

MINUTES
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
November 30, 2007

Committee Members Present: Steve Arbour, Rick Utech, Frank Allen, Jim Millis, Jake Goering, Lori Dowling

Advisory members present: Catherine McLynn

Chamber Staff: Renee Thompson, Administrative Assistant and Finance Coordinator

Guests: David Lick, Bob Leibfried, Lester Kachinske, Dr. Mary Blickenderfer

Jake called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the October 26, 2007.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rich Utech made a motion to approve the October 26, 2007 meeting minutes. Frank Allen seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

ITASCA WATER LEGACY PARTNERSHIP (IWLP)

David Lick gave the committee an overview of the Itasca Water Legacy Partnership. The partnership is a community coalition working to complete economic assessments of the value of water quality in Itasca County. The first year, the partnership plans to implement voluntary septic system upgrades. Currently 60-70 % of septic systems are non compliant.

Grants have been submitted to the MPCA, the Blandin Foundation and the County. If awarded, the grants would be used to establish a functional training and analytical laboratory at Itasca Community College that will become self-sustaining within two years. ICC students would then be hired to collect water samples for testing. The goal of the project would be to test 148 lakes by the end of 2008.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/COUNTY COORDINATOR

Commissioner Dowling gave an update on the status of the County Administrator/Coordinator position. Bob Olson, the current Coordinator, will be retiring on May 1, 2008.

The Study Commission was abolished at the last county board meeting.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

2008 GOALS AND MISSION STATE

Due to the abolishment of the study commission, the committee reviewed their 2008 goals and rephrased the last goal under "Establish" to say "monitor Itasca County Government Administrator/Coordinator position".

Steve Arbour made a motion to accept the amended 2008 goals. Jim Millis seconded the motion. Motion carries.

MEMBER UPDATES

Jim Millis reported that the City will be adopting their 2008 budget next week and that Representative Tom Rukavina is proposing that the tax revenues from MN Steel be shared throughout the community rather than stay in Itasca County.

Rich Utech gave an update on the OVH trails.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, January 25, 2008.