

# GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

## Board Meeting

January 9, 2012

10:30 a.m.

Prince Center

## MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

#### Members Present:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Steve Grimm	Cannon Township
Rebecca Fleury	Village of Middleville
John Helmholdt	At-Large
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Mark Howe	City of Lowell
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Jim Saalfeld	Kent County
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Patrick Waterman	City of Hudsonville
Roger Wills	City of Belding
Michael Young	City of Rockford

#### Members Absent:

Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township

Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Martin Super	Village of Sparta
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Chris Yonker	City of Wayland

**Others Present:**

Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dave Bulkowski	Disability Advocates
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Peter Varga	

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the December GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Consideration of Approving Employment Agreement with Mr. John Weiss as the New GVMC Executive Director**

Michael Young, Chair of the Human Resources Committee, explained the process the Search Committee went through in selecting the candidate for Executive Director, John Weiss.

**MOTION – To Approve the Employment Agreement with John Weiss for Executive Director. MOVE – Young. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION – To Approve John Weiss to Sign Checks and Contracts Including MDOT & Federal Highway. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – DeVries. MOTION CARRIED.**

Jim Buck formally introduced John Weiss to the GVMC Board.

John Weiss said he was very happy to be with the Metro Council and looks forward to working with staff. He has been in the area for a long time and has watched the evolution of the Council. He is excited to bring new ideas and approaches to GVMC and will work hard on the strategic initiatives.

**5. Transportation : Amendment to the FY 2012 Transportation Unified Planning Work Program**

The FY2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) includes the budget for all federally assisted transportation planning activities that the GVMC Transportation Division, the Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), will undertake. Any changes in the federal funding amounts under work items in the UWP warrant a UWP amendment and approval by the GVMC Board.

Staff is requesting the amendment of the FY2012 UWP, to reflect an additional transportation funding grant, and previously obligated unspent transportation planning funds from FY2011. The first item is a State Planning and Research (SPR) grant for US-131 Transportation/Land Use Corridor Study for the amount of \$75,000. The second item is to add previously obligated unspent PL-112 funds in the amount of \$50,000 for the Michigan Street Corridor Study. Both of those changes are related to work item “3.2”- Technical Assistance.

Staff is requesting to amend “Work Item 3.2” for the total amount of \$125,000. In order for GVMC to retain these funds the FY2012 UPWP needs to be amended.

**MOTION – To Amend the FY2012 Unified Planning Work Program as Requested.  
MOVE – Fox. SUPPORT – Eppler. MOTION CARRIED.**

**6. LGROW: Three-year grant commitment from the Wege Foundation**

Andy Bowman reported GVMC has received a grant from the Wege Foundation for \$60,000 over a 3 year period starting in February of 2012. These funds will be used for LGROW’s Communications and Business Plan project running during that same period. The project includes several tasks for benchmarking watershed practices, conducting marketing and focus groups for LGROW stakeholders, preparing a communications strategy, and creating an LGROW business plan. As part of this process, several related projects will be conducted including educational efforts for sub-basin members, enhancing LGROW media content, developing a web-based infrastructure for effective communications and an educational strategy to introduce the recently approved Watershed Management Plan for the Lower Grand, particularly to intended WMP users.

The funds provided by the Wege Foundation will allow us to complete long-awaited LGROW work on a broad communications strategy. It will also fund the sub-basin educational efforts

and staff-time for project administration. Though details are still being worked out, another \$15,000 is being sought from two other Grand Rapids area foundations to fund the web infrastructure, the Watershed Management Plan education and the creation of the business plan. For this project, LGROW will be partnering with the Center for Environmental Studies, the Community Media Center, and FTC&H. Additional technical assistance will likely be provided as needed for various parts of the project including the LGROW business plan.

Brian Donovan stated the creation of the watershed management plan allows LGROW member sub-watersheds and municipal governments apply for water quality grants through the EPA and DEQ. This grant is very important to get LGROW up and running. Thanks to all who were involved.

## **7. Legislative Advocacy**

Don Stypula reported there was good discussion at the last GVMC Legislative Committee meeting on transportation financing. He crafted the discussion into a resolution to impress upon legislators the urgency of the issue.

**MOTION – To Approve the GVMC Resolution on Transportation Financing. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – MEEK. MOTION CARRIED.**

Don reported he will hand deliver the resolution to legislators on Wednesday.

The PPT elimination is by far the #1 issue. Don urges all members to stay actively involved. The Governor is sincere in wanting reforms, but local governments probably won't see 100% reimbursement.

Reauthorization of federal transportation funds is still sitting on the house floor.

Abed Itani reported the Senate bill on federal transportation cuts 13% from funding. However, the end result could be modified if they alter the obligation authority. Federal Highway says they will take up the issue in February.

## **8. Farewell to Current Executive Director, Don Stypula**

GVMC Chair, Jim Buck, thanked Don Stypula for his service and highlighted his successes. GVMC Board members expressed their appreciation and best wishes.

## **9. Adjournment – 11:30 a.m.**

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Eppler. MOTION CARRIED.**