The MAMC Legislative Committee met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2008 at the Charter Township of Delta. Chair Evan Hope called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Present: Evan Hope (Delhi Twp), Terri Kowal (Shelby Twp), Chris Swope (Lansing City), Susan Morrow (Plainfield Twp), Joan Raap (Egelston Twp), Ann Becker (Muskegon City), Sharon Tischler (Southfield Twp), Heidi Isakson (Wyoming City), Kathy Dornan (Farmington Hills City)

Also Present: Bill Zaagman (GCSI)

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM MAY 21, 2008

Swope moved to approve the Legislative Committee notes from the May 21, 2008 meeting.

A voice poll was recorded as follows: All ayes
MOTION CARRIED

REPORT FROM BILL ZAAGMAN - GCSI

Bill Zaagman reported that nothing of significance was moving in the State Legislature. He stated it is unusual for a lame duck legislature to take up any issues of even slight controversy. He further stated that we shouldn’t expect any election issues to be taken up again until the new legislature convenes in January.

Mr. Zaagman mentioned some amendments introduced by Rep. Chris Ward. One would require that notice be given to voters that an absentee ballot was received by the local clerk. Another would provide for absentee for no reason but if more than 5% of the ballots statewide were “spoiled” then the law would revert back to reasons needed for absentee voting.

Discussion was held regarding these amendments, how they would be handled logistically and what the definition of a “spoiled” ballot.
It was agreed that these issues were not likely to move, but Mr. Zaagman would keep us informed.

UPDATE - EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING - NEW LEGISLATION

Kathy Dornan gave an update of the early in-person voting legislation she and other clerks have drafted. Because of preparations for the busy November Election and that it is unlikely for anything to be introduced this year in the Legislature, the committee will revisit this issue in January 2009.

NEXT MEETING

Evan Hope stated that the next regular meeting would be October 15, 2008. Because so little is happening in the Legislature, Mr. Hope said he would keep the members informed of any activity and the committee would only meet if needed. Mr. Hope further stated that in January 2009 we will meet to set priorities and discuss strategies.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.