

Collaborative Governance Council

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

Thursday, September 30th

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Members Present

Rachel Walker, League of Minnesota Cities (representing Mary Hamann-Roland)
Tom Hesse, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
Kirk Schneidawind, Minnesota School Board Association (representing Grace Keliher)
Valerie Rolstad, SEIU
Myra Peterson, Association of Minnesota Counties (representing Jack Swanson)
Gary Westorff, Education Minnesota
Rebecca Otto, State Auditor, Chair

Others Present

Lena Gould, League of Minnesota Cities
Jeremy Kovash, Lakes Country Service Co-operative
Sam Walseth, MN Service Cooperatives
Scott Croonquist, Association of Metro Schools
Jennifer O'Rourke, League of Minnesota Cities
Kristine Carr, Northeast Metro 916
Connie Hayes, Northeast Metro 916
Jeff LeMunyon, Linwood Capital
James McClean, St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
Thad Ludwiczak, Do-Good Biz
Matt Toburen, SEIU
Representative Carol McFarlane

I. Call to Order

- a. Chair Auditor Otto called the meeting to order. Six Council members or their representatives were present, the minimum for a quorum.

II. Review and Approval of CGC Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2010

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

III. Discussion of Technology

- a. There was a discussion on high-speed broadband. It was agreed that the lack of it can be an impediment to collaboration, cooperation and innovation in government.
- b. Myra Peterson moved that the Council recommend to the Legislature that the Council support the High Speed Broadband Task Force Report recommendations to the legislature. Tom Hesse seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Cooperative Purchasing

- a. Jeremy Kovash of the Lakes Country Service Co-operative presented on the Cooperative Purchasing Connection, a service of the Minnesota Service Cooperatives Program. Administered by the Lakes Country Service Co-Operative, over \$27 million flowed through the self-supporting program in FY 2010.
- b. Stephanie Wallingford of the League of Minnesota Cities presented on US Communities, a nationwide joint purchasing program founded by the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, and three other organizations.

V. Next Steps

- a. As part of the work product of the Council, Auditor Otto suggested that the group consider organizing a statewide conference to raise awareness, and provide resources for local government officials on cooperation, collaboration and innovation that is currently occurring. Presenters might include some of the people who have presented to the Council. Auditor Otto said that the conference could be held as a live event which is transmitted electronically. Tom Hesse wondered where the Council is going with its statutory recommendations, and is interested in continuing to work on identifying barriers to collaboration. Kirk Schneidawind added that he thought the conference idea is worth looking at. Myra Peterson asked if the conference would be more effective if done as a series of regional conferences. She added that counties collaborate with each other, but not with other entities in their regions. The group agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

VI. Topics for Next Meeting

- a. State Auditor Otto proposed that the topic for the next meeting be on joint powers agreements. The Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust has volunteered to do a presentation on joint powers, and they have developed materials on the topic that they will share with the Council. The League of Minnesota Cities also offered to provide a presenter on joint powers agreements. Keith Carlson of the Minnesota Inter-County Association pointed out that there are different sections of the Joint Powers statute that should be reviewed. The Council agreed to work on this topic at the next meeting.
- b. Jeff LeMunyon of Linwood Capital asked the Council to consider the topic of fuel hedging. The Council invited Mr. LeMunyon to make a presentation on the topic in the near future.

VII. Other Business

- a. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 21**, at the League of Minnesota Cities building. The Minnesota School Board Association will provide administrative support at the meeting.

VIII. Adjournment