

Collaborative Governance Council

League of Minnesota Cities Building

145 University Avenue, St. Paul

Wednesday, September 28

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Members Present

Mary Hamann-Roland, League of Minnesota Cities

Tom Hesse, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

Ken Loeffler-Kemp, AFSCME

Valerie Rolstad, SEIU

Kent Sulem, Minnesota Association of Townships (for Kyle Harnett)

Jack Swanson, Association of Minnesota Counties

Gary Westorff, Education Minnesota

Rebecca Otto, State Auditor, Chair

Members Absent

Grace Keliher, Minnesota School Board Association

Others Present

Carol McFarlane, State Representative

Mark McKenna, Hamline Journal of Public Law and Policy

Jennifer O'Rourke, League of Minnesota Cities

Alice Seuffert, Association of Metropolitan School Districts

Jane Vanderpoel, Dakota County

I. Call to Order

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

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Mary Hamann-Roland moved to approve the minutes as drafted and Valerie Rolstad seconded; motion carried.

III. Legislative Report Update

- a. Chair Otto stated to Representative McFarlane that the CGC was not invited to present its legislative report before any legislative committees last session. Chair Otto asked the Representative if she had suggestions. It was agreed that the Local Government committees might be most appropriate, specifically Government Operations. Rep. McFarlane told the Council that she is the Chair of the House Redesign Caucus, which is partnering with the Big 3 Associations and 6 foundations to hold 4 regional forums on redesign. The details are not yet finalized, but either the LMC or Rep. McFarlane would be sharing that with the OSA's office.
- b. Commissioner Swanson is interested in working legislatively to expedite land transfers. Roseau County recently worked with the DNR in a land exchange, and thinks the process could be improved.

IV. Review Statutory Duties

- a. Chair Otto reviewed the statutory requirements of this group.

V. OSA Update

- a. The Chair gave an update on the Office of the State Auditor's next Best Practices Review, the first in a series on collaboration between governments. The first Review will focus on building strong relationships between local governments and community partners. The first step has been a survey of local governments. It was noted the OLA is doing a study on consolidation of local government in Minnesota, and they also conducted a survey at the same time as the OSA's survey.
- b. Commissioner Swanson spoke of the OLA report on consolidation, and wondered if unions distrust consolidation. Mr. Westorff and Mr. Loeffler-Kemp both said it depends on many factors, but generally there was more distrust of privatization than consolidation. Rep. McFarlane mentioned that the MAGIC act was drafted with co-operation from AFSCME.
- c. Commissioner Swanson asked if the group could work on identifying areas that are natural to collaboration.

VI. Set Agenda

- a. Chair Otto asked the group to brainstorm topics of possible topics to work on for presentation to the legislature, so the group could rank them and decide the Council's agenda for the next year. The group came up with two lists, one for Legislative Issues and one for Non-Legislative Issues.

1. Legislative issues:

- (1) Library funding
- (2) Sales tax equity among local governments
- (3) ARMER vs. VHF
- (4) Joint powers liability in informal arrangements
- (5) Innovation grants
- (6) Elected vs. appointed sheriffs, auditors, treasurers, recorders - equity
- (7) Snow removal – state, county, city, town
- (8) Open meeting law and new technologies
- (9) State patrol vs. county sheriff
- (10) Make facilitator available to local governments for collaborative efforts

2. Non-legislative Issues:

- (1) Work to identify areas of successful collaborations and/or areas that are conducive to collaboration
- (2) Community identity issues (fire truck) – obstacle to collaboration?
- (3) Dark fiber/technology update – presentation from Connect Minnesota
- (4) State/local relationship – improve (invite leadership to CGC meeting?)
- (5) Explore facilitator/mediator services available to local governments - presentations from facilitators in government such as Bureau of Mediation Services and Josh Tilsen, Extension Services

VII. Other Business

- a. Mark McKenna, Hamline Journal of Public Law and Policy told the Council of a symposium in January at Hamline. He will send details to the CGC.
- b. The Council discussed a possible next meeting date.

VII. Adjournment

- a. The Chair adjourned the meeting.