

**MINUTES**  
**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**October 26, 2007**

**Committee Members Present:** Ed Zabinski, Rick Utech, Peter McDermott, Frank Allen, Jake Goering

**Advisory members present:** Lori Dowling

**Chamber Staff:** Bud Stone and Renee Thompson, Administrative Assistant and Finance Coordinator

Bud called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the September 28, 2007.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ed Zabinski made a motion to approve the September 28, 2007 meeting minutes. Peter McDermott seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**SCHOOL REFERENDUM SUPPORT RESOLUTION**

Bud distributed a copy of the School Referendum Support Resolution he and Joe Silko have been working on for the committee to review and decide if the committee would like to make a recommendation to the board of directors to support the resolution.

After committee discussion, Peter McDermott made a motion to recommend that the Chamber's board of directors support the School Referendum. Ed Zabinski seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**ACTION:** Bud will present resolution to the board of directors at their meeting on October 29, 2007.

**MEMBER UPDATES**

Bud reported that a letter of support was sent to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission regarding Minnesota Power's Boswell Energy Center Unit 3 Environmental Improvement Project.

On October 4, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved cost recovery for the improvement project and Bud received a thank you letter from Al Rudeck, Vice President of Operations for MNPOWER, thanking the Chamber for their support, which was invaluable to achieving approval for the project.

Bud also informed the committee that he sent a letter to Andy Hubley encouraging ARDC to take the lead and influence MN/DOT to get the Highway 169 corridor completed by working with the Grand Rapids Area Chamber, the Hibbing Chamber and the "Cities in between".

Bud then gave an update on his visit to Washington D.C. where he meet with all three of our federal legislators.

Frank Allen informed the committee that the hospital is close to making an offer to a candidate to replace Dan McCormick.

Rick Utech reported that the Airport Road Building received a \$100,000 grant from IRR to do some upgrades such as replacing the roof.

Ed Zabinski informed the committee that at the last CBD meeting it was suggested that the Chamber and DOT work together to come up with what type of signage will be the most effective during the Highway 2 reconstruction.

Lori Dowling gave an update on the Itasca County Study Commission and informed the committee of who was on the study. It was suggested that Steve Wilcox, who is on the study commission, be invited to a committee meeting to discuss the project.

Lori then gave an update on the Clean Water Legacy Project. Several committee members have some concerns regarding the process involved with the Clean Water Legacy Project. Lori suggested inviting Dr. John Downing, who is in charge of the project, to a committee meeting to answer some of the committee's questions.

Peter McDermott gave updates on the current projects in progress in the area and asked Rick Utech to bring a list of them to the next meeting.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **2008 GOALS AND MISSION STATE**

The committee reviewed the 2007 Goals and Mission and a few changes were suggested.

Frank Allen made a motion to accept the 2008 goals with the suggested changes. Rick Utech seconded the motion; motion carries.

**ACTION:** Renee will update the 2008 goals to reflect the committee's recommended changes.

Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, November 30, 2007.