



North Dakota Association of REALTORS®

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STAFF:

Jill Beck, *Chief Executive Officer*
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Nancy R. Willis, *Gov't Affairs Director*
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Minutes

Government Affairs (formerly Political Affairs) Committee

July 23, 2014 – 2:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn - Fargo

Present: Dave Lanpher, Chair; Tricia Schlosser, Chair-Elect; Greg Larson, Past Chair and Director-In-Charge; Joshua Boschee; Daryl Braham; Scott Breidenbach; Diane Duchscher; Lyn Dwyer; Kevin Fisher; Ben Hanson; Bob Lee; Steve Lunde; Sharon Lunski; Denise Messmer; Weezie Potter; Vicki Roller; Jeff Shipley; Mary Splichal; Mike Swartz and Dewey Uhlir and Shelly Zach.

Absent: Tom Beadle; Daryl Braham; Tate Cymbaluk; Todd Fettig; Theresa Hart; Chad Johnson; Gary Kramlich; Scott Louser; Larry Louser; Joe Sheehan; Arlene Volk; Ron Volk; Jerry Youngberg and Diana Zietz.

Guests: Todd Anhorn; David Blumkin; Red Geurts; Cassie Gorder; Barb Grande; Darrick Guthmiller; Cindy Harvey; Peggy Isakson; Paul Krabbenhoft; Danette Krumwiede; Joyce Kuntz; Dawn Lahlum; Vicky Matson; Mary Shelkey-Miller; Shirley Moen; Lorrie Nantt; Kristin Oban; Trana Rogne; Rita Schuster; Phil Vanyo, Ninetta Wandler; LuAnn White and AE's: John Colter; Nancy Deichert; Marti Kaiser, Barb Lupo and Beth Mayer. NDREC Executive Director: Pat Jergensen; NAR Political Representative: Karl Eckhart (phone).

Staff: Jill Beck, Nancy R. Willis

1. Dave Lanpher, Chair, called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and introductions were made.
2. The Minutes from the April 9, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed. **M/S/C**
3. Lanpher told the committee and guests that a presentation about the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project would be made as more information about the project was requested at the April Government Affairs Committee meeting.

Willis introduced Rocky Schneider, Engineer, Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project and Craig Hertsgaard, Minn-Dak Upstream Coalition. Presentations were made by both speakers, Schneider in support of the current proposal and Hertsgaard concerned about aspects of the proposal that would cause flooding to adjacent farmland. A lawsuit is pending by those opposing the project as currently proposed and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Department has just joined that lawsuit. Congress has voted to appropriate money for the project, but those dollars have not yet been budgeted and the President would need to sign any legislation to fund the project before federal dollars could be used. The Corps of Engineers has money in its project fund and has begun some work on the project using these dollars. In 2013, the ND Legislature agreed to appropriate state dollars



for the project, but these were contingent on the federal dollars being obtained. The state will need to decide if they want to move the project forward with state only dollars and at what level.

The Committee then took up the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project Resolution. Mary Scherling, a Fargo-Moorhead Area REALTOR® and Cass County Commissioner, has requested that NDAR endorse the FMADP via this resolution. Much discussion ensued about the resolution, the project and the information from the presentations the committee had just heard. Issues of note during the discussion were that it did not appear that the Fargo-Moorhead Area Association of REALTORS® has officially endorsed the project or the resolution – committee members felt that should occur before a recommendation goes to the NDAR Board from this committee; what exactly would the committee be recommending for endorsement, the project as it currently is proposed or funding of the project by the ND Legislature and how would taking a position at this juncture affect the NDAR GAD’s lobbying position during session? A motion was for the Government Affairs Committee to recommend endorsement to the Board of Directors. The motion failed. Rationale was that we should wait to see what is proposed during the 2015 Legislative Session before taking a position.

