“How to Testify on Behalf of Minnesota’s Infrastructure”

APWA Spring Conference
May 12, 2017

Heather Corcoran
Intergovernmental Relations
Member Outreach Coordinator
League of Minnesota Cities
EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY:
Let’s CHAT

CONNECT
Know your audience. Find a connection before asking for action. What people, issues, or interests do you have in common?

HOOK
Get their attention with a strong statement about the issue or problem. Explain the impact on individuals and the community. Describe what outcome you are seeking and your solution for getting that result.

ASK
Ask for their support. Describe what you’d like them to do to reach the desired outcome.

THANK
Express your thanks for the meeting—and for their support.
Lobbyist

What my friends think I do.
What my parents think I do.
What society thinks I do.

What I actually do.
What I think I do.
What legislators think I do.

What I actually do.
Why Lobby?

- Minnesota has a long history of an involved state/local partnership.
- Cities are creatures of the state.
- Lobby to:
  - Initiate changes to laws to address problems facing cities.
  - Provide information and reaction to bills.
  - Stop bad ideas from becoming law.
  - Build relationships.
11. When Ron was not about to be talked down to at Lowe's.

Hey there! Is there a project you're working on?

I know more than you.
You are the experts.

..but do they know that?
You are the experts.
..but do they know that?
You are the experts.

..but do they know that?
You are the experts.

..but do they know that?
You are the experts.

..but do they know that?
You are the experts.

..but do they know that?
House Capital Investment Comm. hearing about city water infrastructure needs from cities of Morris and Detroit Lakes. #LMCleg #MnCities

Scott Neal Retweeted

Anne Finn @AnneMFSenn · 4 Mar 2015
Testifying for street funding bill: St. Cloud Mayor Kleis, Northfield Councilmember Pownell & Minnetonka Engineer Lee Gustafson. #lmcleg
Grassroots
- LMC Policy Committees
- Pass Resolution
- Give Tour of city to legislators in off-session

Media Relations
- Write letter to local paper

Lobbying
- Attend day at the capitol
- Testify
Their water systems crumbling, Minnesota cities seek state help

By BILL SALISBURY | bsalisbury@pioneerpress.com

Their water systems crumbling, Minnesota cities seek state help

Denison, Minn., mayor Jeffrey Flaten climbs down into the city's sewer lift station on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016. Denison is a small town in central Minnesota that has a population of about 2,000 people. The city's infrastructure is aging, and the mayor said they are looking to the state for help to upgrade their water system.

The city's sewer lift station is a critical part of their water infrastructure. It's where wastewater is collected and transported to the treatment plant. Flaten said the station is old and needs to be replaced.

"It's a hands-on experience," Flaten said. "I'm a mayor, and I'm not a water engineer, but I understand the importance of this station."

The mayor said the city has already received some state funding for other infrastructure projects, but they need more support to upgrade the sewer lift station.

"We need state funding to do this work," Flaten said. "It's not just about our city, it's about the state."
Thanks to mayor of Whalan MN. Said "City passed resolution Supporting NEEEDED Dedicated State Funds for #Mncities Streets 216 passed #Imcleg"
Advocacy = needs care and feeding all year ‘round
Testifying for street funding bill: St. Cloud Mayor Kleis, Northfield Councilmember Pownell & Minnetonka Engineer Lee Gustafson. #lmcleg
Marc Culver <Marc.Culver@cityofroseville.com>

[city-eng] Small Cell Legislation Update

CEAM Members:

The League of Minnesota Cities is asking for a “full court press” to support a bill related to the use of public rights-of-way and assets within cities. The bill was introduced by Representative Heintzman. The Omnibus Transportation Funding Bill Resolution provides additional dedicated state funding for city streets including funding that can be used for maintenance, construction, and reconstruction. The Council asks that you support this vital bill for our community.

The League has produced several resources for informing letters and/or resolutions to their State Legislative representatives for your district, especially Republicans.

This fight becomes more difficult now that the language has been added to the larger bill. Please revisit the resources below and contact your legislators.

Here is an update on a bullet list of what our language supports: https://www.lmc.org/page/1/SmallCellWirelessToolkit.jsp

Here is the information on additional resources we are sending to cities:

https://www.lmc.org/page/1/SmallCellWirelessToolkit.jsp

I believe the House committee handling this omnibus bill will meet on Monday for testimony. Once I have confirmation of that I will send you another email. We may ask for some additional speakers for that testimony.

