

**Minutes  
of the  
1/14/05 1:00 p.m. meeting  
of the  
Legislative Review Team**

**Attendees:**

Gary Warnberg: City of Mpls.  
Linda Camp: Ramsey Co. and City of St. Paul  
Jill Alverson: Hennepin County  
Jim Slavik: Scott County  
John Sullivan: Anoka County.  
Mary Pittelko: State Fair  
Don Olson: Metropolitan Airports Commission  
Jay McCleary: City of Redwing

**Guests:**

Kurt Yoakum: Minnesota Association of Counties (AMC)  
Laura Offerdahl: League of Minnesota Cities

**Location:** Minnesota Association of Counties Building

The purpose of the meeting was

1. To build a relationship with both the League of Cities and AMC. Both individuals pledged to work with our effort to introduce either changes or additions to the existing municipal contracting statutes and find the appropriate authors for legislation in 2006.
2. To hear suggestions from both the League of Cities and AMC that will make our effort successful.

The team heard from Linda Camp summarizing her efforts either 4-5 years ago, to add Best Value to municipal contract law. The city tried on its own to make the change. She did not recommend any one-entity try making changes alone.

She recommended we prepare for negative comments. One such comment was “How would you know if you were receiving Best Value”? This is the type of questioning we will have to be prepared to answer. The copier trades were vocal and against such legislation.

The effort of the City of St. Paul was not successful but with the large cross section of entities attending today’s meeting we have a much greater chance of passing legislation. We have enough time to thoroughly think through the reasons why we want to change specific legislation.

We discussed very briefly what we believe we want to change and why:

- Adding text that make it clear that entities could use the RFP process
- We discussed how beneficial using the process would be when contracting for IT and Professional Services related to IT

Jay McCleary brought out the fact that we have both large and small government entities involved in the team and moving forward we should emphasize that to the legislature.

Gary W. mentioned that we are looking for are more tools to use (more acquisition options).

Further discussion suggested we select only a few areas to emphasize and not rewrite large sections or do an entire rewrite of municipal contract law.

The team spent most of the hour asking for strategy advice from both Kurt and Laura:

1. There is a core group of legislators that are knowledgeable about acquisition legislation based on the changes made last year when the reverse auction process was added. Jill Alverson, Linda Camp, and City of Moorhead spearheaded that effort.
2. First we need to agree on the core issues we want to work on.
3. Prepare for the negative side. There may be those that will disagree that we need any change
4. Define what group will be impacted? ( we should communicate with the Chamber of Commerce from the two cities and maybe elsewhere, and get buy in from outside groups) We need to define who those are once we know our core items.
5. Laura added we need feed back from those groups mentioned in number 4 above before we introduce legislation.
6. Emphasize that this will stream line the process for cities that may have different processes.
7. There is an appetite for change right now in the legislature.
8. Kurt suggested we get a real example of a story that could be told to support any issue: (City of Red Wing is definately a possibility)
9. Time lines: Both Kurt and Laura suggested we have everything completed by August. At the very latest December of 2005.
10. Having the State of MN Department of Administration support is very important.
11. Remember to think of what vendor community we are affecting with any one issue and consider what feed back we might get either t positive or negative. (Having vendor support any of our initiatives might be a strength)
12. Get buy in from the Business Partnership group lead by Charlie Weaver.

City of Moorhead has a person that might be interested in working with us since he was involved in the reserve auction legislation in 2004, Michael Redlinger. Jill will contact this person and notify him of the next meeting date. Mike's number for future reference is 218-299-5308.

It is also important to add Laura and Kurt to our meeting notices and agenda's. They would be invited to every meeting but with the session in progress it may be hard for them to attend each meeting.

Keep the U of M in the loop, although we do not intend to influence any of their legislation. It would be good to keep them informed and clear as to our intent.

The School Districts of Mpls. and St. Paul should be kept informed as well.

It was agreed that it would not be necessary to circulate a petition signed by cities and counties around the state supporting any effort we might make.

Who will actually write the text? The Reviser of Statutes or House Research could do this. Kurt and Laura would have access to those people. Our goal is to outline the text and issues.

It was suggested we use a conference call at the next meting to conference in the City of Moorhead. Dick Florey, St. Louis County has also asked to be involved using a conference call.

The date for the next meeting will be set for February. An exact date will be determined and announced latter in the month.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Olson, Manager of Purchasing for the Metropolitan Airports Commission