

**GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL**

**Board Meeting**

January 14, 2008

10:00 a.m.

Prince Center

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

**Members Present:**

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Mike Julien	Cascade Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

**Members Absent:**

Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Bonnie Blackledge	Cannon Township
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Sharon De Lange	Village of Sparta
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville

Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Roger Morgan	Kent County
David Morren	Kent County
Lon Myers	Village of Middleville
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

**Others Present:**

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Jim Fetzer	ITP/The Rapid
Peter Haefner	Vredeveld Haefner
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dharmesh Jain	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Peter Varga	ITP/The Rapid

**2. Public Comment**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – To Approve Minutes of December 2007 with Correction. MOVE – Donovan. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. GVMC 2006-2007 Audit Report**

Peter Haefner of Vredeveld Haefner reviewed the 2006-2007 audit report. The report has been presented to both the Finance and Executive committees.

The report findings were the highest opinion possible:

*“In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council as of September 30, 2007, and the respective changes in financial position, and the budgetary comparison for the general fund and the REGIS fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”*

It was explained that there were formatting changes reflected in this year’s report.

The auditors explained a change in accounting for grant funds as reported on page 17:

*“All governmental funds are accountable for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Their revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period, except for reimbursement-based grants and interest which use a one year collection period. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue when the related expenditure is recognized. Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related liability is incurred. Exceptions to this general rule include: (1) principal and interest on long-term debt and compensated absences which are recognized when due.”*

The auditors found no issues from a compliance standpoint.

Under the Internal Control Over Financial Reporting the audit report states: Based on new rules implemented for the first time this year, the fact that GVMC does not prepare its own financial reports is a material deficiency. The auditors explained that since this is the first year of a new standard, this comment will be very common on audit reports. Most of their clients have this finding.

Mike Julien asked if the General Fund had an adequate balance.

Peter Haefner stated it is generally suggested to have 10 – 20%, the smaller the organization, the larger the balance should be.

Cy Moore indicated the Finance committee would address the fund balance.

Don Stypula recognized Leon Branderhorst for his excellent work.

Peter Haefner thanked all of the GVMC executive staff for their help.

Jim Buck thanked the Finance committee for their work.

**MOTION – To Receive the 2006-2007 Audit Report – MOTION – Holtrop. SUPPORT – Donovan. MOTION CARRIED.**

**5. Transportation Department Amendments to the FY 2008 TIP**

Abed Itani described the requested amendments to the FY 2008 TIP.

**MOTION \_ To Approve the Requested Amendments to the FY 2008 TIP. MOTION – DeVries. SUPPORT – Holtrop. MOTION CARRIED.**

**6. Draft Articles of Organization and Bylaws for the Lower Grand River Organizations of Watersheds (Review and Discussion Only).**

Don Stypula and Andy Bowman described the process of the creation of the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds; its Articles of Organization; and Bylaws.

If approved, LGROW will be an agency of the Metro Council.

Brian Donovan stated there were a lot of positive things going on within the watershed and he hoped this energizes everyone to step up and join.

Kurt Kimball asked if LGROW would appear on the books as REGIS does.

Don Stypula stated yes it would.

Kurt Kimball asked what the timeframe would be for the rollout.

Andy Bowman stated they anticipated rolling it out in April, but that is not for sure.

Brian Donovan reported they would hopefully meet in February soon after it is approved, although it may end up being pushed back.

Al Vanderberg asked if LGROW would be allocated on the books like REGIS is.

Don Stypula stated yes.

Brian Donovan indicated they anticipate it will be more of a pay for services.

Andy Bowman stated that needed to be worked out and they were considering more of a pay for services basis. It should be determined for sure shortly.

Mike Julien asked if it will determine waterfront activities.

Brian Donovan reported they might make suggestions or offer models, but that would be decided at the city/township/village level.

Jim Buck stated it would be brought back to the Board for final approval next month.

**7. Legislative**

**a. Legislative Breakfast Rescheduled to February 8 at Pen Club**

**b. February Legislative Committee Meeting Rescheduled to February 6, 2008**

**8. Other**

**9. Adjournment – 11:45**

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – May. MOTION CARRIED.**