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City of Pequot Lakes
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Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
Phone: (218)568-2352
Fax: (218)568-5860
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
nmalecha@pequotlakes.mn.us
League of Minnesota Cities
Legislative URGENT Action Alert

You are receiving this message as a member of the League’s legislative listserv.

We need your help! Contact your representative(s) as soon as possible, but before NOON on Friday, April 7, to oppose an amendment that will likely be on the House floor that would preempt longstanding local ability to adopt land use ordinances that limit private well drilling.

Bottom Line

The A27 amendment to H.F. 800, the Health and Human Services omnibus bill, will likely be offered tomorrow during the House Floor session by Rep. Mary Franson (R-Alexandria). The A27 is a policy amendment that was not heard in any committees this session and changes Minnesota Statutes section 103I.111.

The League strongly opposes both the intent of the amendment and the fact that it is being brought forward with no discussion or testimony related to local government and environmental impacts. Removing local authority over this issue carries numerous potential negative repercussions:

- Allows a property owner to create their own source of water, stranding other city ratepayers with higher rates to cover the cost of water infrastructure that was built to meet water needs identified and planned for in the city;
- Creates risks of cross-contamination, well interference, and other public health and environmental concerns that are addressed in the public water supply system; and,
- Circumvents local and state planning and restrictions for water conservation and use, as well as DNR water appropriation permits and water planning required of public water supplies.

We need your help!
- **Contact your representatives** as soon as possible (and before noon on Friday) and ask them to oppose the A27 amendment if it is brought to a vote on the House Floor.
On Apr 7, 2017, at 8:34 AM, Connie Holmes <connie_dholmes@yahoo.com> wrote:

Joe

I am contacting you on behalf of the Waverly City Council to urge you to oppose A27 should it come up today during the floor debate on HR800.

A27 would essentially allow anyone in any city to drill their own water well and disconnect from city services. As a former Council member and Mayor you know what this would do to the integrity of a city water system and an infrastructure built to serve all homes in a city - not just a few. You know how this would adversely affect the ability of the city to pay for an already constructed water delivery system and would cause fewer people to pay much more.

If Council's cannot control the delivery system, it will affect a city's ability to bond for future expansion and improvements. As you know, the city depends on the rates charged to repay those bonds and if we cannot guarantee that we will have a certain number of "customers" to pay the bill, interest rates will increase for these projects and ability to bond will be affected.

For these and other procedural reasons (we understand this amendment was not heard in committee) we urge you to vote AGAINST this amendment should it come up.

With regards

Connie Holmes
Mayor, Waverly
Hi Connie,

Thank you for contacting me regarding this issue.

As a former Mayor, I do understand the consequences of a patch work of wells and people disconnecting from city services. However could we pay back those bonds if we allowed this.

I'll be voting no.

All my best,

Rep Joe McDonald

Sent from my iPhone
Advocacy = relationship building all year round
LMC Policy Committees

WE WANT YOU!
Advocacy in 3 steps

Know what’s going on

Talk About it

Follow up
Step 1: Know what is going on

Stay updated on all things at the Capitol

Sign up online www.lmc.org/cap

League Provides Sample Letters Requesting Special Session

Published June 15, 2016

The letters—one generally supporting a special session and a second supporting inclusion of an omnibus transportation bill in a special session—can be easily customized.

View all Cities Bulletin: Capitol Updates stories.
Dave Senjem
Proudly Serving the Communities of Dodge & Olmsted Counties

E-Newsletter Update
April 21, 2017

Dear Friends,

Legislators returned back to St. Paul after a week long Passover/Easter break. The House and Senate staffs were busy working on a number of bills that will be voted on this week. The Governor signed into law a number of important pieces of legislation, including a school safety bill, a workers' compensation bill, and a bill that makes it easier for those who have been charged with a crime to get a clean slate.

This week, the Senate got right to work by accepting legislation to conference committees. Committee members are determined by the committee chairs by consensus. The Majority and Minority Leaders, and ultimately by a vote of the entire Senate. In most cases, they are comprised of members from both the majority and minority parties.

As for the House-Senate budget agreement, the most noteworthy items include $3.1 billion in tax relief, $3.72 billion in new, ongoing funding for road and bridge infrastructure, and more than $1 billion in increased funding for K-12 schools compared with the previous two-year budget.

On another subject, I mentioned in this week's newspaper column that I submitted an amendment to an omnibus bill that would increase the minimum wage to $15 an hour by 2024. The bill passed with a bipartisan vote of 61-31, and it now goes to the Governor for his signature.

I am honored to serve on the Senate Tax Conference Committee. The committee's bill offers $560 million in refinancing assistance to small businesses, as well as lower property taxes for those renting their homes.

