

**GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL**  
**Board Meeting**

March 3, 2005  
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**

Cindy Bartman	City of East Grand Rapids
Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Jerry Homminga	Cedar Springs
Ron Howell	Village of Middleville
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-Large Member
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
David Morren	Kent County
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Sandy Frost Parrish	Cascade Township
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Ted Vonk	Kent County
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township

**Members Absent**

Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
George Bosanic	City of Greenville
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Bryan Chodkowski	Village of Sparta
Bev Drake	ACSET Council
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member

Bryan Harrison  
Doyle Hayes  
Pauline Luben  
James McIntyre  
Cy Moore  
Audrey Nevins  
Steven Patrick  
Bob Rinck  
Bonnie Shupe  
Tom Wieczorek  
Michael Young

Caledonia Township  
At-Large Member  
City of Hudsonville  
Courtland Township  
Treasurer  
Byron Township  
City of Coopersville  
Ottawa County  
Cannon Township  
City of Ionia  
City of Rockford

**Others Present:**

Andy Bowman  
Leon Branderhorst  
Jim Fetzer  
Jay Hoekstra  
Abed Itani  
Gayle McCrath  
Don Stypula  
Peter Varga

Grand Valley Metro Council  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
ITP  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
ITP

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the February, 2005, GVMC Board meeting were omitted from the Board Packet. Approval of the minutes will take place at the next Board meeting.

**3. Swearing in of New Board Members**

Deputy Kent County Clerk, Sonja Dean, administered the Oath of Office to George Meek of Plainfield Township and to Jack Poll and Bill VerHulst of Wyoming.

George Meek stated he has been active in the community for a long time and was glad to now represent Plainfield on the Metro Council.

Jack Poll stated it has been a long time coming, and he was glad to be a part of the Metro Council. It was definitely something that needed to be done (Wyoming becoming a member).

Bill VerHulst stated Wyoming was a participant in some Metro Council activities, and he was happy it would now participate fully.

**4. Financial Report**

Don Stypula stated he distributed a corrected summary sheet to the financials. There was

nothing unusual to report. In the future, the financial report will be formatted on a monthly basis so as to more accurately portray when expenses are incurred and when revenues are received.

## **5. Transportation Department**

### **a. Advance Construction Request from the City of Grandville**

Item 5a was deleted from the agenda as it was previously resolved in the Transportation Technical Committee with \$1.7 million being put back into the pot for a project Walker decided not to pursue, that was redistributed to several other projects including the request from Grandville.

### **b. Amendments to the FY 2004-2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program (UWP) for the Interurban Transportation Partnership**

Abed Itani explained the request involves an amendment to the 2004-2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include \$6.15 million in funding apportionments released by the Federal Transit Agency. The ITP also is requesting an amendment to the FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program to include \$800,000 for the Major Corridor Study.

Peter Varga explained ITP's request and requested its approval.

**MOTION – To Approve the Amendments to the FY 2004-2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program (UWP) for the Interurban Transportation Partnership. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **c. Amendment to GVMC FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program**

Abed Itani explained the request to amend the FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program to include carry over funds from FY 2004 for three work items in FY 2005. These work items include Geographic Information System (GIS), Pavement Management System (PMS) and Congestion Management System (CMS).

**MOTION – To Approve the Amendment to the GVMC FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **d. Proposed Restructuring of GVMC Transportation Program Activities**

Abed Itani explained that the Transportation Department was considering bringing in-house Transportation Program Management activities rather than contracting outside sources in an effort to cut costs. According to projections, the activity could result in a savings of \$14,000 in member dues per year.

After discussion there was consensus to proceed. This presentation was FYI as Board Approval is not required for this action.

Abed Itani also reported that the US House Transportation Committee has marked the transportation bill. According to Congressman Ehlers' office, it will include the following earmarks: \$9 million for Wyoming, \$21 million for Georgetown, \$12.5 million for ITS, and \$2.78 million for the trail along the South Beltline. It will result in a 33% increase by 2009. The bill is going next week to the full House.

Don Hilton expressed thanks to Congressman Ehlers and to Peter Varga for their help in funding the trail.

#### **6. REGIS Update**

Don Stypula reported the first REGIS Policy Advisory Team (The advisory committee made up of local policy making officials) meeting is scheduled a week from today. The committee will make recommendations to the REGIS Board and ultimately to this Board. The actions of this team will enable the process to advance as quickly as possible.

Andy Bowman stated the REGIS staff is undertaking an extreme amount of work and is currently working on three major projects. The staff is also looking for new ways for people to access the system.

Mick McGraw stated that his company and others in the private sector would like to use REGIS at a higher level and would like to talk with Don about how that could be accomplished.

Don Stypula indicated he would meet with Mr. McGraw and his associates on this.

#### **7. Legislative Update**

Don Stypula reported there was confusion and skepticism in Lansing regarding the book and the process used in "The Price of Government." He added that he would communicate with all through a memo next week regarding what will be on the Governor's Executive Order.

Mr. Stypula reported there is scheduled a meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> at Muskegon Community College of the Senate Transportation Committee. Senator Toy wants to hear from citizens regarding what can be done in Lansing to streamline the work of local government and make it easier and more effective.

March 17<sup>th</sup> the Senate and house Transportation Committees will meet at the RAPID from 7 – 9 p.m. MDOT will be present, and Abed Itani will make a presentation along with Mr. Stypula.

#### **8. Presentation on Land Use Planning Activities**

Andy Bowman and Jay Hoekstra gave a presentation on Land Use Planning activities, including a demonstration on running simulations through the Criterion Software.

#### **9. April Board Meeting**

Chairman Buck explained that the April Board meeting had been cancelled, as the first week in April is Spring Break, and Don Stypula will be out of the office the second week. The Quarterly Luncheon will be held on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> with a presentation from the Racial Justice Institute.

#### **10. April ITP Amendment**

Chairman Buck noted that since there would be no April Board meeting, the Council needed to give the Transportation Policy committee the authority to approve TIP amendments.

**MOTION – To Grand Authority to the GVMC Transportation Policy Committee to Approve Changes to the FY 2004-2005 Transportation Improvement Program. MOVE – Bartman. SUPPORT – Howell. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **11. Public Comment**

None

#### **12. Adjournment – 10:00 a.m.**

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