4. Revisions to NDAR Public Policy Statement

Lanpher asked for any revisions to the NDAR Public Policy Statement which was reviewed at the January and April meetings and distributed several times by e-mail and at meetings. The following recommendations were made:

- To revise opening statement, third paragraph to add the word “the” to read: The ND Association of REALTORS® is committed to the protection and preservation....”
- To revise Section 1, Paragraph 1.1, third line to change the word “respond” to “are responsive” to read: “ We urge all levels of government to adopt and integrate housing policies that are responsive to the individual....”
- To revise Section 1, Paragraph 1.7, second line, to remove the words “and” and “our” to read: “...zoning policies should allow for the development of adequate housing which all families and individuals can afford.”
- To revise Section 2, Paragraph 2.1, third line, to remove the words “will and allow” and “to meet” and add the words “prevent” and “from meeting” to read: “We urge government at all levels to reduce impediments which prevent the private sector from meeting the needs....”
- To revise Section 2, Paragraph 2.5, third line by replacing the word “dedication” with the word “confiscation” to read: “We oppose unreasonable confiscation.”
- To revise Section 2, Paragraph 2.6, line 3 by replacing the words “economically viable levels” with the words “reasonable rates” to read: “...to procure adequate health insurance coverage at reasonable rates.”

- To revise Section 7, Paragraph 7.5, to replace the words “e-mail and cellular phone” with the words “Internet, digital and smart device” to read: “...including Internet, digital and smart device communications.”
- To revise Section 8, Paragraph 8.1, to add the words, “handicap”, “national origin”, “sexual orientation”, “gender identity or status with respect to”, “or”, “and is a standard of practice of the *Code of Ethics of the National Association of REALTORS®*” to read: “...regardless of race, color, religion, sex, disability, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity or status with respect to marital status or receipt of financial assistance. This right is protected under federal and/or state fair housing laws and is a standard of practice of the *Code of Ethics of the National Association of REALTORS®*.”
- To revise Section 11 to change the section title from “Political Affairs” to “Government and Political Affairs.” In paragraph 11.1 to add a reference to the REALTOR® Party to read: “The ND Association of REALTORS® supports the purpose and objectives of political action committees and the REALTOR® Party and will continue to operate and encourage the activities of the REALTORS® POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (RPAC). “

A motion was made to approve the recommendations as outlined. **M/S/C** Lanpher asked Willis to please update the document and note that the document had been updated on this date.

Transfer Tax Update

Willis reviewed the update and earned media plan in the packet. NAR approved dollars for Phase II of the campaign. The measure web site voteyesonmeasure2.com is up and running. A poll was conducted in June that shows that if voters voted today the measure would succeed 56%-41%. If seniors confused by the language could be persuaded to vote yes that vote would increase to 67%. So seniors will be particularly targeted. Press conferences will kick off the public face of campaign on August 14. Odney will provide Letters to the Editor for REALTORS® to send, brochures and talking points are available and paid media begins September 1.

RPAC Trustees Update

Greg Larson, ex-officio committee member, reported that the committee had met and interviewed all candidates willing to be interviewed. Candidates have been selected for endorsement but all have not yet been notified so information will be provided at a later date.

Pre-Licensing Task Force Update

Vicki Matson reported that the Task Force met by conference call on July 3 and agreed not to seek additional pre-licensing hours from the Commission at this time, but to conduct more research. The Task Force also agreed to create an action plan and to focus on specific content of the 15 hours post-licensure to be used as training for new agents. The Task Force also agreed to look at increasing the hours required for license renewal.

Federal Legislative Update

Karl Eckhart, NAR, updated the committee on current federal issues. NAR continues to concentrate on issues related to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac; Mortgage Debt Cancellation Relief and Mortgage Interest Deduction; National Flood Insurance and Terrorism Insurance.

Karl said expectation is that not much will happen in Congress until after November elections.

Interim Legislative Committee Update and 2015 Legislative Issues

Willis reviewed the 2014 NDAR Priority Issues and reviewed a handout of bills introduced so far during the interim. Infrastructure appropriation (water projects, highways, etc.) continue to be discussed and an early introduction of this type of legislation, especially addressing western ND is high on the agenda. Reduction of property and education taxes and increases in housing funding and greater accountability by municipalities as regards economic development and subdivisions as regards budgeting also are on the table.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy R. Willis, GAD