Legislative Committee
Minutes
September 19, 2007, 9:30 AM

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Todd Blake, at Delta Charter Township on September 19, 2007.

Present: Todd Blake, Ann Ulrich, Chris Swope, Sharon Tischler, Janice Vedder, Terri Hegarty, Susan Morrow, Toni Bartholomew, Terri Kowal, Lorna Wilson, Chris Thomas (BOE) and Bill Zaagman (Government Consultant Services)

Absent: Rob Flynn, Ann Becker, Joan Raap and Kathy Dornan

Agenda. The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes. The Minutes of August 15, 2007 were approved.

Todd reported Senator Brown, current member of the Senate Campaign & Election Committee, spoke to the MACC at 9 am before the meeting and give a brief update on senate bills addressing election issues.

MAMC Legislative Priority List: Update

The Committee reviewed the 2006 list and made some changes to reflect where bills had moved, passed or died. Todd will update the list and forward the committee at the next meeting as well as the MAMC Board.

Bill Zaagman (Government Consultant Services, Inc.).

Bill noted the Presidential Primary date is set for January 15, 2008 and the deadline for Parties to opt out is November 14th. There is still much debate on which state’s primary votes will impact the primary races.

Bill reported the Legislature is tied up with adopting a budget and that other issues have taken a back seat, but don’t be surprised if something gets incorporated into another bill and squeaks through. The Legislature has already worked through last weekend and have vowed to continue until a budget compromise is passed and accepted by the Governor.

Bill also reported a legislative subcommittee met with Senator Wayne Kuipers, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, and Don Wotruba, from the MI Assoc of School Boards, to discuss school election date reform. Following their discussions, a tentative agreement was reached to take back to all concerning boards to amend the law to offer:

- May (odd years)
- August (even or every year)
- November (odd years)

He noted there is some confusion on the MACC modifying the tentative dates and that the school’s greatest concern seemed to be that some schools will not change from “every year” elections.

Following discussion, the group favored August or odd November over May, but agreed that leaving odd May in as an option may keep the schools on board.
Chris Thomas (Director of BOE)

Chris Thomas reported the Bureau is working on a special AV application for the Jan 15th Primary and will forward a sample to the group via email. He also noted there are some changes for ‘first-time voter registration’ and deadlines for precinct consolidation and ballot wording. He also noted now may be the time to speak out to legislators for election reform.

Todd announced Ed Weesies resigned as the Laketon Township Clerk and is therefore stepping down from both the Legislative Committee and CEO. Suggestions for replacement are welcome and an appointment will be made soon.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 PM.

Respectfully,

Todd Blake, Committee Chair