

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
August 28, 2009

Committee Members Present: Jake Goering, Kyle Erickson, Tom Saxhaug, Shane McKellep, Leigh Lonson, Al Rudeck, Mary Ives, Mike Ives, Loren Solberg, Gary McInerney, Margie Ritter

Advisory members present: Marla Beaty, Catherine McLynn

Present via Conference Call:

Chamber Staff: Bud Stone, Renee Thompson

Jake Goering called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mike Ives made a motion to approve the July 31, 2009 meeting minutes. Al Rudeck seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

TOPICS FOR EETC MEETING

Bud will be attending the US Chamber's Employment, Education and Training Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. on September 21-23, 2009.

He asked the committee what issues they felt he should discuss.

Topics of importance to the committee included:

- Card check
- Highway 169
- Surface Transportation Board Rail Reform

ACTION: Bud will discuss these issues while in Washington D.C.

CAP AND TRADE

The committee discussed cap and trade and the impact cap and trade would have at the consumer level.

The committee consensus was that the Chamber's Board should look at Federal Cap & Trade legislation.

ACTION: Bud will have the board discuss Cap & Trade legislation at the October board meeting.

HEALTHCARE REFORM

The committee discussed healthcare reform in great length.

ACTION: Healthcare reform will be added to the September agenda for continued discussion.

LOBBYIST FOR 2010

Bud asked the committee if they felt it was valuable to have a lobbyist and if they would like to ask the board for approval to have a 2010 lobbyist.

Mike Ives made a motion to have a lobbyist for 2010. Committee discussion took place. The motion never received a second due to Joe Scipioni calling in for a scheduled conference call.

ACTION: Having a Chamber lobbyist will be discussed again at the next meeting.

CONFERENCE CALL WITH JOE SCIPIONI, PRESIDENT POLYMET

Joe Scipioni, president of Polymet called in for a scheduled conference call with the committee.

Joe's discussion included Polymet's recent open house, land exchanges and their EIS.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Due to lack of time, the remaining agenda items were held over to until the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, September 25, 2009.

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes submitted by Renee Thompson, Administrative Assistant, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.