



# **GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

## **Board Meeting Agenda**

**Thursday April 1, 2010 • 8:30 a.m.**

**Kent County Commission Chambers • Grand Rapids, MI**

- 1. Call to Order by Chair**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Approval of Minutes dated March 4, 2010**
- 4. Appointment of Grand Valley State University to the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council as a Higher Education Participant**
- 5. May 11 GVMC Visioning / Goal-Setting Meeting**
- 6. Legislative Advocacy: Report and recommendations from the Legislative Committee**
- 7. Legislative Advocacy: Issues Update**
- 8. Other items of business and comments from GVMC members**
- 9. Adjournment**



## Memorandum

**To:** Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
**From:** Donald J. Stypula, Executive Director  
**Date:** March 29, 2010  
**Re:** Agenda Items for our April 1, 2010 Board meeting

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Attached are the agenda and support documents for our next GVMC Board of Directors meeting, scheduled for **8:30 am Thursday April 1, 2010 at the Kent County Commission Chambers in downtown Grand Rapids.**

We have a lighter agenda this month starting with the final step in the process to invite Grand Valley State University to join the Metro Council. I am also bringing for your review a draft agenda for our May 11 GVMC visioning and goal-setting meeting at Gaines Township Hall, and we will discuss some recommendations from the Legislative Committee on how we can better engage candidates for legislative offices during election season this summer and fall.

We'll start by reviewing and accepting the attached minutes from our March 4, 2010 GVMC Board meeting.

### **APPOINTMENT OF GVSU TO THE GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL AS A HIGHER EDUCATION PARTICIPANT**

With your vote last month to amend the GVMC Bylaws and create a new class of Metro Council membership for institutions of higher education, we have a few more steps to complete before we can swear-in a representative from Grand Valley State University.

Attached is resolution prepared by GVMC Corporation Counsel Jim Brown that formally appoints Grand Valley State University as a Higher Education Participant to the Grand Valley Metro Council. Two weeks ago, I met with GVSU General Counsel Tom Butcher to discuss GVSU's role within the Metro Council and a schedule of dues or membership fees that the University will pay as a non-voting member of the Board. Tom and I agreed that a flat, annual fee of \$5,000 – pro-rated the last five months of FY 2010 – would be appropriate. The Executive Committee concurs.

I am therefore requesting that you review and approve the resolution formally appointing GVSU as a Higher Education participant to the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council as recommended by GVMC Chair James Buck.

***Proposed Action: Review and approve the resolution to appoint Grand Valley State University to the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council as a Higher Education Participant.***

## **MAY 11 GVMC VISIONING / GOAL-SETTING MEETING**

Please mark your calendars for the **entire morning of Tuesday May 11, 2010 at Gaines Charter Township Hall** – lower level public meeting room – for a thorough discussion of the Grand Valley Metro Council's vision, mission, goals, objectives, roles and responsibilities, together with an action plan with timelines to move us forward.

Dr. Lewis Bender, retired professor of public administration at Southern Illinois University (who now resides in West Michigan) will facilitate our morning-long discussion on the future roles and responsibilities of the GVMC. We will begin at 7:45 a.m. for coffee and continental breakfast, begin our facilitated discussions promptly at 8:15 and adjourn at 12:30. Following adjournment, we will have lunch available for all attendees.

Following discussions with Dr. Bender and the Executive Committee, I have assembled the attached agenda of the May 11 meeting for your review.

October 1, 2010 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grand Valley Metro Council. While we have celebrated many milestones and accomplished many successes in those two decades, our current economic and fiscal environment demands that we take a fresh look at the work that GVMC does today and what we can do together in the future to bring added value to GVMC-member counties and communities.

Please mark your calendars and plan to devote the entire morning to this collaborative effort to reenergize the Grand Valley Metro Council on Tuesday May 11, 2010 at Gaines Township Hall.

## **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY – REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

The Legislative Committee met on Wednesday March 10 for a detailed briefing by MTA lobbyists on a host of issues and to establish a protocol for engaging candidates for legislative offices on issues of importance to county and local governments.

With campaigns for legislative primary elections in full-swing, Committee members believe we need a more aggressive approach for communicating GVMC's positions on key issues with candidates in those primary battles. After thorough discussion, the Committee recommended the following:

1. Develop a legislative candidate issues polling vehicle that lists GVMC's core legislative priorities, provides brief background on those priorities and why they are important to county and local governments in our area. Issues would include revenue sharing, home rule/local control, unfunded mandates, governmental reforms, and other issues that will be finalized by the Legislative Committee in April.
2. The cover letter would include a map of the GVMC area, the list of member counties and communities and note our affiliations with the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Townships Association and the Michigan Association of Counties.
3. Distribute the legislative candidate issues poll to all candidates competing in the August 3 legislative primary election. We will ask those candidates from both parties to briefly state their views on these issues and return the signed polling document to us.
4. GVMC staff will compile the answers and distribute the results to each GVMC-member county and community and publish the results on our web site and through email communications.
5. County and local officials can use the results of the polling information to engage legislative primary candidates and articulate their views and concerns.
6. The polling results can also serve as a starting point for discussions with candidates during the general election campaigns.

