

**State / Local Government Collaboration Working Group  
Meeting Summary**

Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)  
League of Minnesota Cities (LMC)  
Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA)  
Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT)  
State of Minnesota

draft

**Thursday, March 23, 2006 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust Building, 100 Empire Drive, St. Paul, MN

**Attendees:**

**AMC:** Nancy Schouweiler, Bob Fenwick, Jim Mulder, Mary Kummer, Scott Simmons.

**LMC:** Marvin Johnson, Jim Miller, Kevin Frazell, Eric Willette.

**MSBA:** Bob Meeks.

**MAT:** Loren Ingebretsen, David Fricke.

**State of Minnesota:** Dan McElroy.

**Guests:** John Kerr – MN Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management,  
Michael Campion – Department of Public Safety,  
Pat Anderson – State Auditor.

The Association of Minnesota Counties chaired this meeting. Jim Mulder called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. The group reviewed the draft of the Mission Statement, Membership, Goals, Strategies and Meetings. No changes made at this meeting.

**Suggestion: The record of topics and items discussed at these Collaboration Working Group meetings will be meeting summary notes not minutes.**

**Suggestion: Agenda item for next meeting – allowing an alternate to attend a meeting if both representatives from an association cannot attend.**

Group Discussion Topics Presented:

Emergency Powers Act: Michael Campion presented from the perspective of how the Department of Public Safety connects with local units of government and how they collaborate with those levels. His approach is to assist other agencies; assets vs. relationships – the relationships between local governments are the most important. One goal within Homeland Security = relationships are a high priority so he makes a point to attend conferences and events with local government groups.

Regarding the state's level of preparation on the coming pandemic flu: he has been charged to be prepared. The DNR, Agriculture, Public Safety internally have done a good job and the next step is to coordinate with each other. The probable way to get the word out to the public at the State level will be the planned confer/meet/brief with the media. The 2<sup>nd</sup> forum with media would include Local Government units.

Budget request information is online – see Dan McElroy for the website.

John Kerr described interaction with local and state levels from his perspective; his vision is to expand the view for the future since there is more to worry about now that floods and tornados.

The State's answer to the question of who is in charge in an emergency: good to plan and do exercises to determine who are the natural leaders in different situations. Those in charge on a daily basis are in charge in an emergency. State statute was quoted which mentions city and county appointments.

**Suggestions: Public should be aware of who to turn to in the case of emergency. Educate leaders in each community how it will play out locally.**

Emergency planning has value – on paper and in conversations with the process of dealing with planning as a team; the caution is to rely on the State to supply the plan because each area has it's own resources and building/shelters to use. Group mentioned relying on the State for food, public safety, and utilities with the rest of the needs locally provided.

**Suggestion: The high visibility of the four local government associations in this working group could help with the message and plan distribution.**

Group acknowledges that natural tensions occur at local level and at state/local level and at state/federal level. Group discussed how to put in place a process to reduce this tension before an emergency hits, in part, by using a community leader who emerges as a leader.

State is working on the helpful and accurate messages to the public.

**Suggestion: Use the Collaboration Working Group to develop an action plan (next meeting topic).**

GASB 45: Purpose of this discussion topic was to understand each other's position. Pat Anderson presented her ideas on the reasons and benefits from creating the mechanism for funding. Pat's goal is to consolidate pension funds. She described the bill movement process and touched on several issues including fees, investment return issues and oversight issues of auditing and reporting, timeline for budgeting.

The group comments included increasing the number of options available and being supportive of the RFP process.

Joint Powers Legislation: Scott Simmons updated the group on the bill and it's idea of sole liability and stacking; now at the Judiciary level for review.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at League of Minnesota Cities. The Minnesota School Boards Association will chair the meeting.

Group discussion topic for the April 27 meeting as identified by the group:

- Pandemic Flu – various associations will be asked to attend this meeting (Sheriffs, Police Chiefs, Superintendents, School Nurses, Local Public Health Officials, etc.)

Group adjourned.