



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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**GVMC
BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

8:30 a.m. December 6, 2012

Kent County Commission Chambers

- 1) Approval of November 2012 Minutes**
- 2) Public Comments**
- 3) Oath of Office – Jay Spencer, Plainfield Township Supervisor**
- 4) Executive Committee Appointment of Brian Donovan (as of January 1, 2013)**
- 5) Report from Legislative Committee on Transportation Funding Meeting**
- 6) Restore the River Presentation**
- 7) January Board Meeting – Change of Date to 1/10/13**
- 8) Recognition of Departing Board Member Rob VerHeulen**
- 9) Adjourn**

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

November 11, 2012

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Commission Chambers
Grand Rapids

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

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

Members Present:

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Richard Clanton	City of Kentwood
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
John Hoppough	City of Greenville
Cindy Janes	Cascade Township
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Patrick Waterman	City of Hudsonville
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Steve Grimm	Cannon Township
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member

John Helmholdt	At-Large Member
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Mark Howe	City of Lowell
Rebecca Fleury	Village of Middleville
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Audrey Nevins-Weiss	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Jim Saalfeld	Kent County
Michael Selden	City of Wayland
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Roger Wills	City of Belding

Others Present:

Chris Brown	Grand Valley Metro Council
David Czurak	Grand Rapids Business Journal
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dal McBurrows	MDOT
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Brenda McNabb-Stange	City of Hastings
Stg. Tony Stein	Barry County
Sue Reyff	Village of Middleville
Peter Varga	ITP / The Rapid
Phil VanNoord	Village of Middleville
Steve Warren	Kent County Road Commission
John Weiss	Grand Valley Metro Council

2. Minutes

MOTION: To Approve the Minutes of the October GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE - Meek. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Moment of Silence in Remembrance of Mayor Robert May of Hastings.

The Council observed a moment of silence in remembrance of Mayor Bob May of Hastings who passed away recently. Bob was a great friend to the Council and its members and will be greatly missed.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Financial Update

Chris Brown reported there has been lots of transition in the finance department with new software and catching up with MDOT billings. The auditors will be coming in in November and should be presenting their report in December. We are still dealing with MDOT on a couple of issues and should end the year very well.

6. Reports from Human Resources Committee

a. Review of Executive Director

Michael Young distributed and discussed the report on the review of the Executive Director. Per the Executive Director's contract there was to be a performance review at 6 months. The process used was the evaluation tool which had been utilized in previous Executive Director reviews. Nine established factors and GVMC goals were measured. Included in the report are the actual scores and comments. John was unanimously given an outstanding evaluation. His performance has been everything the Council had hoped for. He has substantially completed all the goals set forth, most of which GVMC has struggled with for years. The Council will now need to set new goals through a facilitated process.

b. Nomination of 2012/2013 GVMC Officers

Michael Young reported the Human Resources committee has met and considered the appointment of the GVMC Officers and Executive committee for 2012/2013. The Council has undergone tremendous change in the past year and it was decided it would be best to nominate those currently serving to another term in order to maintain continuity.

Nominated as officers are:

- Jim Buck – Chairperson
- Don Hilton, Sr. – Vice Chairperson
- Cy Moore – Treasurer
- Daryl Delabbio – Secretary

Nominated as additional members of the Executive committee are:

- Mike DeVries
- George Heartwell
- Cindy Janes
- Al Vanderberg
- Rob VerHeulen
- Michael Young

MOTION: To Elect the Above Mentioned GVMC Board Members to the Positions as Officers and Executive Committee Members as Nominated. MOVE – Young. SUPPORT – Heartwell. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Emerging Issues

a. Update on WMPF – Jarod Rodriguez

John Weiss reported the West Michigan Policy Forum was a huge success and thanked Jarod for the eight scholarships given to GVMC members.

Jarod Rodriguez stated it was a very successful event and they appreciate GVMC and the other organizations that partnered with them. It was their most highly attended event with 645 people participating.

The WMPF Priorities are:

Business tax

Right to work

Increasing the funding for health care providers with effective preventative programs.

Streamline the permitting process with state government

Update transportation funding mechanism

Those attending the Forum were polled to determine additional priorities for the WMPF.

