

MINUTES
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
May 15, 2009

Committee Members Present: Jim Millis, Diane Weber, Jake Goering, Margie Ritter, Mike Ives, Mary Ives

Advisory members present:

Present via Conference Call:

Chamber Staff: Bud Stone, President.

Jake Goering called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mike Ives made a motion to approve the May 8, 2009 meeting minutes. Mary Ives seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

STATE CHAMBER CONFERENCE CALL

There was much discussion on the MN State Budget. The Republicans are united behind the Governor and say they will hold the line on any Governor's veto override attempted by the Democrats. The Governor has stated that there will not be a special session this year. He intends to use line item vetoes and un-allotment to balance the budget by himself if necessary.

Environment and Finance Bill - Tony Kwilas- This bill is done. There are three outstanding items that need to be resolved. One, the statewide paint recycling program, two the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council allotment and three, the Clean Water Council's recommendations.

Energy Bill- Mike Hesse - This bill is finished for the session and the provision that would lift the ban on nuclear energy didn't make it.

Health and Human Services - Stacia- This bill has been signed by the Governor. In it the Health Plan Reserves are intact and health care spending by the Government has been reduce by \$500 Million.

K12 Education Omnibus bill - Stacia- This bill was passed by the House and the Senate and is on the way to the Governor's desk.

Higher Education - Stacia- This bill passed out of the conference committee and is on the table for the final vote.

Transportation - Jeremy- Not much action here. Funding is down do to the fact that people are not driving and gas tax revenues are short.

Economic Development – Jeremy - The Economic Development Bill was vetoed by the Governor as presented. After modifications, it passed and was signed by the Governor on May 14th.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

CONFERENCE CALL WITH REPRESENTATIVE SOLBERG AND TONY KWILAS

Following the MN Conference Call, the committee was joined by lobbyist Tony Kwilas and Representative Loren Solberg by telephone.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, May 29, 2009.

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes submitted by Bud Stone, President, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.