

MINUTES
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
May 2, 2008

Committee Members Present: Mike Ives, Jake Goering, Frank Allen, Rick Utech, Steve Arbour

Advisory members present: Catherine McLynn

Chamber Staff: Renee Thompson, Administrative Assistant and Finance Coordinator.

Jake Goering called the meeting to order.

MINNESOTA STATE CHAMBER CONFERENCE CALL

The committee participated in the Minnesota State Chamber Conference call.

Legislative pace has stepped up a notch.

The House and Senate have set a budget tax bill deadline of midnight on Monday, May 5, 2008.

ACTION: There will be another Minnesota State Chamber conference call on Friday, May 9, 2008.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Frank Allen made a motion to approve the April 25, 2008 meeting minutes. Mike Ives seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

CONFERENCE CALL WITH TONY

The committee had a conference call with Tony Kwilas, and Senator Saxhaug. At this point it appears that the controversial language regarding the "Real I.D." issue has been removed from the 2007 Transportation Policy Bill that Governor Pawlenty vetoed last week and that the bill may pass next week.

ACTION: The committee will have another conference call with Tony on May 9, 2008.

MEMBER UPDATES

Catherine informed the committee that the County Board met with the consultant searching for coordinator candidates. Catherine also referenced the article in the News Forum regarding the Canisteo Pit and informed the committee that three continued topics of discussion for the board are Grand Village, the road through the fairgrounds and the zoning ordinance.

Steve Arbour spoke of a meeting that he and Bud participated in with local bankers and Dave Epperly regarding biomass.

Bud updated the committee regarding the committee's recommendation to the board regarding Ridgewood Road.

The Board discussed this issue again at the April 28, 2008 board meeting and no action was taken to support on option over the other.

Bud also informed the committee that the Chamber Board did pass a Resolution supporting an oversight committee for the 3/8 Heritage Bill.

ACTION: No further action necessary

The next meeting will be at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, May 9, 2008. There will be a Minnesota State Chamber conference call.

Meeting adjourned.