



PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

November 2, 2007

Conference Call

MINUTES

Present: Ann Becker, Laverne Behrens, Yuri Butinas, Mel Check, Chris Cramer, Renny Diedrich, Jan Edwards, Jon Flor, Hiam Garner, Michelle Gille, King Holley, Dan Jessup, Darren Kittleson, Christina Knutson, Laurie Logan, Jerry Marchant, Sue Martell, Chris Northwood, Donna Parker, Karen Pavlicek, Lance Pliml, Tom Sanford, Joan Seramur, MaryKay Shumway, Jim Somers, Mike Spranger, Katherine Zalewsineki. (27)

Absent: Lynda Bacon Lawlis, Tracey Bolinger, Dick Brockman, Tom Bernacchi, J. Turner Bomier, Judy Carpenter, Amy Curler, Ann Enright, Janet Evenson, Ame Grail, Bob Harris, Terry Hilgenberg, Pat Kaster, Jeff Kitchen, Gary Kmiecik, Susie Lettau, Arthur Mays, Dave Mays, Sonya Mays, Matt Miller, Chuck Olson, Cynthia Patterson, Jerry Lyons, Joe McLean, Mike Mulleady, Anthony Nudo, Anne Paulus, Scott Revolinski, Dave Schmidt, Linda Schubring, Sam Simon, Suzanne Stark, Fallon Sippel, Jim Steineke, Wayne Stoll, Monica Thompson, Tami Thompson, James Watters, Bob Weber, Terry Wolfe, Bub Zwygart. (41)

GADs/Staff: Bill Berndt, Rick Chandler, Royce DeBow, Kevin King, Tom Larson, Joe Murray, Tracy Rucka, Phil Salkin, Michael Theo.

I. Call to Order – Chair Laurie Logan

Chair Laurie Logan called the conference call meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes from October 5, 2007 Meeting

Tom Larson briefed the committee on several issues staff was directed to investigate from the October 5, 2007 conference call. In particular, Tom reported on several questions regarding SB 269 (allowing tenants to terminate leases if physical safety is threatened). Staff was directed to work with Senate sponsors and their staff to (a) limit the bill to residential properties only, and (b) to seek a notice requirement to landlords. The previous ~~no~~ position+recommendation on the bill will remain, but if the recommendations are not adopted, staff will bring the bill back for additional consideration.

After that discussion, the following motion was adopted:

M/S/C . Approve the minutes from the October 5, 2007 meeting as presented.

III. State budget wrap-up

Staff reviewed a memo prepared by Rick Chandler summarizing numerous issues of interest from the recently-concluded state budget debate. Discussion centered on the real estate transfer tax, universal health care, health savings accounts, and property tax levy limits. No motions were made.

IV. New Legislation

The committee reviewed the consent agenda as presented. After discussing numerous bills, the following motion was adopted.

M/S/C . To adopt the consent agenda as presented:

Assembly Bills

AB 519 (Wasserman) Acceptance of certain political contributions by certain members of the legislature and committees. (No Position)

AB 520 (SB 269) (Suder) Allows tenants to terminate a lease if physical safety is threatened. (No Position)

AB 532 (SB 274) (Gunderson) Restricts local government employees from performing soil testing, installing, maintaining, repairing or selling private sewage systems. (No Position)

AB 543 (Meyer) Allowing counties to establish ordinary high water mark when in conflict with the DNR. (Support)

Senate Bills

SB 289 (Wirch) Requires carbon monoxide detectors in all residential buildings. (Oppose)

V. Dept. of Regulation and Licensing Update

Kevin King briefed the committee on issues pending at the Department of Regulation and Licensing including revised forms and pending administrative rules. No motions were made.

VI. Miscellaneous

Staff briefed the committee on several pending issues that are consuming lobbying time at the moment, including Department of Commerce administrative rules regarding proposed changes to the state's sprinkler requirements for multifamily housing by the Department of Commerce. (Wis. Admin. Code Ch. Comm 69-65, Commercial Building Code, and Comm. 14, Fire Prevention Code) and legislation shifting the power to appoint the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources from the Governor to the Natural Resources Board. The WRA opposes this legislation. Staff also reported on an excellent meeting with the new DNR Secretary Matt Frank and Deputy Secretary Pat Henderson to discuss NR 115 and other matters.

VI. Future meetings

Laurie reminded the committee of future conference call meetings on December 7, January 18, 2008 (face-to-face meeting at the WRA), February 15 and March 7.

VII. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:

Michael Theo
Vice President,
Legal and Public Affairs

Laurie Logan
Chair
WRA Public Policy Committee