

**MLGMA Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes  
July 28, 2009  
Ramada Plaza Hotel Ojibway, Sault Ste. Marie,**

Ted Staton, President, called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

**I. ROLL CALL**

**Directors present:**

Ted Staton, President, MLGMA; City Manager, East Lansing  
Al Vanderberg, President-Elect, MLGMA; County Administrator, Ottawa County  
Steve Brock, Vice-President, MLGMA; City Manager, Farmington Hills  
Christine Burns, City Manager, Cedar Springs  
Michael Cain, City Manager, Boyne City (by phone)  
Ryan Cotton, Village Manager, Spring Lake (by phone)  
Roger Fraser, City Administrator, Ann Arbor (by phone)  
Precia Garland, Assistant Manager, Cadillac (by phone)  
Ken Hibl, City Manager, Clare  
Ed Koryzno, City Manager, Ypsilanti  
Phillip Moore, City Manager, Alma  
Steve Powers, County Administrator, Marquette County  
Frank Walsh, City Manager, St. Joseph

Also Present: Marie McKenna, Assistant City Manager, East Lansing; Colleen Layton, MML; Heather Van Poucker, MML; Eric Dodson, City Manager, St. Ignace; Frank Gerstenecker, Range Rider; Elliott Nelson, Fellowship Recipient, Caro.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes from the June 12, 2009 meeting

B. Approval of Finance Report & Plante Moran 2008 Audit Report

Motion to approve the minutes.

Motion by: Cotton

Seconded by: Powers; motion passed

**III. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Adoption of Listserv use guidelines – delayed until the October meeting.

B. 2010 Summer Workshop committee chair appointment

Motion to approve the selection of the Summer Workshop 2010 committee.

Mitch Deisch, city manager, Manistee, will serve as chair.

Motion by: Koryzno

Seconded by: Powers; motion passed

**IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Recommendations from Managers in Transition and the Experience committees regarding the role of MLGMA in monitoring the Interim Manager List.

No formal opinion issued by the committees, but suggested standards include:

- Minimum of 5 years of public management experience as defined by ICMA.
- Free of censure by ICMA and MLGMA.
- Member in good standing with MGLMA.
- Subject to MLGMA board review (via email). Board would have authority to keep name off the list; emphasize responsibility of the community in choosing a candidate.

Motion to approve the criteria as minimum standards.

Motion by: Brock

Seconded by: Powers; motion passed

B. ICMA is requesting that each state association prepare a video interview for presentation during the 2014 ICMA Conference.

Staton reported that any archival material has been deemed outdated. Need to explore in more detail with ICMA. Will refer to the Advocacy Committee.

C. Role of MLGMA in addressing Structural Change/State Assistance to Local Governments.

Fraser expressed concern about advocating for local government restructuring because we can't expect the Legislature to do much more. What would be the ramifications if state government shut down in October? Some discussion points were:

- How do you engage the public?
- What structural changes are we willing to give up?
- Is the Constitutional Convention the answer?
- We need to have a constructive conversation before the strategy. We should find some common ground with the townships.
- What issues does MLGMA want to fight for? We need to take a position.
- It needs to be urgent.
- Civic engagement is important – there has to be a grass roots communication.
- Appoint a committee to initially think about this.
- Staton will outline this and board can think about participants.
- Per Staton, by the end of August we will have a message planned for the membership.
- Layton shared with the board, some of the League initiatives that are more grassroots to get the citizens engaged.

D. MLGMA received a request for a donation of \$2000 for the inaugural celebration of Darnell Earley's, presidency of ICMA. Apparently, it is a custom for state associations to donate to the festivities.

ICMA will hold its board meeting in Detroit next year. The host community wants up to \$500 to put together gift baskets. Staton is going to confirm this tradition with the Illinois Association before the board approves it.

Motion to donate \$2000 for ICMA presidential inaugural celebration.

Motion by: Koryzno

Seconded by: Fraser; motion passed.

**V. INFORMATION**

A. Letter from the community Education committee regarding elementary school curriculum.

Staton referred to the attached report and remarked that Michael Young continues to do good work on this.

B. An editorial submitted to the Freep by Darnell Early regarding the council-manager form of government.

Staton referred to the copy in the board book.

C. Advanced Conferencing Technology

Staton reported that conferencing training will be part of the Winter Institute and perhaps will be made compulsory for the committee chairs.

D. Walled Lake Update

There is a new manager in Walled Lake and Staton offered any assistance if needed.

E. Reports from committee liaisons.

Experience Committee is still working on the recognition awards.

Advocacy Committee – Moore stated that they are still working on the video.

**VI. BOARD MEMBER ROUNDTABLE**

Elliott Nelson, fellowship recipient in Caro and Central Michigan University, student, thanked the board for the generous fellowship opportunity. He has put together a report and will share it with the board. He spent time with different communities and was able to assist Don Beaver with a lot of his duties. He said that the experience provided him a great bridge to a career.

Cain reported that so far there were 53 orders for MLGMA shirts.

**VII. CLOSING COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Staton reported that the last mailed copy of the ICMA newsletter was just sent. It will now go digital.

Next Board meeting will be on Friday, October 23 at 10: am, League Lansing office.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Layton  
Secretary/Treasurer