The Committee further recommends that once the new 96<sup>th</sup> Legislature is seated and begins work in January, 2011 that the GVMC monitor the introduction of bills and develop a tracking system that allows county and local officials to monitor bill status and milestones. As these bills are debated and move through the process, we will monitor and report on which legislators within our West Michigan delegation are supportive, which ones are opposed, and communicate those findings with our representatives and senators.

Please bring any additional thoughts or ideas you have to our meeting on Thursday morning so we can move forward on developing these tools.

## **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY – ISSUES UPDATE**

As I noted in a previous email, the both the Michigan Legislature and the U.S. Congress are on a two-week break. They will return to the respective capitols for committee meetings and full sessions the week of April 12. I am monitoring behind-the-scenes activities over the break and will bring an update to the meeting on Thursday if there are developments to report.

As always, we're looking forward to seeing you and having a fruitful discussion. If you have any thoughts, comments, questions or suggestions you can reach me anytime on my cell phone at 616-450-5217, in the office at 776-7604, at home at 257-3372 or via email at [stypulad@gvmc.org](mailto:stypulad@gvmc.org).

# GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

## Board Meeting

March 4, 2010

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Commission Chambers

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

#### Members Present:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Randy DeBruin	City of Belding
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Sandi Frost Parrish	Kent County
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
John Helmholdt	At-Large
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Phil Van Noord	Village of Middleville
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Chris Yonker	City of Wayland

**Members Absent:**

Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Dick Bulkowski	Kent County
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Toby VanEss	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
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Marcia Small	MDOT
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

**2. Public Comment**

None

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the February 2010, GVMC Board Meeting.**

**MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Heartwell. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

Sonja Dean administered the Oath of Office to Jack Poll of the City of Wyoming.

**5. Transportation Department**

**Request for Amendment to the GVMC 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan**

Abed Itani explained the request to amend the GVMC 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan to account for changes to five proposed transportation improvement projects.

An amendment is needed to the LRTP due to routine changes to five projects. Four project changes are the result of modified project timing (either accelerating or delaying project completion) and one project is being deleted from the LRTP due to insufficient traffic volumes. The subject amendment changes resulted in scope changes of slightly over a mile, as well as project timing changes, and therefore a new Air Quality Conformity Analysis was required.

The Air Quality Conformity Analysis that was conducted by GVMC as a result of changes to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan shows no significant impact as a result of the proposed changes. The area remains well below its air quality budgets. The projects are as listed:

A 1.06 mile FY 2026-2035 EDF-C project, **Forest Hill Ave – M-21 to Ada Drive**, to be reconstructed and have a center turn lane added, will be split into two projects. The new limits will be **Forest Hill Ave – Braeburn to Ada Drive** (.47 miles) - \$475,200 federal - and **Forest Hill Ave – Braeburn to M-21** (.59 miles) - \$1,031,098 federal. The Forest Hill Ave – Braeburn to Ada Drive project will be moving in the LRTP from FY 2026-2035 EDF-C to FY 2008-2011 EDF-C. The Forest Hill Ave – Braeburn to M-21 will remain where it is currently listed in the LRTP (FY 2026-2035 EDF-C).

A 1.00 mile FY 2008-2011 STP-U project, **4 Mile Road – Peach Ridge Ave to Baumhoff**, to be reconstructed and widened from 2 to 3 lanes, will be moving in the Long Range Plan from FY 2008- 2011 STP-U to FY 2012-2018 STP-U - \$1,280,000 federal.

A 1.00 mile FY 2008-2011 EDF-C project, **76th Street – Eastern to Kalamazoo**, to be reconstructed and widened from 2 to 3 lanes, will be deleted from the plan due to insufficient traffic volume. The project does not meet the traffic volumes necessary to qualify for EDF-C funds.

A 1.00 mile FY 2019-2025 EDF-C project, **Northland Drive – M-57 to 15 Mile Road**, to be reconstructed and have a center turn lane added, will be moving in the Long Range Plan from FY 2019-2025 EDF-C to FY 2008-2011 EDF-C - \$2,072,000 federal. The limits of the project are also changing slightly to **Northland Drive – M-57 to Indian Lakes Road**, for a new project length of 1.31 miles.

