

# GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

## Board Meeting

October 8, 2007

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:

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Sharon De Lange	Village of Sparta
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Mike Julien	Cascade Township
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Roger Morgan	Kent County
Lon Myers	Village of Middleville
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

#### Members Absent:

Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Bonnie Blackledge	Cannon Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Bev Drake	City of Grand Rapids
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville

Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Cy Moore	Treasurer
David Morren	Kent County
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

**Others Present:**

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dharmesh Jain	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

**2. Public Comment**

**3. Approval of minutes dated September, 2007**

**Motion to Approve the GVMC Board Meeting Minutes of September, 2007.  
MOTION – Meek. SUPPORT – VerHuelen. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Report of GVMC Nominating Committee**

Marta Brechting reported on the Nominating committee’s activities and recommendations.

The following Officer and Executive committee recommendations were made:

- Jim Buck – Chairperson
- Don Hilton – Vice Chairperson
- Cy Moore – Treasurer
- Kurt Kimball – Secretary

Remaining Executive Committee Members

- Jim Beelen
- Daryl Delabbio
- Audrey Nevins
- Rick Root
- Al Vanderberg
- Rob VerHeulen

**MOTION - To Approve the Nominating Committee’s Recommendations for GVMC 2007-08 Officers and Executive Committee Members. MOVE – Brechting. SUPPORT – MAY. Motion Carried.**

## **5. Update on Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds**

Andy Bowman explained the proposed Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds and discussed the process of development. He discussed the proposed organization being an agency of the Metro Council.

Don Stypula stated he would bring the proposed bylaws to the next GVMC Board meeting for approval.

Tom Fehsenfeld asked about the technical support within the organization, not just through Fishbeck.

Don Stypula stated that John Koches has been participating in the development of the organization from day one.

Mike DeVries asked if the proposed agency will come with a business plan.

Don Stypula stated eventually it will. That will be the next thing they will look at.

Mike DeVries asked about the risk to Metro Council for being involved, and if GVMC is the best organization to house this.

Don Stypula stated the next step through the business plan is to determine the origin of the e-coli and get philanthropic support and long term funding.

Don Hilton stated GVMC has been involved with Fisbeck for a number of years and questioned if they are the only ones who can provide these services. Has the opportunity to submit bids been given to others?

Don Stypula stated others have said they would have to go back to square one. We are looking at a continuation of what has already been done.

Andy Bowman indicated that if the organization becomes an agency of the Metro Council, we would be in a better position to do so. We are not so directly tied to Fishbeck that we can't do it with others. We can.

Bob May stated he saw nothing about the Thornapple in the organization. This should extend into Barry and Eaton Counties.

Don Stypula stated he had contact with people on the Thornapple and they wish to be brought under the organization.

## **6. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Lower Grand River Watershed Grant Agreements**

- a. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant \$347,955 to Continue Lower Grand River Watershed Initiatives Project and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Clean Michigan Initiative**

**Grant \$78,468 to continue Lower Grand River Watershed Storm Water Education Project.**

Don Stypula described the proposed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Grant of \$347,955 and the MDEQ grant of \$78,468.

**MOTION – To Approve the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Grant of \$347,955 and the MDEQ grant of \$78,468. MOVE – May. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.**

**7. Progress Report on GVMC Strategic Business Plan**

Don Stypula stated this item has been pushed back to the November meeting per a request by Michael Young, as he and Al Vanderberg were unable to attend this meeting.

**8. Legislative**

Don Stypula stated the October Legislative committee meeting would include a discussion on the draft policy on GVMC's statement on transportation funding. Term limits will also be discussed by the committee.

There is also a proposal to give the legislature to July 30<sup>th</sup> to complete the budget or they will be docked pay.

The legislature did fix the budget and dealt with teachers' benefits. It didn't address Act 312 or PA 7 & 8.

A services tax was enacted to increase revenue.

Don has heard that revenue sharing will be frozen.

Jim Holtrop asked whether more bureaucracy would be needed to collect the new services tax.

Jim Beelen asked if fire protection grants would be affected.

Don Stypula indicated they still were in play.

Roger Morgan asked about county revenue sharing.

Don Stypula stated he doesn't see it coming back.

**9. Other**

**10. Adjournment – 11:45 a.m.**

**Motion to Adjourn. MOVE – May. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.**