

Collaborative Governance Council

League of Minnesota Cities
145 University Ave. W., St Paul

Thursday, August 26th

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Members Present

Kyle Hartnett, Minnesota Association of Townships
Grace Keliher, Minnesota School Board Association
Ken Loeffler-Kemp, AFSCME
Rebecca Otto, State Auditor, Chair
Valerie Rolstad, SEIU
Gary Westorff, Education Minnesota
Mary Hamann-Roland, League of Minnesota Cities
Tom Hesse, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

Others Present

Ann Olson, Animal Folks MN
Thad Ludwiczak, Do-Good Biz
Kevin McHenry, Metro Cities
Becca Pryse, Ewald Consulting
Scott Croonquist, Association Of Metro Schools
Jackie Finger, Minnesota Department of Administration
Christine M. Scotillo, Office of Administrative Hearings
Kevin Frazell, League of Minnesota Cities (provided support for meeting)
Representative Carol McFarlane
Representative Marsha Swails
Adam Stone, Citizen

I. Call to Order

- a. Chair Auditor Otto called the meeting to order.

II. Review and Approval of CGC Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2010.

- a. Tom Hesse moved and Valerie Rolstad seconded to approve the minutes as amended; motion carried.

III. Presentation – Cooperative Purchasing

- a. Jackie Finger of the Department of Administration, Materials Management Division presented on the Cooperative Purchasing Venture Program (CPV). Local governments can purchase from these contracts. Various goods, services, and utilities are available; school buses are a large category. The metro fuel purchase consortium is another big category.

IV. Discussion of Cooperative Purchasing

- a. Council members discussed the need to make sure all local governments know about this resource. They also indicated an interest in hearing from some other cooperative purchasing programs at the next meeting, including Hennepin County, Western States, US Communities, and the Service Cooperatives.

V. Shared Services/Shares Resources Topic Review

- a. State Auditor Otto said the group had discussed this topic at its second meeting and it became very broad. However, Auditor Otto said she would like to see the Council at least work on educating local governments about all of the collaboration and sharing opportunities already happening and available to others.
- b. The group also discussed the possibility of a website to create new possibilities for service sharing – i.e. offering listings from both local governments with capacity to sell (i.e. city attorney time), along with a listing of those interested in purchasing services from others.
- c. Kevin Frazell of the League of MN Cities mentioned the work of the Big Three (League of MN Cities, Association of Minnesota Counties, Minnesota School Boards Association). He said that the group would very likely be working with the Humphrey Institute at the U of M to produce a Guide to Local Government Service Innovation.

VI. Presentation – Minnesota Ultra High-Speed Broadband Task Force

- a. Rick King, Chair of the Task Force, talked about the report and the work that had been done. He began by talking about the current under exploitation of potential public-private partnerships, such as the E-TV studio shared by Thomson-Reuters, his employer, and the City of Eagan. Both entities have ended up with access to a first-class studio at half the cost of going it alone.
- b. Mr. King then discussed the task force report and the fact that the state legislature has now created a new task force to oversee implementation. The report calls for statewide deployment of high-speed broadband by 2015. Auditor Otto suggested that one role of the Council may be to add its voice in support of implementing this plan as a critical infrastructure component to support local and state service delivery sharing and innovation.
- c. Council members asked Mr. King about any impediments encountered in developing the consensus on the Task Force to move the recommendations forward. He responded that the main impediments were overcoming initial parochial attitudes. Some state laws have probably made partnerships more complicated than they need to be. A very tangible issue had been the gift law which prohibited individual task force organizations from paying for lunch for the group.

VII. Adjournment

- a. It was agreed that the next two meetings would be held on Thursday, September 30 and Thursday, October 21, both at the League of MN Cities building.
- b. Chair Otto adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.