

**The Big Three Group Meeting Summary**  
Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)  
League of Minnesota Cities (LMC)  
Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA)

**Friday, March 17, 2006 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
AMC Board Room, 125 Charles Avenue, St. Paul, MN

**Attendees:**

**LMC:** Marvin Johnson, Judy Johnson, Jim Miller, Kevin Frazell, Mary-Margaret Zindren.

**AMC:** Nancy Schouweiler, Harlan Madsen, Bob Fenwick, Jim Mulder, Mary Kummer, Laurie Klupacs, Scott Simmons

**MSBA:** Dennis Halverson, Rolf Parsons, Bob Meeks.

**Guests:** Tom Grundhofer, John Sylvester, Tiffany Rodning.

The League of Minnesota Cities chaired this meeting. Marvin Johnson called the meeting to order. Jim Mulder welcomed the group and reviewed the draft of the Mission Statement, Membership, Goals and Activities. The group adjusted the name of the group to say The Big Three Group, changed from Big Three Coordinating Committee, changed the word “vision” to “mission statement”.

Group clarified how The Big 3 Group differs from the Collaboration Working Group regarding topics and members. This group is more strategical and tactical, creating a universal front as The Big Three Group; personal and not have the tendency to be political.

**Suggestion: have a standing agenda item at this Big 3 meeting from the latest Collaboration Working Group meeting to keep the Big 3 Group members informed.** The Collaboration Working Group is called a working group and not ACIR; unanimously agreed upon by the working group.

Key Issues of Joint Concern Presented and Discussed:

Tort Stacking: Scott Simmons gave an update on tort stacking at the Legislature; stacking of caps issue; Joint Powers Boards; agreements and liabilities.

Health Purchasing: John Sylvester reported on the Statewide Health Insurance Plan; distributed a handout “Round Table Discussion: Statewide Health Insurance Plan” and presented the points of agreement as well as MSBA concerns with the plan of a mandatory statewide pool; reviewed other steps that could be taken to control health insurance costs.

**Suggestion: The Health Purchasing issue may be an opportunity for The Big 3 to leverage power with a letter from the public policy perspective. The Big 3 Executive Directors will discuss moving forward in a cooperative effort.**

GASB 45: Tiffany Rodning updated the group on GASB 45; distributed a handout describing what GASB 45 is, the impact on entities; solution approach – approaches to providing service to members; funding and compliance; idea of authority from State Auditors Office for local governments to be able to fund; copy of the bill reviewed and analyzed.

**Suggestion: Identify the similar message to tell our members about GASB 45.**

Eminent Domain: Tom Grundhofer gave an Eminent Domain status report; changing by the day; reported on definitions within the bill; affects of economic development and re-development; attorney's fees provisions.

Pensions: Bob Meeks updated the group on the TRA issue; moving from defined benefit to defined contribution scenario.

Potential Joint Projects Discussed:

Pandemic Flu: The group decided to discuss this topic in detail at the next Big 3 meeting so District Health and Public Health folks could attend the meeting and join in the discussion.

**Suggestion: The Big 3 should look at how we educate all of our members on the way reality will be if this Pandemic Flu occurs.**

Meth: Jim Mulder reported on the Meth issue; morphing from the local Mom & Pop labs to Mexican labs; new trafficking of blends; showed the group the new CD of the Minnesota Local Government Meth Project; this CD cover will contain the Big 3 logos and the Big 3 Executive Directors will determine distribution of the CDs.

Next meeting: Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and includes lunch at Association of Minnesota Counties. The Association of Minnesota Counties will chair the meeting.

Agenda items for the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting as identified by the group:

- Strategy for deployment of Broad bands.
- Collaboration Working Group update
- Legislative Report (issues TBA)
- Pandemic Flu
- Meth
- Joint Legislative Conference Potential update

Group adjourned.