MEMBERS PRESENT:
Spencer Buerkle, Benton County
Jim Butterfield, Kandiyohi County
Patrick Christopherson, Kanabec County
Hiedi Doo-Kirk, Cook County
Thomas Egan, Dakota County
Roger Froemming, Otter Tail County
Phil Gausman, Stevens County
Frank Gross, Clay County
Peggy Heglund, Yellow Medicine County
Jim Hofer, Wadena County
Lyle Hovland, Wilkin County
James Kochmann, Mahnomen County
Bill LaValley, Grant County
Larry Lindor, Pope County
Anne Marcotte, Aitkin County
DeWayne Mareck, Stearns County
Jim McDonough, Ramsey County
Gene Metz, Nobles County
Owen Miler, Douglas County
Les Nath, Pipestone County
Randy Neumann, Todd County
David Nordaune, Chippewa County
Pat Oman, Mille Lacs County
Michael Plante, Wabasha County
Glenda Phillipe, Roseau County
Felix Schmiesing, Sherburne County
Paul Setzpфandt, Renville County
Timothy Sumner, Beltrami County
Dave Thiner, Murray County
Darryl Tveitbakk, Pennington County
Vernell Wagner, Grant County
Marcia Ward, Winona County
Tom Warmka, Faribault County
Matthew Widboom, Nobles County
Randy Winscher, Morrison County

GUESTS PRESENT:
Laura Elvebak, Steele County
Diann Giese, Grant County
Kevin Gray, St. Louis County
Chuck Whiting, Polk County
Rolland Miller, Marshall County
Dan Whitman, Martin County
Heather Schlangen, Douglas County
Michael Salberger, Blue Earth County
Don Niemi, Aitkin County
Melanie Ault, Washington County
Rebecca Young, Stevens County
Bob Meyer, Blue Earth County
Pat Paquin, Freeborn County
Sara Folsted, Renville County
Jamie Haefner, Nicollet County
Michael Plante, Wabasha County
Nick Riley, Ramsey County
Jerry Soma, Anoka County
Day 1, September 15, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Commissioner Darryl Tveitbakk, Pennington County, called the meeting of the General Government Policy Committee meeting to order at 1:30 PM. Members said the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Speaker, State Senator Bill Ingebrigsten
Chair Darryl Tveitbakk introduced State Senator Bill Ingebrigsten.

III. Speaker, Kim Babine, Department of Employment and Economic Development
AMC staff Matt Hilgart and Chair Darryl Tveitbakk introduced DEED Legislative Director, Kim Babine, to speak about paid family leave. A Q/A session followed.

IV. Speaker, Minnesota Department of Revenue
Chair Darryl Tveitbakk and AMC staff Matt Hilgart introduced Minnesota Department of Revenue staff Cynthia Rowley and Jon Klockziem to talk about new tax issues and trends. A Q/A session followed.

V. Adjourn
Chair Darryl Tveitbakk adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM.

*Presentation materials available upon request*
VI. **CALL TO ORDER**
Chair Commissioner Darryl Tveitbakk, Pennington County, called the meeting of the General Government Policy Committee meeting to order at 8:32 AM. Members said the Pledge of Allegiance and provided short introductions.

VII. **Approval of minutes**
Commissioner Hiedi Doo Kirk moved for the approval of the minutes from the March 2016 meeting, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Larry Lindor of Pope County. The motion carried.

VIII. **Affiliates update**
Chair Tveitbakk introduced representatives from three affiliate groups to provide legislative summaries and platform positions.

**Tom May, Minnesota Association of Assessing Officers (MAAO)**
Tom May shared MAAO’s position statement for 2017. He expressed concerns about the impact a lack of a repeal of the containment facility property tax exemption may have on some counties and reiterated MAAO’s positions against creating additional property classifications or exclusions. MAAO is also concerned about accessor safety. Tom May took questions from the Committee Members.

**Michelle Ashe, Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO)**
Michelle Ashe outlined MACO’s position statement for 2016 and highlighted counties’ success on absentee voting process changes which will be taking place this election. MACO’s platform is largely a continuation of the 2016 platform including the support of a new CPA formula, election equipment replacement funding and support for an AMC-MACO appointment of county row officers bill.

**Melanie Ault from the Minnesota County Human Resources Management Association (MCHRMA)**
Melanie Ault shared MCHRMA’s legislative proposals for 2017. These proposals include amending the merit system, ending pay equity reporting, looking into aggregate value benefits costs, and discontinuing insurance mandates for divorced spouses. Melanie Ault took questions from the Committee Members.

IX. **Legislative and platform review**
AMC staff Matt Hilgart provided a short session summary and an overview of last year’s top legislative priorities as set in the General Government platform.

X. **General Government legislative discussion and priority selection**
Chair Tveitbakk opened the committee for discussion on new platform items, edits, or research ideas.

Commissioner Spencer Buerkle motioned to ask AMC staff to research the additional hiring requirements needed for new HHS cost shifts and child protection mandates and possibly draft new platform language. Commissioner Tom Warmka seconded the motion; the motion carried.
Commissioner Anne Marcotte motioned to direct staff to research state statutes requiring unorganized township road fees to be separate budget lines and the ability for counties to include these revenues in general budget. Commissioner Gene Metz seconded; motion carried.

Rebecca Young, Stevens county, discussed issues surrounding emergency management coverage and requirements for county directors.

Commissioner Owen Miller motioned for AMC staff to research potential platform language on MN Merit, pay equity, and health insurance for divorced spouses. Commissioner Miller also asked that any research/language take into account possible financial impacts of counties still in Merit. Commissioner Heidi Doo Kirk seconded; motion carried.

Commissioner Doo Kirk motioned for staff to look into the relationship of EDAs—or special taxing districts—and statutes providing counties the flexibilities to hire CPA firms for their annual audit. Commissioner Tom Warmka seconded; motion carried.

After discussion on prior years’ assessing accreditation language, Commissioners Lindor and Mareck support amending General Government platform to “modify” 2019 assessor accreditation requirements instead of “repeal.”

Commissioner Marcia Ward suggest AMC look into creative and informative marketing materials that will help AMC lobby legislators on complex issues.

Commissioner Owen Miller motions to direct staff to review platform to look for redundancies, deletions, or clean up language and to create an amendment for the December meeting. Commissioner Marcia Ward seconded the motion; motion carried.

Commissioner DeWayne Mareck moved that the committee adopt the following four positions as priorities to be placed on AMC district ballots: CPA, appointment of row officers, assessor accreditation modifications, sustainable PILT funding mechanisms, and “clarifying state law to allow for fair and effective collective bargaining processes that account for issues of cost versus value of employee benefits.” Commissioner Roger Froemming seconded. Discussion ensued; motioned failed. AMC staff, Matt Hilgart, reaffirmed AMC’s awareness of increased health benefits costs and proposed creating an ad-hoc group of administrators/county HR personnel to look into aggregate benefit language to look for creative solutions.

Commissioner Larry Lindor motioned to place the following four positions as committee priorities to be placed on AMC district ballots: CPA, appointment of county row officers, assessor accreditation modifications, and creating a sustainable PILT funding mechanism. Jeff Pelowski seconded motion; motion carried.

XII. Adjourn
Chair Tveitbakk adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM.