

**Government Affairs**  
**Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**April 15, 2011**

**Chamber Members Present:** Jake Goering, Mike Ives, Steve Arbour, Tom Saxhaug, Terry Snyder, Susan Harper, Jim Madden, Margie Ritter, Roger Hoyum, Irene Koski, Peter McDermott, Loren Solberg

**Advisory Members Present:**

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

Jake called the meeting to order.

**MINNESOTA CHAMBER CONFERENCE CALL**

The committee participated in a legislative conference call with the Minnesota Chamber.

Updates were heard on the following issues:

- Environment & Natural Resources;
- Energy: a lot of bills were heard this week-mostly for addition into the Omnibus Bill ;
- Education: Early Ed, higher Ed;
- Health & Human Services: Waiver Provision and Healthy Minnesota Contribution Plan;
- Transportation: The budget bill will be introduced today.
- Prevailing Wage: changing from using the mode to the mean
- Coal & Nuclear Energy Moratorium Bill

**ACTION:** The next MN Chamber conference call will be on Friday, May 6, 2011.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Jake asked for a motion to approve the April 1, 2011 meeting minutes.

Mike made a motion to approve the April 1, 2011 Government Affairs Committee minutes. Roger seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**MEMBER UPDATES**

Senator Saxhaug explained to the committee that he is working on three bills. The first bill deals with Aquatic Invasive species. The second bill involves Wetland Mitigation and the third bill would facilitate the staging of the Mesaba Energy Project by allowing a natural gas plant to be built first with the later addition of the gasification facilities if and when economic or other circumstances signal the change to coal.

Roger spoke about a SME Conference he attended in Duluth.

Bud spoke about the Sulfate Bill that would change the limit on amount of sulfate that can be in the water that wild rice grows in.

Steve spoke about the Governors Fishing Opener.

Sue talked about an Iron Range Economic meeting in Duluth.

Irene discussed working on finding a replacement for herself and changing the position from County Coordinator to County Administrator. She also informed the committee that the Living Word Bible Camp lawsuit is being appealed and that they are awaiting the Judge's decision on the Zims Lane issue.

Margie spoke about a Loss Control Conference she attended for the City of LaPrairie.

Peter invited the committee to attend MDI's open house at 11:00 a.m. today.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **CONFERENCE CALL WITH REPRESENTATIVE MCELFRATRICK**

Representative McElfratrick called in for a legislative conference call with the committee.

Representative McElfratrick informed the committee that the Insurance Exchange Bill has not had much action, the Health and Humans Services bill is in conference committee, the LIFO provision has been removed from the Education Efficiency Bill and that she will be attending the IRRRB meeting today.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting is on May 6, 2011 at 7:30 a.m.

There will be a MN Chamber conference call.

Peter made a motion to adjourn. Margie seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Renee Thompson, Administrative Assistant and Finance Coordinator.