Audio & Video
Audio Commentary - Listen to Dave's Audio Commentary now.

Transportation Funding

Senator Johnson continues to advocate for transportation funding. The Minnesota Department of Transportation is facing a $600 million shortfall in its Transportation Improvement Program, which funds local transportation projects. The Senate passed a bill that would increase the gas tax by 3.5 cents per gallon, which would provide an additional $580 million for transportation projects.

The legislation passed out of the Senate and is now pending in the House. The governor has said he will sign the bill into law.

Audio Commentary - Listen to Dave's Audio Commentary now.
Representative Paul Anderson (R) District: 12B

Committee Assignments
- Chair: Agriculture Policy
- Agriculture Finance
- Job Growth and Energy Affordability Policy and Finance
- Property Tax and Local Government Finance Division

Biographical Information
- Home: Starbucks 22935 - 270th Ave., 56381 - 320-239-2726
- Occupation: Farmer
- Business: Same
- Education: B.A., physical education/education, University of Minnesota Morris
- Elected: 2008
- Term: 5th
- Family: Married, spouse Faith, 3 children

* prefers interim mail at this address.

Member Links
- Bills Chief Authored
- Co-Authored
- District Map
- District Demographics
- Town Hall Meetings

News Items
- HOUSE APPROVES $1.15 BILLION IN TAX RELIEF - (Posted: 2017-05-10)
- Budget news from St. Paul & planting delays in the fields - (Posted: 2017-05-05)
- The latest on budget bills: wet weather delays planting season - (Posted: 2017-05-01)

Audio & Video
- Audio Commentary
- RSS Audio Commentary (podcast)
- Informational interview

Galleries
- House photos
Advocacy in 3 steps

Know what’s going on

Talk About it

Follow up
Step 2: Talk about it

At state level

Locally
Step 2: Talk about it

Locally

At state level

Administrator

Council
Step 2: Talk about it

Locally
- Administrator
- Council

At state level
- Legislators
- Committees
- Advocacy Efforts/Groups
- Governor’s Office
Advocacy in 3 steps

Know what’s going on

Talk About it

Follow up
3. Follow up

Weekly Legislative Check in

Discussion

Action?
3. Follow up

Weekly Legislative Check in

Discussion

Action?
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Weekly Legislative Check in

Discussion

Action?

April 27, 2016

To: The Honorable Governor Mark Dayton
The Honorable Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith
Members of the Minnesota State Legislators


Subject: Unified Support for Senate Broadband Position

Affordable broadband access at world-class speeds is critical to the future of Minnesota. It has become a necessary tool for education, health care, economic development, agriculture, and government. That need will only continue to grow. All Minnesotans, no matter where they live—in a city or in the rural countryside—need and deserve access to online information and services.

Our organizations have recognized that we need to provide a strong and unified voice in support of significant broadband funding. We have joined together to advocate for adequate funding and appropriate policies for the Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program. This program, when adequately funded and designed, provides an essential tool to ensure that robust broadband is available throughout the state.

Our groups believe that Senate Bills 2447 and 2448 provide the proper policies and funding that will enable quality projects with a high rate of return for improving broadband access for the following reasons:

- A fund of $55 million dollars will motivate providers and government partners to do the hard work to develop the plans and partnerships necessary to create a quality application and successful deployment.

- The grant definitions of unserved (25 Mb/3 Mb) and underserved (100 Mb/20 Mb), tied to the proposed 2022 and 2025 Governor’s Broadband Task Force broadband goals, ensure that communities with substandard broadband will not be left behind with investments in last generation technologies.
3. Follow up

Weekly Legislative Check in

Discussion

Action?

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Action?
Advocacy in 3 steps

Know what’s going on
- Cities Bulletin
- League Staff
- News
- Talking with Legislators
- Sign up for Newsletters

Talk About it
- With your council
- With your legislators
- With other staff

Follow up
- Regularly checking in
- Action?
Questions?
Remember…

Free Parking at the League

Come to the Annual Conference for a full legislative recap (Rochester June 14-16)

Visit our State Fair booth
Emergency Management  
Human Resources  
Insurance  
Pensions and Retirement  
Public Safety  
State Bonding  
Transportation

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Energy  
Environment  
Land Use and Annexation  
Local/Tribal Relations  
State Bonding  
Sustainable Development  
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Broadband  
Economic Development  
Elections  
Utilities  
Member Advocacy  
Legislative Appointments  
Policy Development Process

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Libraries  
Sustainable Development  
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Policy Development Process

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