

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

October 10, 2011

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 Buck	City of Grandville
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
John Helmholdt	At-Large
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Robert May	City of Hastings
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Jim Saalfeld	Kent County
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Rebecca Fleury	Village of Middleville
Steve Grimm	Cannon Township
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Mark Howe	City of Lowell
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Mick McGraw	At-large Member

Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Martin Super	Village of Sparta
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Patrick Waterman	City of Hudsonville
Roger Wills	City of Belding
Chris Yonker	City of Wayland
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Kristine James	Cannon Township
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Peter Varga	The Rapid/ ITP

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the September 2011 GVMC Board Meeting as Corrected. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Fox. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Legislative Advocacy

Bridge Crossing to Canada

Don Stypula reported on the proposed resolution in support of the new bridge crossing to Canada. The GVMC Legislative committee has analyzed the issue and recommends approval. The Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce and the Right Place do also. Included in the Board agenda packet was information on the issue and arguments both pro and con. There appears to be unanimous support in the private sector as well as from the MPOs around the state.

MOTION – To Approve the Resolution in Support of the New Bridge Crossing to Canada. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Lumpkins. MOTION CARRIED.

Personal Property Tax

Rick Root reported the Governor spoke at the MML convention on the PPT. The elimination is not on a short timeline. It would take 5 to 10 years for full repeal. The Governor seems willing to negotiate. He believes there is a commitment to preserve funding by the Governor.

Mike DeVries suggested a professional review of the Governor's proposals to reveal the anticipated impact.

Urban Cooperation Act

Don Stypula reported legislation to amend the Urban Cooperation Act and allow up to 5 mills taxation appears to be on hold at the current moment.

Transportation Funding

October 24 the Governor is set to give a message on infrastructure funding. In Washington they are moving towards a tentative agreement on transportation funding. The current bill has been extended to March. They are seeking reauthorization for two years at the current level.

5. Michigan Regional Councils Act

This act is currently in draft form with no sponsors. It would supersede the Metropolitan Councils Act. Information regarding the proposal has not been shared with MPOs.

Andy Bowman reviewed the proposal explaining it is aimed at streamlining planning and would have major implications on the area. It proposes new regional councils, which are different than metropolitan councils. We should be mindful of the proposal, study it, get out ahead of it and make known our opinion.

6. Other

The report from the Nominating Committee will be moved to the November meeting.

7. Adjournment – 11:50 a.m.

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.