

***Approved by a vote of the Committee – August 14, 2012***

**CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 27, 2012**

**Present:** Shaun Suhoski, Kristen Garza, Kristin Wood, Leon Gaumond (Quorum - yes)  
**Staff:** Trish Settles  
**Absent:** Peter Krawczyk, Adam Gaudette

**1. Call to order - 10:10am**

**2. Review of the Minutes:**

***A motion was made, seconded and all presented voted to approve the minutes of April 5th 2012.***

No action was required to approve minutes for the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting since there was no quorum. A statement to that affect will be placed on file.

***A motion was made, seconded and all presented voted to send a summary of the May 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Affairs meeting to the Executive Committee and to place the summary on file.***

**3. Discuss committee composition, new committee members, roles and responsibilities.**

Kristen Garza explained to the committee members that the City of Worcester would prefer that she not serve as chair of this committee. Shaun Suhoski accepted a nomination to serve as chair of the committee.

***A motion was made, seconded and all presented voted to send a summary of the May 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Affairs meeting to the Executive Committee and to place the summary on file.***

The selection of a vice chair was tabled to a future meeting.

Trish also explained that Peter Krawczyk has indicated a desire to resign from the committee. This would leave two vacancies on the committee for delegates or alternates of the commission. Trish circulated a list of delegates and alternates for the committee's consideration. The committee would like the Executive Committee to consider appointing delegates or alternates from communities with populations in the 15,000 + range and the <3,000 range and also to give consideration to geographic distribution - possibly the Northeast subregion or the West Subregion.

**4. Review the legislative breakfast**

The committee debriefed the May 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Affairs Breakfast. Generally the event was seen as positive. Audience attendance was great. Legislator attendance was less than expected, possibly

due to the activity at the State House regarding the budget. A few areas for improvement or change were noted. The Facilitator would like a seating chart of the legislators. We should seat the legislators as they arrive, that way there are not gaps in the tables (where expected legislators who don't attend were supposed to be seated.)

We should give the focus and/agenda to the legislators further ahead of the meeting, then they can prepare their remarks accordingly.

Kristin Wood checked with Senator Brewer's office. They indicated that holding the event in late winter/early spring would be more effective way to influence the budget.

**5. Develop draft priorities for consideration/adoption by CMRPC and**

**6. Discuss strategies and action plans for committee going forward.**

There was a significant discussion about what the Executive Committee (EC) wanted the Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC) to take on as its responsibility, beyond holding Breakfasts events. Do they want the LAC to suggest Legislative Priorities? Do they want the LAC to take action on Legislative Priorities and to advocate (not lobby)?

Kristin Wood said she spoke with PVPC and FRCOG about how they interacted with the legislators. Legislators look to PVPC to gain insight into issues affecting the region. PVPC holds regular events with businesses and non-profits to learn about their needs and then share that insight with legislators and use it to inform their work. There was a sense that it will take a bit of time for legislators to learn how to benefit from the newly formed CMRPC LAC. We need to build confidence and develop regular interaction with them.

We will draft letters with priorities and hold an event twice a year for legislators.

We will utilize the "top 5" survey results as our initial action items.

The committee discussed doing a late fall forum with a focus on another one of the top 5 priorities – unfunded mandates. The LAC can invite the State Auditor to present on unfunded mandates. This will be discussed more at the next meeting.

The Committee will build upon the transportation (Chapter 90) funding for the FY14 budget season.

The Committee asked Trish to ask Larry for more guidance on his and the EC's desired roles and responsibilities for the committee. Also Kristen suggested that the committee ask for the list of priorities that were developed in the last EC retreat and try to align their work with them.

**7. Set Meeting Schedule:** The next meeting will be Tuesday August 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm at CMRPC.

**8. Announcements / Upcoming Meetings:** Trish indicated that she was going to meet with the Assistant Town Administrator from Shrewsbury to discuss the follow-up to their multi-municipal legislative meeting. There were no other announcements or discussion of related upcoming meetings.

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