

BIG THREE GROUP MEETING SUMMARY
Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)
League of Minnesota Cities (LMC)
Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA)

Wednesday, June 14, 2006
12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

AMC:

Nancy Schouweiler, AMC
President
Bob Fenwick, AMC 1st VP
Paul Wilson, AMC 2nd VP
Jim Mulder, AMC Executive Dir.
Laurie Klupacs, AMC Staff
Scott Simmons, AMC Staff
Curt Yoakum, AMC Staff

MSBA:

Barbara Klaas, MSBA President
Dennis Halverson, MSBA
President-Elect
Gary Lee, MSBA Board
Rolf Parsons, MSBA Board
Bob Meeks, MSBA Executive Dir.
Grace Schwab, MSBA Staff

LMC:

Marvin Johnson, LMC 1st VP
Jim Miller, LMC Executive Dir.
Kevin Frazell, LMC Staff
Mary-Margaret Zindren, LMC
Staff
Sarah Dirksen, LMC Staff
Gary Carlson, LMC Staff

The Minnesota School Board Association chaired this meeting. Barbara Klaas called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

COLLABORATION WORKGROUP

The next scheduled meeting is June 22nd and will meet at the MN Counties Insurance Trust building. There was group consensus that regional meetings be scheduled in the fall for all elected officials regarding their role in a pandemic flu epidemic.

BIG THREE VS. COLLABORATION WORK GROUP

There was agreement that the Big Three group is able to have more open discussion, and is building relationships. The discussions and directions are productive and are legislatively focused. The Collaboration Work Group focuses on specific issues and potential strategies. The Collaboration Work Group will probably not continue to meet on a monthly basis.

OVER-

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Gary Carlson, Curt Yoakum and Grace Schwab reviewed legislative outcomes for issues important to their respective organizations and highlighted issues of joint concern.

The following issues were discussed as potential issues of joint concern:

- Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB)
- Pension Benefits
- Truth in Taxation
- Public Sector Health Care Purchasing
- Inverse Condemnation
- Data Practices
- Publication Requirements
- Local Government Finance
- Emergency Powers Act (Volunteers)
- Property Taxes
- Mandates

The group decided that the Big Three Group develop a joint strategy regarding property tax issues, but that it should happen after the elections in November. Perhaps it should be part of the theme for the joint legislative conference as a way to get the message out. It was also mentioned as a potential topic for a joint workshop at the joint legislative conference to educate attendees on the on the details of taxing authority of each local government entity.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Staff from LMC, AMC and MSBA met prior to the Big Three meeting to discuss the potential and logistics of a joint legislative conference. All three felt that after the discussion it would be feasible. AMC staff will check on availability at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul (previously Radisson Riverfront) where they have held their conference for more than 20 years.

Issues of potential concern are the fees that each entity traditionally charges for their legislative conference. The group felt this issue could be overcome. LMC and MSBA legislative conferences are typically one-day events, and AMC's is typically a two-day event. The following dates were discussed: March 21-22 and March 28-29. The preferred schedule will include a joint legislative reception on the first day, a joint breakfast, individual as well as joint association workshops and ideally have the Governor speak over lunch. The afternoon would be reserved for shuttling members to and from the capitol to jointly visit legislators.

ADJOURN

The Big Three Group meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

ADDED NOTE:

Next meeting: Friday, September 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and includes lunch at the League of Minnesota Cities building. The League of Minnesota Cities will chair the meeting. The Sept. 29 meeting agenda topics will be determined by the Exec. Directors.