

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

November 1, 2007

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Building

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

Members Present:

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
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
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Robert May	City of Hastings
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Lon Myers	Village of Middleville
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Members Absent:

Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Bonnie Blackledge	Cannon Township
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Mike Julien	Cascade Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids

Mick McGraw	At-large Member
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Roger Morgan	Kent County
David Morren	Kent County
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township

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
Roger Stafford	MDOT
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

2. Public Comment

3. Presentation by Roger Safford

Roger Safford of MDOT gave a presentation on bridge safety and discussed the 50th anniversary of the Mackinaw Bridge.

4. Swearing in of New Board Member

Sonja Dean administered the Oath of Office to Milt Rohwer, new representative for the City of Grand Rapids.

5. Approval of minutes dated October, 2007

Motion to Approve the GVMC Board Meeting Minutes of October, 2007. MOTION – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Beelen. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Request for Funding from Civics Institute

Al Vanderberg discussed the Civics Institute and its curriculum project. It has received high marks from those schools using it. This request is for the 3rd installment of the curriculum. Metro Council has supported the curriculum project in the past.

MOTION - To Approve a \$5,000 request to support the Civics Institute Curriculum Project. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Draft By-Laws – Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (review only)

Brian Donovan discussed the draft version of the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds and the process of its development. A forum on the Lower Grand River

Organization of Watersheds will take place on Wednesday, November 14th at the Eberhard Center.

Andy Bowman also reviewed the process and discussed the creation of business and strategic plans in the future.

Jim Brown is reviewing the draft and his suggestions will be available for the 2nd draft.

8. Progress Report on GVMC Strategic Business Plan

Don Stypula reviewed the Strategic Business Plan. He stated he will report on it frequently and will change the format. He has been focusing on a business plan for Land Use. He asked members to plan on a one hour meeting after the regular December Board meeting for a Regional Cooperation meeting to talk with Land Use Planning staff and give us an idea of what we can do for you. We will bring this information back to you as the Business Plan for Land Use.

Don Stypula stated he will create marketing materials for the Metro Council working with a new software package.

Kurt Kimball suggested reviewing the Michigan Suburbs Alliance web site and marketing materials.

Don Stypula stated he already has a lunch set up with the Executive Director of that organization to do that very thing.

9. Legislative Advocacy

a. Draft Resolution Supporting Increased Funding for Transportation

Don Stypula reviewed the draft resolution for support of increased transportation funding.

MOTION – To Approve the Resolution in Support of Increased Transportation Funding. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.

Don Stypula reported he would get the resolution signed by Chairperson Buck and send a copy to the Governor, state and federal legislators, and the President.

b. Update on FY 2008 State Budget

Don Stypula reported the budget was finalized; however structural problems are not fixed. Look for a repeal and replacement of the services tax in the future.

10. Other

Kurt Kimball discussed the possibility of adding an additional At-Large member to the Council. This has been discussed by the Executive Committee and will be forwarded to the Nominating Committee. A brief meeting will be held immediately after this to discuss the idea further.

11. **Adjournment**

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Beelen. MOTOIN CARRIED.