Celebrating Fifty-one Years of Service - 1963-2014

Approved by a vote of the Committe	ee – April 15, 2015	
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CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting Notes

March 15, 2015

Present: Adam Gaudette, Jim Bates, Robin Craver, Sherry Patch (Quorum - YES)

Staff: Trish Settles

Absent: Leon Gaumond, Tom Gregory, and Tim McInerney

Guest: None

- 1. Call to order 2:31pm
- 2. Review of the November 5, 2014 Minutes Motion to accept the minutes of November 5^{th} 2014 made by Adam Gaudette, seconded by Jim Bates. All present voted in favor of approving. Note since there was not a Quorum at the February meeting, no decisions were made and minutes were not developed.
- **3. Legislator Open House** We discussed that maybe we should do them by subregion Blackstone Valley, Central 13, Rural 11 and Metrowest at consecutive meetings. Trish will work to develop a schedule.
- **4. Legislative Updates** Trish shared legislative updates from MAPC, Worcester Food and Active Living Policy Council, APA, and Mass Ag Day priorities. Adam shared an update on school transportation funding/regional school system transportation. Adam stated that Anne Gobi is expected to file a supplemental bill to return some funding to the towns.
- **5. Spring Event** The committee members present decided that the focus of the next event would be Natural Resource, Environment, and Agricultural as it is relates to regional Economic Development. The date would be a Friday in June, (preferably not on the Friday after CMRPC's Annual Meeting on June 11th), so either June 5th or the 19th. The committee wants to invite Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Matt Beaton to be the focus of the event with additional speakers such as Commissioner of Ma Ag Resources John Lebeaux or DEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg to also present. Topics such as the impact of Great Lakes and Ponds might be interesting part of the conversation. Priority preservation areas and resources to promote and protect them might also be incorporated in the conversation.

One possible line up might include

- a. Matt Beaton to open and talk about the relationship between his Dept and econ dev opportunities in the region,
- b. John Lebeaux to talk about ag and econ development,
- c. Martin Suuberg to talk about the challenges of regulating and protecting water resources while promoting econ development,
- d. Kurt Gaertner about additional resources.

Trish will contact Beaton's office on availability.

- **6. New Business** No new business
- 7. Next meeting date: Wednesday April 15 at 2:30 in the Grant Conference Room
- **8. Adjournment** Motion to adjourn by Sherry Patch, seconded by Jim Bates, all present voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 3:35pm.

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