

**MINUTES**  
**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**February 22, 2008**

**Committee Members Present:** Rick Utech, Shelly Steere, Frank Allen, Jake Goering, Karyn Davidson, Dale Adams, Peter McDermott, Mike Ives, Gary McInerney

**Advisory members present:** Dale Adams, Catherine McLynn, Marla Beaty

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

Jake called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the January 18, 2008 meeting minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Rich Utech made a motion to approve the January 18, 2008 meeting minutes. Frank Allen seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**MINNESOTA CHAMBER CONFERENCE CALL**

The committee participated in the first conference call for the year.

The House and Senate both passed the transportation bill. It is very close to the State Chamber's transportation bill. The Governor has indicated that he will veto the bill.

Updates were also heard regarding healthcare, energy and environment, labor management and education.

**ACTION:** The next conference call will be on Friday, March 7, 2008.

**CONFERENCE CALL WITH TONY**

The committee participated in a conference call with Tony. Tony informed the committee that next week, work will be done on getting the bonding bill out and that the budget forecast comes out at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 26, 2008.

**ACTION:** The committee will have another conference call with Tony next Friday.

**LEGISLATIVE DINNER UPDATE**

Those that attended the Legislative Dinner reported that it was a great reception and networking opportunity.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

## **MEMBER UPDATES**

Jake Goering gave the committee an update on things at Grand Village.

Marla Beaty gave the committee an overview of what she is focusing on in her position with DEED.

Peter McDermott reported that the Engineering Forum that Itasca Community College, the Grand Rapids Area Chamber and IEDC hosted was a great success. Over 175 students attended the forum to learn about future jobs in engineering.

Catherine McLynn reported that Bob Olson retired and the County is looking for a FT coordinator to replace him. They have received 12 applicants and they will be interviewing the first week in March.

Catherine also reported that the Zoning Ordinance revisions are moving forward.

Dale Adams reported that the Waste Water Treatment Facility is moving forward, plans for Pokegama Golf Course are in the works and that the Branding Study will be completed in June of 2008.

Bud informed the committee that Business Day at the Capitol is coming up on March 5, 2008. If anyone is interested in going, let Bud know.

Rick Utech gave an update on the River Front taskforce.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, February 29, 2008.