

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**December 18, 2009**

**Committee Members Present:** Frank Allen, Shawn Gillen, Mike Ives, Mike Youso, Steve Arbour, Irene Koski, Josh Hafer, Diane Weber, Bill Eckblad

**Advisory members present:**

**Present via Conference Call:**

**Chamber Staff:** Bud Stone, Renee Thompson

Mike Ives called the meeting to order and asked for introductions. After introductions, Mike asked for a motion to approve the November 20, 2009 meeting minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Frank Allen made a motion to approve the November 20, 2009 meeting minutes. Steve Arbour seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**MINNESOTA CHAMBER 2010 TOP FIVE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

Bud asked the committee members present to review the Minnesota Chamber's top five legislative priorities and let him know of any concerns.

Shawn expressed concern regarding the Minnesota Chamber trying to get legislation to control local decisions.

Bud asked Shawn to put his concerns in writing and email them to him ASAP.

**ACTION:** The committee members should let Bud know of any concerns they have with the Minnesota Chamber's top five legislative priorities.

**MEMBER UPDATES**

Diane spoke about IEDC's invested interest in the Ainsworth site. They hoping to get a 6 million dollar grant for demolition and reconstruction. The company interested in utilizing the site was here this week reviewing the lease and starting the EIS.

Bud asked the committee members to write letters of support when the time comes that they are needed.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Frank informed the committee that business is up quite a bit in Walker, but only slightly up in Grand Rapids.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Bud spoke about presenting “our” CEO’s in the schools to various organizations. Regional CEO’s in the Classroom is part of the Regional Innovation Grant plan. Bud spoke of the wage subsidy program that IRR is offering. Bud also distributed a copy of SF13. SF13 deals with crude oil. Bud wanted the committee to be aware of the Senate File. Lastly, Bud discussed the Legislative dinner being held on February 4, 2010. The Chamber will have two tables again this year.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Shawn informed the committee that the City and Public Utilities Commission are considering merging to consolidate expenses. Shawn also spoke about the possibility of Horseshoe Lake Drive being eligible for stimulus money and that the City passed their budget.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Josh spoke about a local company bringing back 50-80 jobs that currently overseas.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Irene informed the committee that the ESSAR land sale was finalized on Tuesday and that the County budget was adopted.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, December 18, 2009.

Frank made a motion to adjourn. Steve seconded the motion.  
Meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes submitted by Renee Thompson, Administrative Assistant, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.