

MEMORANDUM

October 23, 2008

TO: MLGMA Board of Directors

FROM: Peter D. Stalker, Chairperson, MLGMA Public Policy Committee

A meeting of the Public Policy Committee was held on October 22, 2008 in Lansing. Also attending were President Ed Koryzno and President-elect Ted Staton. The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss the future disposition of the MLGMA Public Policy Committee. As you may remember, the strategic planning process that was undertaken last year recommended this committee be eliminated as a part of the overall realignment of the MLGMA committee structure. When this recommendation was presented to last year's Public Policy Committee, concern was expressed by some of the members that the committee still served a useful purpose and therefore should not be eliminated. At that time, the MLGMA board agreed to reconsider this matter, and charged this year's committee with that task.

Accordingly, input has been solicited from the membership to examine the perceived need and purpose for a Public Policy Committee organized under MLGMA. Specifically, an article was written for the September/October *Manager* newsletter, and the question was also posted on our listserv. Limited feedback has been received to date, but enough discussion has been held regarding this topic to allow the public policy committee to meet to further review this question.

A great number of items were considered in an attempt to thoroughly examine this situation. Some of the more salient points raised include:

1. When the MLGMA Public Policy Committee was established a number of years ago, the MML legislative advocacy program was much different, and has changed significantly since that time. Originally, the MLGMA committee was developed to fill a perceived gap in the legislative process where municipal issues were not always being addressed. A much greater emphasis on this process through the MML appears to have filled most, if not all of that void.
2. Manager membership on the various MML committees was reviewed and it appears that there is significant representation throughout all of the committees.
3. The League's new Public Policy emphasis is also an expansion of its/our role in the legislative process, further addressing municipal issues which are germane to our membership.
4. It was recognized there could be issues that arise which may not be fully or appropriately addressed by the MML legislative committees, and therefore it could/would be necessary to appoint an ad hoc committee of the MLGMA (in the

absence of a Public Policy Committee) to address these issues. Ad hoc committees are specifically authorized in the MLGMA strategic plan.

5. Concern was expressed with regard to our membership being proactive in identifying legislative issues which need to be addressed, as compared to simply reacting to issues as they materialize. Without a Public Policy Committee, this concern would be heightened.
6. It was recognized that managers who are not affiliated with the League, or who are members of organizations that are not affiliated with the League, have found the public policy committee to be an excellent way to keep abreast of current issues.

Additional discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of maintaining the Public Policy Committee. However, it was the consensus of those members in attendance that the MLGMA membership would be best served by eliminating the Public Policy Committee as originally envisioned in the strategic plan, while at the same time taking certain steps to make sure that this action does not result in a loss of service to our members. These would include:

1. Amend the strategic plan for MLGMA to require the board to annually review the membership of MLGMA members on MML committees to ensure adequate representation.
2. Require the Education Committee to hold an annual session seeking input on policy issues unique to municipal managers that are perceived to need additional attention beyond what MML is able to provide. This could result in the creation of an ad hoc committee on a case-by-case basis, or simply additional discussion with MML to ensure proper attention is given to the matter at hand.
3. Advise those who are not members of MML of the ability to become involved through affiliate memberships.

This matter is now presented to the MLGMA board for its review and action. If additional input is required from the Public Policy Committee as this recommendation is considered, please let me know.