The final project change is a .69 mile FY 2008-2010 EDF-C project, **3 Mile Road – Walker Ave to Elmridge**, to be reconstructed and widened from 2 to 5 lanes, that will be moving in the Long Range Plan from FY 2008-2010 EDF-C to FY 2019-2025 EDF-C. The limits of the project are also changing slightly to **3 Mile Road – Walker Ave to Indian Creek Road**, for a new project length of .61 miles - \$1,916,568 federal.

**MOTION – To Approve the Proposed Amendment to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Holtrop. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Request to amend the FY-2008-2011 TIP to reflect The Rapid's, MDOT's, The City of Walker and the KCRC requested changes.**

In preparation of the FY2010 & 2011 Section 5307/5309 grant applications, The Rapid is requesting an amendment to the FY2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY2010 & 2011. The Rapid is requesting the change in order to update Activity Line Items. Please see the attached memos for additional information. MDOT is requesting an amendment to the FY 2008-011MPO TIP to convert several I- 196 projects, for PE phase and related costs, from 100% state funds to federal aid. These conversions to federal aid eligibility are being made under the requirements of 23 CFR Section 1.9.

The City of Walker is requesting to remove a project from the FY2008 – 2011 TIP (specifically FY2010); 3 Mile Road from Walker Avenue to Elmridge, \$2,072,000 Federal EDF category C funding.

The Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) is requesting to add a project to the FY2008 – 2011 TIP (specifically FY2010): Northland Drive, M-57 to Indian Lakes Road (1.31 miles) utilizing EDF category C funding in the amount of \$2,072,000 Federal.

**MOTION – To Amend the FY-2008-2011 TIP to reflect The Rapid's, MDOT's, The City of Walker and the KCRC requested changes.**

**Request to amend the FY2010 Unified Planning Work Program**

The FY2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) includes the budget for all federally assisted transportation planning activities that the GVMC Transportation Division, the Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), will undertake. Any changes in the federal funding amounts under work items in the UWP warrant a UWP amendment and approval by the GVMC Board.

Staff is requesting the amendment of the FY2010 UWP, to reflect federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, previously obligated unspent funds from FY2009. The unspent funds are related to work items "1.3"- Geographic Information System (GIS), "3.3"- Ozone and Particulate Matter Action Program, "4.1"- Pavement Management System (PMS), and "4.2"- Congestion Management System (CMS).

Staff is requesting to amend "Work Item 1.3" for the amount of \$186,942, "Work Item 3.3" by the amount of \$150,873, "Work Item 4.1" by the amount of \$238,936, and "Work Item 4.2" by the amount of \$119,270. The annual expenditures of the GVMC Transportation Department for FY2010 will not increase due to the FY2009 previously obligated unspent funds.

In order for GVMC to retain these funds the FY2010 UPWP needs to be amended.

**MOTION – To Approve the Amendment to the 2010 UPWP – MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Arends. MOTION CARRIED**

Abed Itani updated the Council on the Pavement Management Van.

**6. Request from Grand Valley State University to Join the Metro Council as a Dues-Paying, Non-Voting Member Organization**

Don Stypula reviewed the request by Grand Valley State University to become a member of the Metro Council. Don will talk in the next 30 days with Cy Moore, GVMC Treasurer, and the Finance Committee regarding dues. The Executive Committee recommends approving the resolution to amend the GVMC By-Laws to provide for additional advisory committees, including higher education advisory committee and higher education participants.

Jim LaPeer stated knowing the visioning session is scheduled in two months, shouldn't we wait to undertake this amendment until after this process.

George Heartwell stated he felt it was a great opportunity for us and them. It would be great to have them there for the visioning project.

Brian Donovan said GVSU has been at the table for the creation of LGROW and has been a strong supporter. It would be good to bring in their point of view and expertise.

Jim LaPeer added in Cannon Twp., the question came up of why not other organizations. What vision are we following? We should determine the vision first and use that to guide what organizations.

Alex Arends said he agreed with Jim LaPeer. We already have At-Large members and could use one of those positions to allow them to participate.

Al Vanderberg stated this was discussed at length in the Executive committee meeting and it is viewed as a pilot project at this time. I am very comfortable approving this amendment now and moving forward with the visioning process.

**MOTION – To Approve the Resolution to Amend Section VI of the GVMC By-Laws to Provide for Additional Advisory Committees, Including Higher Education Advisory Committee and Higher Education Participants. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Donovan. MOTION CARRIED. OPPOSED – Arends.**

**7. Endorsement of Mutual Aid Box Alarm System**

Don Stypula reviewed the request for endorsement of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System.

**MOTION – To Endorse the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.**

**8. Legislative Advocacy**

Don Stypula reported there was not much happening in Lansing other than appropriations activities and the budget. He does not expect the budget to be finalized by July 1. There has been interest in the resolution on unfunded mandates, but it is unlikely anything will happen before the election. The lame duck session is expected to be busy.

