K. Merz called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. Eight members were present, establishing a quorum.

Report from Executive Committee
• K. Merz gave an overview of the recent Victim’s Representative meeting on behalf of Pat Tuthill.
• W. Rankin updated the Region on the recent Rules Committee meeting in Lexington, KY. He stated that the Committee was hoping that its proposals be discussed at the region meetings, and that Commissioners come to the Annual Business meeting ready to vote. He stated that the proposals will be posted for comment no later than June 1, 2007.
• K. Merz updated the Region on the training committee.
• K. Merz gave an overview of the initial DCA Liaison Committee meeting.
• K. Merz gave an update on the Finance Committee, and stated that the Commission is ahead of budget, and that all dues are up to date.
• K. Merz gave an update on the Sex Offender Ad Hoc Committee, and stated that all items the Region wanted to be discussed in the Committee should be forwarded to Jane Seigel.
• W. Emmer gave an update on the status of the database project.
• W. Emmer further updated the region on the Sex Offender Ad Hoc Committee meeting held in Lexington, KY. J. Seigel mentioned that she had sent Jenny Bauer as her proxy.

Approval of Minutes
• E. Ligtneberg made a motion to approve the minutes from December 14, 2006. W. Emmer seconded. Minutes approved.

State Updates

Indiana
• J. Seigel noted that Indiana is focusing heavily on sex offenders and murderers in its legislative session. She described several proposals brought forth in the state’s legislature that would have unilaterally amended the compact.
• She stated that a major concern facing the Indiana compact office is lifetime supervision.
• W. Emmer suggested that she use the Indiana state council to provide alternatives when faced with problem legislation.

Iowa
• J. Bucklew noted that unsupervised cases are a major issue in Iowa.
• She asked for strategies to deal with remote and rural areas.
• She also stated that judges in Iowa who don’t understand the compact are not directing p.o.’s to process paperwork for the compact office.

Minnesota
• K. Merz stated that no new sex offender bills had been introduced in Minnesota.
• He also stated that the state senate had zeroed out funding for the compact office, but noted that the Chairman of Minnesota’s state council is on that committee.
Nebraska
• J. McKenzie stated that Nebraska’s state council had not met recently.

North Dakota
• W. Emmer noted that his state is in the middle of legislative session.

Wisconsin
• W. Rankin noted that the Wisconsin compact office had hired a new member.
• He stated that the State Council is scheduled to meet on May 11, 2007, and is comprised of several new members.
• He stated that Wisconsin’s Victims Representative had been reappointed.

Missouri
• W. LaCour stated that Missouri is conducting numerous trainings aimed at field-level officers.

New Business
• The Committee discussed the memo circulated by D. Ege on behalf of the West region.
• W. Rankin noted that Wisconsin does not have unsupervised probation.
• K. Merz stated that he would share the feedback from the meeting with D. Ege.
• J. Bucklew discussed the issues her state is facing with sex offender travel permits. She encouraged the other region members to be very cautious about issuing travel permits for sex offenders wishing to go to Iowa, as there are very few places where such offenders are permitted to stay.
• M. Shortt asked about sending sex offenders to Iowa on day permits. J. Bucklew clarified that sex offenders are only prohibited from spending the night in areas protected by her state’s laws.
• K. Merz asked if the region should try to arrange a face to face meeting in order to discuss the Rules Committee proposals. W. Rankin noted that the East Region had done that.
• W. Emmer noted that the region was more far-flung than the East Region, which could pose a logistics issue.
• There was discussion of a timeframe for a possible meeting.
• There was discussion of holding a meeting on the west side and the east side of the region.
• K. Merz said he would email the region and look into having Minnesota host some or all of the region members.
• K. Merz asked that all region members send him a very short paragraph of highlight or significant issues facing each state, to be compiled for his Executive Committee region report. He asked that these paragraphs be sent to him by mid-April.
• K. Merz asked the region to look at Advisory Opinions 16-2006 and 17-2006, and to forward any questions or concerns to his attention.
• K. Merz stated that he would send something out regarding the region’s next meeting in the next couple of weeks.
• Meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.