MEMBERS PRESENT:
Jim Abbe, Steele County
Richard Brenner, Carlton County
Spencer Buerkle, Benton County
Jim Butterfield, Kandiyohi County
Charlene Christenson, Hubbard County
Joy Cohrs, Sibley County
Randy Dahl, Fillmore County
Gayle Degler, Carver County
Hiedi Doo-Kirk, Cook County
Keith Englund, Douglas County
Doug Erickson, Renville County
Sara Folsted, Rice County
Paul Graupmann, Lyon County
Donna Gravely, Cottonwood County
Rick Greene, Chisago County
Dennis Groebner, Redwood County
Frank Gross, Clay County
Mike Housman, Meeker County
Lyle Hovland, Wilkin County
Frank Jewell, St. Louis County
Bob Kagnas, Cass County
Bill LaValley, Grant County
Larry Lindor, Pope County
John Luepke, Nicollet County
Tom Mahoney, Martin County
DeWayne Mareck, Stearns County
Jim McDonough, Ramsey County
Gene Metz, Nobles County
Owen Miller, Douglas County
Les Nath, Pipestone County
Blair Nelson, Waseca County
Randy Neumann, Todd County
Don Niemi, Aitkin County
Randy Neumann, Todd County
Dvid Nordaune, Chippewa County
Reed Olson, Beltrami County
Pat Oman, Mille Lacs County
Pete Peterson, Swift County
Glenda Phillipe, Roseau County
Mark Piepho, Blue Earth County
Rich Pohlmeier, McLeod County
Mike Slavik, Dakota County
Dave Thiner, Murray County
Tim Tjosaas, Dodge County
Darryl Tveitbakk, Pennington County
Derek Vetsch, Wright County
Marcia Ward, Winona County
Tom Warmka, Faribault County
Lisa Weik, Washington County
Gary Willhite, Polk County
Randy Winscher, Morrison County
Tom Wolf, Scott County
Rebecca Young, Stevens County
Betty Younggren, Kittson County
GUESTS PRESENT:

Jon Kangas, Wadena County
Brent Olson, Big Stone
Ken Olson, Pennington County
Paula O’Connell, Rice County
Greg Wright, Olmsted
Michael Stalberger, Blue Earth County
Jess Anderson, Blue Earth County
Phil Nasby, Jackson County
Steve Duncan, Jackson County
Vicki Knobloch, Redwood County
Laura Elvebak, Blue Earth County
John Horner, Roseau County
Brett Skyles, Itasca County
Lyle Hovland, Wilkin County
Lorene Hanson, Lake of the Woods County
Donna Hanson, Norman County
Aurora Heard, Murray County

Jill Cords, Mower County
Heather Schlagen, Douglas County
Amy Rucker, Murray County
Jessica Beyer, Waseca County
Tim Houle, Crow Wing County
Charlie Meyer, Douglas County
Chuck Enter, Brown County
Steve, Ewing, Pipestone County
Brennan Furness, Hennepin County
Josh Stevenson, Cass County
Lynnette Schrapp, McLeod County
Bruce Messelt, Chisago County
Jessica Seibert, Aitkin County
Bobbie Vickerman, Fillmore County
Pete Giesen, Olmsted County
Steve Taylor, Sherburne County
Peg Heglund, Yellow Medicine County

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Commissioner Larry Lindor, Pope County, called the meeting of the General Government Policy Committee meeting to order at 8:04 AM. Members said the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced themselves along with recognizing retiring/departing commissioners.

II. Approval of minutes
Commissioner Betty Younggren motioned to approve the minutes from the last General Government Policy Committee meeting at the 2018 AMC Fall Policy Conference. Commission Gene Metz seconded the motion; the motion passed.

III. Platform Proposals
Chair Lindor explained platform process and rules. Staff also provided members documents outlining all proposed changes and how they would appear in the AMC General Government Platform if approved. Chair Lindor then proceeded to allow each proposal author to speak on their proposal for 5 minutes before a membership vote.

Commissioner Hendrickx spoke on the following platform plank:

“AMC encourages flexibility in the delivery of county-administered programs to help maximize investments in staff while maintaining quality services. Potential ways to address workforce shortages could include the ability to establish partnerships, employ technology, or modify mandated services.

AMC advocates for reducing policy barriers to attracting or retaining county workers.”

Commissioner Spencer Buerkle motioned to pass the resolution out of committee. Commissioner Mareck seconded. The motion passed.
Derrell Pettis spoke on the following platform plank:

“AMC supports that the State of Minnesota reevaluate and map accordingly the establishments of county boundaries for the purposes of accuracy and proper property taxation and recording of deeds.”

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Tom Warmka motioned to pass the resolution out of committee. Commissioner John Luepke seconded. The motion passed.

Commissioner Sheila Kiscaden spoke on the following platform planks:

“AMC supports legislative proposals aimed at addressing housing shortages and affordability issues through additional state investments as well as the creation of financing mechanisms, including tax credits, to incentive private investment in housing infrastructure.

AMC supports the creation of a statewide review panel to evaluate regulations related to building standards, land use & environmental stewardship for their impact on housing affordability.”

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Spencer Buerkle motioned to pass the resolution out of committee. Commissioner Mareck seconded. The motion passed.

Commissioner Bill LaValley spoke on the following platform plank:

“AMC supports a more equitable distribution of the mortgage registration and deed tax, revenue sources disproportionately benefiting the state general fund for a service completely provided for and by county employees and county resources.”

Commissioner DeWayne Mareck motioned to pass the resolution out of committee. Commissioner John Luepke seconded. The motion passed.

Bruce Messelt spoke on the following platform plank:

“AMC supports adequate funding of Minnesota’s existing library system. AMC supports legislation that would provide for investments in the Statewide Regional Library System by increasing funding for regional library basic system support aid.”

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Gayle Degler motioned to pass the resolution out of committee. Commissioner Ben Grimsley seconded. The motion passed.
Bruce Messelt spoke on the following platform plank:

“AMC supports efforts by its local government partners to secure adequate and equitable funding for Minnesota’s public school systems.

AMC supports greater local control for its local government partners in managing and operating Minnesota’s public school systems.”


Commissioner Wright spoke on the following platform plank:

“AMC supports creating progressive property tax mechanisms to alleviate and smooth financial burdens for seniors with limited means in an effort to allow residents to age in place and reduce core county service costs.

AMC supports simplification of Minnesota Statute 290B, the senior property tax deferral program.”

After discussing the background on the proposal, Commissioner Wright asked the committee to review this issue and present more information at the next Policy Conference. Commissioner Wright then withdrew his motion.

The General Government Committee reviewed two proposals from other committee jurisdictions. AMC staff Matt Hilgart spoke on the following Health and Human Services Policy Committee Proposal:

“AMC supports maintaining the state’s health care provider tax.”

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Jim McDonough motioned to pass the resolution out of committee. Commissioner Mareck seconded. The motion passed.

Commissioner Ben Grimsley spoke on the following Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee Proposal:

“AMC supports allocating 100 percent of the revenue generated by the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) to state and county product stewardship, household hazardous waste, and other waste management activities. If this is not possible, AMC supports eliminating the SWMT or changing how it is calculated to a per unit charge rather than as a percentage of the cost of waste disposal. AMC also supports rebates for all processing facilities that recover, recycle and reuse materials from which the SWMT has been collected.”

Discussion ensued. Commissioner DeWayne Mareck motions to pass the resolution out of committee. Commissioner John Luepke seconded. The proposal passed the committee by a division vote of 25 in favor to 24 opposed.
IV. Adjourn
Chair Lindor adjourned the meeting at 9:52 AM.