**9. Other**

There will be a meeting at 8:00 on May 11 at Gaines Township Hall for the Visioning Process.

Al Vanderberg asked Don to send out the current business plan and information compiled at our last visioning session at Gaines Twp. to everyone before the meeting.

**10. Adjourn – 9:40 a.m.**

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

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

**APPOINTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION PARTICIPANT UNDER SECTION VI OF  
COUNCIL BYLAWS**

WHEREAS, Section VI of the Council Bylaws provides for the appointment of a qualified college and university as a Higher Education Participant, to serve in an advisory capacity to the Council;

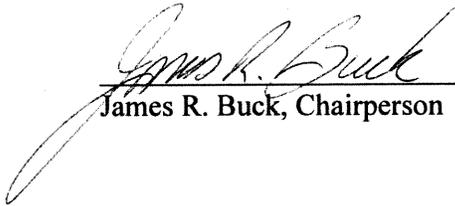
WHEREAS, Grand Valley State University is a qualified university and has expressed a desire to serve the Council in an advisory capacity and to participate in Council deliberations to the extent authorized in the Council Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, I conclude that Grand Valley State University would serve effectively, for the benefit of the Council.

I therefore appoint Grand Valley State University as a Higher Education Participant, to serve in an advisory capacity to the Council under the terms of Section VI of the Council Bylaws.

Further, I ask that the Council approve this appointment.

Dated: 3-18-10

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James R. Buck, Chairperson

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

At a regular meeting of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009 at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. at \_\_\_\_\_, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

The following resolution was offered by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_.

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY AS A HIGHER EDUCATION PARTICIPANT TO ADVISE THE COUNCIL AND TO DETERMINE THE ELEMENTS AND SCOPE OF ITS PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL MATTERS**

WHEREAS, Section VI of the Council Bylaws provides for the appointment of a Higher Education Participant in Council matters, consisting of a public college or university that has at least one campus in the Council Area and that has an enrollment of at least 10,000 students;

WHEREAS, Grand Valley State University qualifies for appointment as a Higher Education Participant under the terms of Section VI of the Bylaws;

WHEREAS, the Chairperson of the Council has nominated Grand Valley State University to be a Higher Education Participant; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to appoint Grand Valley State University as a Higher Education Participant and to determine the elements and scope of its participation, for the benefit of the Council.

IT IS, THEREFORE, RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Council hereby appoints Grand Valley State University (the "University") as a Higher Education Participant, to serve in an advisory capacity to the Council, upon the terms and conditions of this resolution.

2. The University shall designate one person as its representative with respect to Council matters. The term of such representative shall be as determined by the University.

3. The representative of the University may attend all meetings of the Council and participate in its deliberations, but shall have no vote on any matter before the Council.

4. The University shall pay annual dues to the Council, determined on the following basis: **[insert]**. Such dues shall be due and payable at the same time that dues by Members are due and payable.

5. The University shall be a Higher Education Participant under the terms of said Section VI so long as it is the only such Participant. At such time as another qualified college or university desires to serve in the advisory role to the Council contemplated by said Section VI, and is so appointed, then the University and such other college or university shall comprise the Higher Education Advisory Committee under the terms of said Section VI.

6. The duties and activities of the University as a Higher Education Participant shall be as follows:

(a) To serve in an advisory capacity to the Council with respect to matters involving higher education within the Council Area.

(b) To participate in the discussions and deliberations of the Council, including especially as to matters concerning higher education.

(c) To prepare and submit such studies and recommendations as may be requested by the Council.

(d) To undertake such other advisory responsibilities as the Council may assign.

(e) **[Insert other provisions, if any]**

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary



**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

**May 11, 2010 Visioning / Goal-Setting Meeting for GVMC Board Members**

- 7:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 8:15 a.m. Welcome and introduction – Jim Buck
- 8:20 a.m. Brief background and history of GVMC’s current functions and responsibilities – Don Stypula
- 8:30 a.m. Plenary Session: Idea exchange with all participants – Dr. Lewis Bender
- Questions posed to group:
- If GVMC did not exist and we were designing it as a new organization, what would it look like? What services would it provide and what activities would it engage in? What kind of governance structure would it have?
- 9:30 a.m. Break
- 9:40 am. Breakout groups: Five to six round tables of GVMC Board members to discuss and reach consensus, in a small group environment, their wants and needs; the services GVMC should provide; the activities that GVMC should engage in; preferred organizational practices; communications strategies; and other elements that add value for member counties and communities.
- 11:15 a.m. Reports and specific recommendations from each small group
- 11:45 a.m. Reaching Consensus – Dr. Lew Bender

**FOLLOWUP**

Executive Director and staff develop action plan with deliverables and specific dates and report to the Executive Committee.

Second, shorter meeting of participants is conducted to share results and the specifics of the action plan.