

Prevailing Wage Coalition Meeting

Wednesday, October 15, 2008, 9:00 am

I. Introductions -

Attendees:

Cory Adams, PSATS
Matt Brouillette, Commonwealth Foundation
Ron Grutza, PA Boroughs Association
Lisa Landis, PA School Boards Association
Stephanie Larkin, PA Manufacturers Association
Andy McAllister, WPCAMR
Brenda Shambaugh, PA Conservation Districts
Amy Sturges, PLCM/PSATC
Steve Swarney, ABC Keystone/Central
Jim Trammell, ABC SEPA
Joan Warner, ABC Cumberland Valley
Jim Willshier, PA Chamber
Beth Winters, PA School Boards Association

II. Open Discussion on Prevailing Wages

New attendees introduced themselves and a brief recap of the previous meeting was presented.

III. Update on questions submitted for Sandi Vito confirmation hearing.

Steve Swarney reported that all of the questions submitted by the group were collected and forwarded for the Sandi Vito confirmation hearing. The questions mainly focused on prevailing wages and governance issues.

IV. Outlook for the fall elections and the new session.

Thoughts were given on the possibilities for the fall election outcomes. Everyone agreed that the possibility of the Republicans winning back the House was slim. The group agreed that the Senate should remain in Republican control. The wild card is the Presidential election, the new voter registrations, the turnout and whether people decide to vote a straight ticket.

V. Plans for a “new” legislator breakfast.

The group discussed plan to host a breakfast for new legislators early in the new session. The thought is to have something in Harrisburg on a Wednesday in early February. All of the coalition members willing to participate would split the cost. A sign could be produced to list all coalition members and the numbers of members each group represents. Fact sheets on the negative impact of prevailing wages in its various forms could be distributed.

Another idea talked about was hosted a dinner the night before the breakfast. The group agreed that we need a “hook” to ensure good attendance. Issues talked about for the “hook” were school property taxes, the budget deficit, and road maintenance

VI. Plans to invite legislative “champions” to attend a meeting.

The group discussed whether to invite our listed prevailing wage “champions” to a meeting early next year. One line of thinking suggested only invited one or two members of leadership for the House and Senate while another point of view talked about the need to invite most of the entire group of legislative champions. No final decision was made.

VII. How to go about drafting legislation – assignments

The group discussed the drafting of new legislation. It was agreed that every group would take a look at past legislation and language and bring those bills to the next meeting. The goal is to combine some bills when able to incorporate more groups and more issues into a few pieces of legislation. For example, a goal is to combine local option with road maintenance or abandon mine reclamation. In addition, new legislation can also be drafted. The purpose is to select what makes sense and what we could pursue as a main focus and as secondary goals.

VIII. How will we achieve our goals?

The legislation, time frames for achieving our goals and the type of public outreach initiatives we will engage in depend on the outcome of the elections and the opinions of the legislative champions.

More detail will be decided at a later meeting.

The group talked about the need to stay unified and engaged to avoid the possibility that some legislation will be “given” to one group or another as an appeasement gesture resulting in that groups departure from the coalition. We all must remain engaged in the effort for the good of everyone and for the good of Pennsylvania’s taxpayers and economy.

It also will not make sense for certain of our number to be in the forefront of this struggle. ABC and the Commonwealth Foundation and others would serve as lightning rods of controversy thus making it easier for the labor groups to defeat any legislation. All groups will be engaged in one form or another but certain groups must be in the lead for success.

IV. Assignments

1. *Bring any good past legislation or draft new legislation or ideas and bring them to the next meeting to discuss.*
2. *Be prepared to talk about plans for the legislative dinner and breakfast.*
3. *Bring any studies and/or research materials that help our cause (for example, the Ohio School Study, any prevailing wage versus occupational wage comparisons, studies done by other states, etc.)*

X. Adjournment and Next meeting date

The meeting adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 12:30 pm at the Pennsylvania Manufacturer's Association Building.