

# GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

## Board Meeting

August 3, 2006

8:30 a.m.  
Kent County Building

### 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
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Roger Mogan	Kent County
Lon Myer	Village of Middleville
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Sandy Frost Parrish	Cascade Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Ted Vonk	Kent County

#### Members Absent:

Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Brian Chodkowski	Village of Sparta
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Bev Drake	ACSET Council
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming

Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township
Bob Rinck	Ottawa County
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
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dharmesh Jain	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Roger Safford	MDOT
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Peter Varga	The Rapid

**2. Public Comment**

Dennis Kent of MDOT distributed an Open House schedule and information on the comment period for the Michigan Long Range Plan

**3. Approval of July, 2006 Minutes.**

**MOTION – To Approve July 2006 GVMC Board Meeting Minutes. MOVE – Meek. Support – VerHulst. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Financial Report**

**a. Monthly Financial Summary**

Don Stypula gave the financial review. He reported the REGIS financial report was also included in the packet, and would be reported on once per quarter.

Nothing on the GVMC financials is out of the ordinary. Everything is looking pretty good and on target to meet the amended budget.

The REGIS fund balance is robust. The REGIS Board purposely held off expending funds on previously planned expenses in order to allow the new Director to be an integral part of the decision. Dr. Dharmesh Jain, the new REGIS Director, is doing an excellent job. Two of REGIS' largest members, the City of Grand Rapids and Kent County, and now "affiliated" members, and therefore have cut their contributions to REGIS considerably.

The finance report was received for information.

**b. FY 2006-2007 Budget Preview**

Don Stypula reviewed the proposed FY 2006-2007 budget and staffing model, which includes a \$45,000 surplus. Funding for Land Use Planning will consist of the remainder

of the People And Land (PAL) grant; funding for Land Use related Transportation activities; and general GVMC dues.

Additionally, outside work contracted on the Lower Grand Watershed project is being covered by the Urban Cooperation Grant. Some time this fall, Mr. Stypula will request the Lower Grand Watershed become an official agency of the Metro Council.

The pavement management van is recorded as its own cost center under GVMC with costs billed back to MPO members for its service. The van currently has covered approximately 1,400 already this summer.

Mr. Stypula indicated he expected additional grants from the DEQ on REPA within the next three months.

Additional money has been added under meetings to allow for meetings with legislators in Lansing.

Mr. Stypula indicated next month he would begin a quarterly reporting on progress towards his goals as outlined by the Executive Committee.

## **5. Transportation Department**

### **a. Amendment to the FY 2006-2008 TIP**

Don Stypula explained the amendment request to GVMC's FY 2006-2008 TIP for two projects which were previously in FY 2004-2006 totaling approximately \$730,000.

**MOTION – To Approve the Amendment to the FY 2006-2008 TIP. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED**

### **b. Change to the FY 2006 TIP for Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program.**

The requested change would switch funding from the Michigan St. project to ITP to purchase busses.

**MOTION – To Approve the Amendment to the FY 2006 TIP to switch funds from the Michigan Street Project to ITP for purchase of busses. MOTION – Kimball. SUPPORT – VerHulst.**

## **6. Legislative Update**

Rick Root reviewed the resolution in opposition of K-16 proposal.

**MOTION – To Approve the Resolution in Opposition of the K-16 proposal. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Nevins. MOTION CARRIED.**

## RESOLUTION

### A Resolution in Opposition to the "K-16" Ballot Proposal

**WHEREAS**, counties, local units of government, public transportation systems and other public service entities throughout Michigan rely on state revenue sources to provide a wide range of critical public services; and

**WHEREAS**, an amendment to the Michigan Constitution, offered in the form of a statewide ballot proposal for the November 7, 2006 general election would, if approved by Michigan voters, guarantee a yearly increase in state funding equal to the rate of inflation for K-12 education, community colleges and higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, if approved, the so-called "K-16" proposal would cost the state general fund over \$1 billion annually; and

**WHEREAS**, due to state budget cuts, state shared revenue payments to Michigan counties have been eliminated and state shared revenue payments to local communities have been reduced by \$1.5 billion in the last four years, leading to numerous cuts in local government services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council supports both adequate state funding of educational resources for Michigan student's as well as adequate and fair funding for local communities, which are both necessary to provide the services essential to produce high quality of life, now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council does hereby affirm its opposition to the "K-16" proposal on the November 8, 2006 statewide election ballot and joins other governmental organizations that have expressed similar reservations about the impacts of the Proposal on all state-funded services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the text of this resolution be included as part of the official minutes of the August 3, 2006 meeting of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

This Resolution declared adopted by unanimous vote of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Board of Directors on August 3, 2006.

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James R. Buck, Chairman  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

## RESOLUTION

### A Resolution in Opposition to the “Stop Over Spending Michigan” Ballot Proposal

**WHEREAS**, the “Stop Over Spending Michigan”(SOS) measure, proposed for the November 7, 2006 statewide election ballot, would amend the Michigan Constitution to put in place a rigid tax and spending limitation formula at the state and local levels of government; and

**WHEREAS**, such a proposal, if enacted by Michigan voters, would dramatically limit the ability of local and state government to provide services such as public safety, road and street repair, sewer and water, education and health care, and other vital services that improve the quality of life for all Michigan citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposal is modeled on a similar initiative that was adopted in the State of Colorado in 1992 and recently suspended by voters in that state because of reductions in essential services at all levels of government, and;

**WHEREAS**, due to state budget cuts, state shared revenue payments to Michigan counties have been eliminated and state shared revenue payments to local communities have been reduced by \$1.5 billion in the last four years, leading to numerous cuts in local government services; and

**WHEREAS**, passage of the SOS proposal will lead to unnecessary litigation, undermine the ability of local elected officials to act in times of crisis and unpredictable circumstances, and increase local spending on elections; and

**WHEREAS**, such a proposal undermines our system of representative democracy and would require local and state elected officials to pass off responsibility for making the tough decisions they are elected to make on behalf of the communities and constituencies they serve.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council does hereby affirm its opposition to the “Stop Over Spending Michigan” proposal on the November 8, 2006 statewide election ballot and joins other public service organizations that have expressed similar reservations about the impacts of the Proposal on public services provided at the state and local level; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the text of this resolution be included as part of the official minutes of the August 3, 2006 meeting of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

This Resolution declared adopted by unanimous vote of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Board of Directors on August 3, 2006.

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James R. Buck, Chairman  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

**MOTION – To Approve the Resolution in Opposition to the Save Our State Ballot Proposal. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – VerHulst. MOTION CARRIED.**

Don Stypula updated the Council on the Telecom and SBT issues. The SBT will be repealed soon, however there are no provisions made for replacement yet.

Telecom – In Lansing, no news is bad news. It is suspected legislation has already been drafted which will be moved in the lame duck session.

On the federal level, summer recess begins today. Senator's Levin and Stabenow are uncommitted on the issue.

**7. Oath of Office – Elias Lumpkins, Jr.**

Mary Hollinrake administered the Oath of Office to Elias Lumpkins, Jr.

Mr. Lumpkins stated he was happy to be a part of the Metro Council and looked forward to serving on its Board.

**8. Adjournment – 9:45 a.m.**

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – DeVries. MOTION CARRIED.**