

**MINUTES**  
**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**May 28, 2010**

**Committee Members Present:** Mike Ives, Derek Stanley, Irene Koski, Marla Beaty, Jeff Borling, Margie Ritter, Diane Weber, Leigh Johnson, Tom Saxhaug, Peter McDermott, Roger Hoyum, Susan Harper, Tom Schmoll

**Advisory members present:** Catherine McLynn

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

Bud called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the May 14, 2010 meeting minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Margie made a motion to approve the May 14, 2010 meeting minutes. Irene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Minutes approved

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**LEGISLATIVE RECAP**

Senator Saxhaug provided the committee with the results from the 2010 Legislative Session and highlighted the areas that were relevant to the committee.

Lengthy economic development discussion took place.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**CONTRIBUTION TO CANDIDATES**

The committee briefly discussed the new legislation-allowing corporations to contribute monies to promote candidates running for public office.

The contribution cannot go directly to the candidate. The contribution needs to be used indirectly to promote the candidate; such as, in advertisements encouraging citizens to vote for that candidate.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**MEMBER UPDATES**

Peter discussed MDI efforts to continue to find additional contracts and reminded the committee that MDI's mission is to provide jobs for people with disabilities vs. make products out of plastic. MDI is willing to consider any type of work.

Roger informed the committee that he is opening an office in Minneapolis and in North Dakota.

Jeff informed the committee that there have been six site visits in the last couple months at the Eco Park site.

Margie informed the committee that the City of LaPrairie is actively seeking grants to upgrade the city sewer and water systems.

Catherine informed the committee that the Commissioner of the DNR has notified the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board that funds have been reallocated to proceed with lowering the water level in the Canisteo Pit and install a trench to eliminate the wet basements in homes in lower parts of Bovey.

Catherine also discussed Nic Rajala thinning some pines this winter in Gunn Park. Lastly, Catherine also announced that the County hired a new Park Technician named Scott Dowling.

Diane discussed working with Larry Leighton on two projects.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

The next scheduled meeting is on June 25, 2010 at 7:30 a.m.

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

Submitted by Renee Thompson, Administrative Assistant.

Meeting adjourned.