

MINUTES
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
April 23, 2010

Committee Members Present: Steve Arbour, David Scott, Tom Schmoll, Tom Saxhaug, Mike Ives, Jake Goering, Irene Koski, Derek Stanley, Margie Ritter, Bill Eckblad, Jeff Borling, Frank Allen, Derek Rolle

Advisory members present:

Chamber Staff: Bud Stone

Jake called the meeting to order.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MINNESOTA STATE CHAMBER CONFERENCE CALL:

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

Issues addressed were as follows:

- Environmental Permitting: Legislative Auditors to review the process.
- Nuclear Energy: Attempt to attach the bill on the floor. Ruled “Not Germane.”
- Rate Payer Protection Act.
- Future Transit Costs.
- Omnibus Policy Bill on Labor: Definition of “Misconduct” – increase of WFD Fee.
- Enhanced drivers license: Passed on the Senate side – now going to the House.
- Education – “Race to the Top” and Student Performance bills – MN Governor’s Office trying to negotiate with Education Minnesota for support for next federal application.
- Alternative Teachers license
- Omnibus Education Bill – coming out on Monday, April 26, 2010.
- Healthcare – Oral Chemo mandate passed in the Senate – coming up in the House next week – MN Chamber opposes this bill.
- Corporate Income Tax Rate.
- \$4 hundred million Federal money may not be coming.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mike Ives made a motion to approve the April 9, 2010 meeting minutes. Irene Koski seconded the motion. Motion carried. Minutes approved

ACTION: No further action necessary.

REPRESENTATIVE LOREN SOLBERG CONFERENCE CALL

Representative Loren Solberg phoned in to update the committee on issues.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM QWEST

The committee engaged in a conference call with Karen Jothen from Qwest.

After detailed discussion regarding Karen's request, Mike Ives made a motion to send a recommendation forward to the Chamber Board of Directors to pass a resolution supporting grant funding from the Federal Government that is designated for making high speed, broad band internet service available in rural, un-served and underserved, areas of Minnesota. Steve Arbour seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION: Bud will draft a resolution and present it at the April 26, 2010 board meeting for the board to consider.

Submitted by Bud Stone, President.

The next scheduled meeting is on April 30, 2010 at 7:30 a.m. There will be a MN State Chamber Conference call.

Meeting adjourned.