

Minutes

Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council Regional Policy and Legislative Affairs Committee Agenda Thursday, May 6, 2021

The Regional Policy and Legislative Affairs Committee met on Thursday, May 6, 2021, at 12:00 pm via Zoom

Dan Moore called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

1. **Welcome and introductions-** Dan Moore led the introduction of members, staff and guests.

- Dan Moore – Sioux City
- Lance Hedquist – South Sioux City
- Craig Schmidt – City of Cherokee
- David Gleiser – Woodbury County
- Curt Miller – SIMPCO/SRTS
- Sam Wagner – MidAmerican Energy
- Kelly Kreber – Hinton
- Clint Weaver – Onawa
- Mark Naha- Woodbury County
- Steve Warnstadt – WITCC
- Sam Pribil – WITCC
- Bob Henderson – Senator Grassley
- Wesley Fopma – Senator Feenstra
- Curt Miller - SIMPCO
- Erin Berzina – SIMPCO
- Michelle Bostinelos – SIMPCO

2. Approve meeting agenda (Action Item)

Dan asked if there were any corrections or addition to the May 6, 2021, agenda.

Lance Hedquist moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Steve Warnstadt, Motion carried all ayes.

3. Approve April 1, 2021 minutes (Action Item)

Dan asked if there were any corrections to be made to the minutes from April 1, 2021.

Kelly Kreber moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Lance Hedquist. Motion carried all ayes.

4. Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Legislative Updates (Discussion Item)

Michelle provided the following information and update for Iowa:

- April 30 was the last day of the legislative per diem
- As of May 5 no budget in place yet
- SF 587 – Backfill Phase-Out, Elderly Property Tax Credit, Mental Health Funding.
 - Omnibus tax bill
 - Phase out backfill payments to local governments that was implemented was part of the 2013 tax legislation
 - Shift mental health funding from county property tax to state funding
 - Passed by Senate on April 4
 - House assigned to Ways and Means Committee
 - Component parts of the bill are likely the subject of House/Senate end-of-session tax negotiations.

Michelle provided an update on the following bills for Iowa:

- HF582 and SF612/Housing
- SF100/Landbanks
- HF849/Tax Increment Financing
- HF848/Broadband

Michelle reported that the Nebraska legislature continued to work off the list of taxation and spending bills including:

- LB18 (Kolterman) Change provisions relating to equivalent employees and qualified locations under the ImagiNE Nebraska Act
- LB26 (Wayne) Provide a sales tax exemption for residential water service
- LB64 (Lindstrom) Change provisions relating to the taxation of social security benefits
- LB84 (Bostelman) Redefine terms relating to tax incentive performance audits and the ImagiNE Nebraska Act
- LB103 (Dorn) Appropriate funds to aid counties to pay certain federal judgments
- LB132 (DeBoer) Create the School Financing Review Commission
- LB185 (Brewer) Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for public health aid
- LB306 (Brandt) Provide eligibility requirements for the low-income home energy assistance program
- LB336 (Hughes) Provide for regular and limited annual and temporary state park entry permits
- LB366 (Briese) Change the Nebraska Advantage Microenterprise Tax Credit Act
- LB388 (Friesen, at the request of the Governor) Adopt the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act
- LB396 (Brandt) Adopt the Nebraska Farm-to-School Program Act
- LB406 (McDonnell) Create the Lower Platte River Infrastructure Task Force and provide funding
- LB432 (Revenue Committee) Change income tax rates
- LB454 (Friesen) Adopt the School Property Tax Stabilization Act and change the valuation of agricultural land
- LB542 (Walz) Authorize the issuance of highway bonds under the Nebraska Highway Bond Act
- LB566 (McDonnell) Adopt the Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act
- LB568 (Pansing Brooks) Change provisions relating to truancy, juvenile courts, the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, the Commission Grant Program, and compulsory education
- LB579 (Moser) Change provisions relating to Department of Transportation reports regarding highway construction and state intent regarding appropriations
- LB595 (Albrecht) Provide a sales tax exemption for certain products used in the process of manufacturing ethyl alcohol
- LB630 (Bostar) Provide for a study of the efficacy of commercial air filters in classrooms
- LB682 (Linehan) Change the New Markets Job Growth Investment Act

Michelle indicated that Speaker Hilgers added three bills to the list:

- LR 11CA (Erdman) Constitutional amendment to require enactment of a consumption tax and prohibit certain other forms of taxation
- LB 241 (Vargas) Adopt the Meatpacking Employees COVID-19 Protection Act
- LB 496 (Hilkemann) Require collection of DNA samples for persons arrested for crimes of violence

Michelle also indicated that a General Fund impact sheet can be found here: <https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/Current/PDF/Budget/status.pdf>

5. Federal Legislative Updates (*Discussion Item*)

Michelle updated the group on current Federal legislative activities including:

President Biden unveiled his \$1.8 trillion *American Families Plan* proposal which aims to significantly expand access to healthcare, child care, early childhood education, and community college. The Biden administration has presented the plan as a companion to its \$2.3 trillion infrastructure proposal, the *American Jobs Plan*. The *American Families Plan* allocates \$1 trillion in new spending and \$800 billion in tax credits and aims to provide two years of tuition-free community college, to increase funding for Pell Grants to benefit low-income and minority students, to expand access to affordable high-quality childcare, to offer universal pre-kindergarten, and to provide funding for family and medical leave, among other provisions. The White House also released a rural fact sheet which asserts that the *American Families Plan* would significantly reduce the rural poverty rate. Meanwhile, negotiations on infrastructure legislation continued between Congressional negotiators and the White House following the release of Senate Republican's \$568 billion infrastructure counterproposal. The House's bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus also released its own list of priorities for an infrastructure bill but did not include an ideal price tag.

On April 15, 2021, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released some limited pre-award guidance related to the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, outlining immediate steps that eligible entities should take in preparation to receive these funds directly from the Treasury Department. The *American Rescue Plan Act* includes more than \$350 billion in emergency funding for state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to support their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impacts. Direct payments from Treasury will be made to states, territories, tribal governments, counties, and metropolitan cities. The initial guidance explains that these entities should: 1) ensure they have a valid DUNS number, 2) ensure they have an active SAM registration, and 3) gather their payment information.

Additional program guidance related to the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund will be released in the coming weeks.

6. Legislative Events

- a. Siouxland Chamber Zoom meetings with U.S. Representatives
 - i. U.S. Congresswomen Cindy Anxe – May 12 at 11:00 AM
- b. Siouxland Chamber Washington DC Conference October 20 & 22
- c. Iowa Mayor Association
 - i. 2021 Iowa Legislative Session Recap & American Rescue Plan Discussion – May 13 at 5:30 (virtual). MAYORS ONLY
- d. Iowa League of Cities
 - i. Update with Congressman Feenstra May 12 at 1pm – Registration required

7. Next Meeting: September 2, 2021

8. Adjourn

Kelly Kreber moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bob Henderson,

Motion carried all ayes.