date: Tue, 13 Nov 2012 17:13:08 +0000
From: Wright, Don <don.wright@ncsbe.gov>

To: monroemillerjr

CC: Robert Inman <rinman@haywoodnc.net>

Dear Mr. Miller,

This agency has kept abreast of the concerns expressed by a few persons about Chief Judge Wanda McCracken of the Saunook Precinct. Precinct Judges and precinct election assistants are nominated by political parties and appointed by the county board of elections with appointments being made from both parties. This bi-partisan control of the polls has been the system in North Carolina for decades and has assured fair treatment of candidates at the polls.

GS 163-47 requires Precinct Judges to be fair and impartial when they conduct the elections at the precinct. I have not seen any allegation of unfair and partial conduct by Ms. McCracken while she served at the polls recently. I have confirmed with Director Inman that neither Republican Precinct Judge Tom Hart and Republican Election Assistant Scottie Harris of the Saunook Precinct expressed no concerns about any of actions of Chief Judge McCracken on Election Day as being unfair to any Republican candidate. If you have any specific allegations of unfair and partial treatment of any candidate by Chief Judge McCracken while performing her duties, please have the candidate present it.

Poll workers, because they are appointed by political parties, are usually or have been active in politics. There is no violation when a poll worker expresses support for their party candidates as long as it is not related to their election duties or while working the polls. These persons retain First Amendment Speech rights while not in the active performance of their election duties. This allowed expression of opinion would include a face book posting, having yard signs, and even a contribution of money to a candidate or party.

Your concerns about returning the precinct item late has been reviewed by the Haywood County Board of Elections and a letter of response sent to you which you have shared with this agency. This is nothing in the response that calls for further investigation.

Don Wright General Counsel

Subject: RE: An investigation is needed Date: Tue, 13 Nov 2012 13:45:57 -0500

From: Monroe Miller

To: Don Wright <don.wright@ncsbe.gov>

CC: ethicscheck2012, Vicki Hyatt <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Jeff Schumacher <jeff@themountaineer.com>, Jonathan Key <jkey@themountaineer.com>, Becky Johnson <becky@smokymountainnews.com>, brianhall@clearchannel.com, admin@wptlradio.net, Denny King, Jonnie Cure <jcubed41@gmail.com>, Chip Killian <CKillian@haywoodnc.net>, Leon Killian <chip.killian@nelsonmullins.com>, Marty Stamey <MStamey@haywoodnc.net>, Mark Swanger <markswanger@bellsouth.net>, Bill Upton
billupton@bellsouth.net>, Michael Sorrells <sorrells@cbvnol.com>, Don Yelton <yelton221@charter.net>, Art Patten <arthurpatten@gmail.com>, Terry Ramey <ramdogllc@gmail.com>, Robert Inman <rinman@haywoodnc.net>

Thank you.