



August 23, 2013

Representative Paul Thissen
Chair, Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy
State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298

Dear Rep. Thissen:

I am writing in response to your letter regarding the Minnesota Sunset Act and the Explore Minnesota Tourism Council.

The Explore Minnesota Tourism Council is authorized under M.S. 116U.25 EXPLORE MINNESOTA TOURISM COUNCIL.

The director shall be advised by the Explore Minnesota Tourism Council consisting of up to 28 voting members appointed by the governor for four-year terms. They advise Explore Minnesota based on its mission:

The mission of Explore Minnesota is found in 116U.15 MISSION.

The mission of Explore Minnesota Tourism is to promote and facilitate increased travel to and within the state of Minnesota. Its goals are to:

- (1) expand public and private partnerships through increased interagency efforts and increased tourism industry participation;
- (2) increase productivity through enhanced flexibility and options; and
- (3) use innovative fiscal and human resource practices to manage the state's resources and operate the office as efficiently as possible.

The director shall report to the legislature on the performance of the office's operations and the accomplishment of its goals in the office's biennial budget according to section 16A.10, subdivision 1.

History: 2004 c 171 s 7

The membership list is attached and no compensation is paid to members.

The budget for the year is roughly \$5,400 which covers meetings and strategic planning costs.

The most recent three meeting dates were: December 12, 2012, March 5, 2013 and June 4/5, 2013.

Upcoming meetings are September 12, 2013 and December 11, 2013.

There are no specific reports that have been issued. A long range plan (2020 Vision) was developed and can be accessed at <http://www.exploreminnesota.com/industry-minnesota/news/newsdetails/index.aspx?nid=133>

Letter to Representative Paul Thissen

August 23, 2013

Page 2

A strategic planning process is underway with the plan to be finalized by December, 2013. The Council passes resolutions representing their position on issues that broadly impact the Minnesota tourism industry. Those resolutions can be found on their website.

Website information on the Council can be found at: <http://www.exploreminnesota.com/industry-minnesota/about-minnesota-tourism/emt-tourism-council/index.aspx>

If you need additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at 651-757-1844.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Edman". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and "E".

John F. Edman, Director
Explore Minnesota Tourism

Explore Minnesota Tourism Council Members

Sunny Bhakta (2016) - Lodging Representative
Comfort Inn Lakeville

Fred M. Bobich (2016) - Chambers
Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge

Bonnie Carlson (2015) - At Large
Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau

Senator Paul Gazelka
145 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Bill Deef (2015) - Minneapolis/St. Paul Region
Meet Minneapolis

Chuck Dougherty (2016) -- B & B
Water Street Inn

John Edman (Chair)
Explore Minnesota Tourism

Randy Gutzmann (2015) -- Fest & Events
Minnesota Festivals & Events Association

Nancy Hanson (2016) - Trails
Minnesota Recreational Trail Users Association

Lisa Havelka (2016) - Southern Minnesota
Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Denelle Hilliard (2015) - Northwest Minnesota
Visit Bemidji

James Hey (2016) - Tour Operator
Southwest Coaches, Inc.
Southwest Tour & Travel

Brad Jones (2016) -- Convention Fac.
Rochester Convention & Visitors Bureau

Doug Killian (2015) - Retail
Mall of America

David Langhoff (2015) - Campgrounds
Shady Rest Resort

Deborah Lloyd (2015) - Transportation
MLT Vacations

Bruce Martinson (2016) - Counties
Cook County Commissioner
Superior Ridge Resort & Motel

Terry Mattson (2015) - Northeast Minnesota
Visit Duluth

Representative Joe McDonald
523 State Office Building

Bill Morrissey (2015)
Morrissey Hospitality

Mark Novotny (2016) -- Resorts
Hyde-A-Way Bay Resort

Lisa Paxton (2015) -- Central Minnesota
Brainerd Lakes Area Chambers of Commerce

Cynthia Porter (2015) - Media

Mark Ronnei (2015) - Resorts
Grand View Lodge

Senator Tom Saxhaug
135 State Office Building

Ingrid Schneider (2015) -- Ex-Officio -- U of MN Tourism Center
University of Minnesota Tourism Center

Hank Todd (2015) -- Travel Agencies
Hank Todd Solutions Group

John Valliere (2016) - Golf
Explore Minnesota Golf Alliance

Representative John Ward - Legislative
533 State Office Building

Julie Wearn (2016) - CVB Representative
Roseville Visitors Association