



December 4, 2015

**Regional Prosperity Initiative
Sustainable Watershed
Funding Update**

On Friday, November 13, 2015, an update to the Regional Prosperity Initiative was presented at the Ottawa County Water Quality Forum. GVMC's Department of Environmental Programs is working with the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) and the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) to develop a sustainable revenue stream for watershed management.

A West Michigan Watershed Collaborative has been formed that brings together the agencies and organizations responsible for implementing the 29 different watershed management plans in West Michigan's Region 4. Assessments of these plans were completed to understand the restoration priorities and implementation challenges that they all face. From these assessments, a draft Water Quality Plan for Region 4 is being completed that will summarize these assessments and find the common ground among the entire area.



Once these issues are fully understood, the MACC will issue an RFP to develop recommendations of innovative finance mechanisms and approaches to create a sustainable source of funding to fully implement activities and programs that will protect and improve the water resources in our West Michigan watersheds, and ultimately Lake Michigan.

The project timeline is to finalize the Water Quality Plan in December 2015, issue the RFP in January 2016, have a draft report from the consultant by July 2016 for partners' to review, then start implementing the recommendations in the report by September 2016.

**GVMC Submits Grant
Application on Behalf of
West Michigan Prosperity
Alliance**

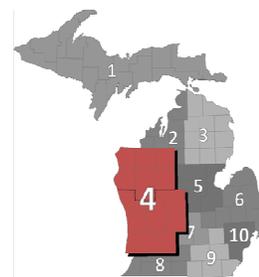
GVMC once again has submitted an application for a \$250,000 grant under Governor Snyder's Regional Prosperity Initiative. The grant will allow leaders of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance to continue to work together to promote and support projects of "regional economic importance".

This is the third year of the RPI program and the 33 member board representing our region

will again work together to enhance our region and provide greater quality of life and economic opportunities. GVMC chairs the Steering Committee and we are the fiduciary agent for the RPI in our region.

The West Michigan Prosperity Alliance both geographically and in population is the second largest region in Michigan. Our borders include 13 counties. We have 1.5 million people and 130 miles of Lake Michigan Shoreline. The total area is approximately 8,163 square miles or about the size of the State of New Jersey.

It is an honor to continue to lead this effort and I appreciate my colleagues continued support for our leadership of the regional prosperity initiative.



Michigan's Prosperity Regions

Board Vacancies

We have 2 vacancies for at-large members of our Board of Directors. If you know someone that might be interested please have them contact us.