The Meeting was called to order by Chair Todd Blake, in the Council Chambers of Delta Charter Township on August 15, 2007.

Present: Todd Blake, Rob Flynn, Chris Swope, Sharon Tischler, Janice Vedder, Lorna Wilson, Joan Raap, Ed Weessies, Terri Hegarty, Kathy Dornan, Toni Bartholomew, Terri Kowal and Bill Zaagman (Government Consultant Services)

Absent: Ann Ulrich, Susan Morrow and Ann Becker

Agenda. The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes. The Minutes of April 18th & May 16th, 2007 were approved.

Bill Zaagman (Government Consultant Services, Inc.).

Bill noted the Senate is currently working on the Presidential Primary bills SB 624 & 625, to create a presidential primary for February or even as early as January. Democratic Party Chair Mark Brewer has vowed to move the primary date to January or earlier, to match other state’s attempts to move. There is much debate on which state’s primary votes will impact the primary races.

He reported the House recently passed HB 4447 & 4448, which break the link between a voters’ QVF residence address and their drivers’ license address, allowing them to differ. Bill noted these bills are politically driven and is currently in Senate committee with little chance of being brought to a vote.

Clerk’s Terri Kowal and Kathy Dornan, as well as representatives from the Bureau of Elections, spoke against this bill in House hearings to no avail. The Legislative Committee will encourage MAMC membership to contact their senators. Clerk’s Chris Swope and Kathy Dornan also spoke in support of HB 4508 & 4553 in House hearings.

HB 4553, which allows mailing of AV ballot applications to qualified and registered electors 60 years of age or older, even if application is not requested, is still in Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight. Bill noted communities continuing to us permanent AV lists should be consistent in their methods. SB 202 also addresses this.

Bill reported Representative Chris Ward has taken a turn and no longer supports ‘no reason AV’s’ (HB 4508), but is pushing for ‘early voting.’ Apparently, Ward said he changed his opinion on absentee voting, because he believes many mistakes are made on mailed ballots.

The Legislative Committee supports both ‘no reason AV’ and ‘early voting’, and believes both should be enacted.

Bill informed the Committee on new proposed legislation regarding ‘precinct delegates’ that would make changes allowing county appointments or no write-ins.
Clerk’s Chris Swope, Janice Vetters and Terri Hegarty left the meeting to convene with Senator Wayne Kiepers, Chair of the Senate Education Committee to discuss possible school board election date reform. They will also be meeting with Don Wotruba, from the MI Assoc of School Boards, to discuss the like.

Review Bill Matrix: With little time left for this meeting, Todd Blake informed the Committee the MAMC ‘Priority List’ will be placed early on the agenda for the next meeting.

‘Picture ID Requirement’ Update

Chris Thomas, Director of Bureau of Elections, submitted a draft public release on ‘Picture Identification in the Polls: Instructions to Election Officials.’ He reported the MI Supreme Court ruled on July 18, 2007 that a provision of MI election law which requires voters to either present picture identification or sign an affidavit if they do not have a picture identification with them is constitutional and enforceable (MCL 168.523).

Mr. Thomas briefly summarized the draft instructions and welcomed the Committee to review and make comments on its clarity and understanding.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30 PM.

Respectfully,

Todd Blake, Committee Chair