The following were cited:

Ensure a viable trade crossing to Canada

Determine transportation infrastructure funding mechanism to maximize federal funds

Develop metrics for K-12 higher Ed to prepare the workforce

Support policies to enable consolidation of local government.

Michael Young asked how the Forum was soliciting feedback on the consolidation issue. Rockford has worked on consolidation issues and would be happy to pass along their experience.

Patrick Waterman said the key word is “enabling” consolidation, not mandating. It needs to be in the best interests of the community.

b. Update on Governor’s Urban Agenda – Erika Rosebrook

Erika Rosebrook reported on Governor Snyder’s Office of Urban Initiatives. The department is part of the Governor’s office, however is funded by the Michigan Council of Foundations which makes it truly a public/private partnership. Their focus is on restoring our cities through: housing; economic development, transportation, and land use.

They are working to create, embed and execute a statewide urban agenda. The office is soliciting feedback from cities and urban communities. The agenda will be periodically updated so as to not stagnate. Best practices listings will also be part of the initiative so communities around the state can share successful strategies.

George Heartwell suggested having a working session w Erika on municipal service authorities.

8. Other

John Weiss reported on November 27 at 10:00 a.m. there will be a combined meeting of the Legislative committee and Transportation funding task force. Jarod Rodriguez and MDOT representatives will be there to discuss long term transportation funding.

John also thanked Erika Rosebrook for putting together a meeting between himself, Brian Donovan, Eric DeLong and the leadership of the DEQ where they presented a collaborative model for watershed issues.

Erika Rosebrook stated it was one of the most productive meetings she has been to in local government. They will now be working together for a productive relationship with LGROW.

The Council recognized Jim Miedema and George Meek for their service to the Council and their communities.

9. Adjournment – 10:00 a.m.

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Miedema. MOTION CARRIED.



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To: GVMC Board of Directors

From: John W. Weiss, Executive Director

Sub: Agenda Item

Date: December 6, 2012

One of our primary GVMC Strategic Initiatives pertains to emerging issues. As such, a potential project that is gaining increasing publicity in West Michigan is the effort to “Restore the Rapids” along the Grand River within the City of Grand Rapids. In the coming month’s increased public/private and media attention will be focused on the potential for this project. As a relevant emerging issue, I have asked representatives of the effort to update the GVMC Board at our next meeting.

Chip Richards, Grand Rapids Whitewater, and Wendy Ogilvie, FTC&H, will present an overview of this exciting project at the GVMC board meeting on Thursday, December 6, 2012. The presentation will highlight historical significance of the river and the project’s potential impacts to the sustainability efforts in this region. Below is a brief synopsis of the project.

The synopsis below has been provided by the leadership of project and is for your information in preparation of the presentation.

Making the Grand River Grand Again

“We will succeed in making our most important natural feature – the Grand River increasingly visible and usable by converting older riverfront industrial sites to parks and new development that welcome people to the river’s edge. We will recreate the rapids in the river as a reminder of our heritage.”

Green Grand Rapids (2012)

Grand Rapids has awakened to the fact that the Grand River is one of its most important natural, economic and community resources. In 2012, through the collaborative *Green Grand Rapids* process, the City of Grand Rapids updated its master plan to “focus on the importance of green infrastructure, sustainability and quality of life in maintaining the city’s livability and competitive edge.” This plan embraces the critical social importance of the Grand River. Running through the urban core, restoration has opportunity to connect downtown with

underserved neighborhoods, Native Americans, suburban communities and rural landscapes. As the longest river in Michigan, it is a critical component of the Lake Michigan ecosystem and the rapids are regionally rare habitat. As Grand Rapids' most significant natural asset, the Grand River can and should play an increasingly important role in enhancing the city's quality of life. Recreation and aesthetic improvement can be achieved by continuing to expand the visibility of the river, improving access to and along its edges and encouraging active uses on and adjacent to the water.

Community and business leaders are partnering with local governments, environmental managers, and recreational enthusiasts to restore the namesake rapids in downtown, Grand Rapids. In addition to generating a stewardship ethic within the community, the project will remedy the degradation of the River's ecosystem functions caused by five low head dams, flood walls, dredging and channelization. The project includes removing or modifying these dams, and enhancing the river bed and river banks, to restore the aquatic ecosystem and recreation function of the historic rapids. The goals of the project include:

- installing habitat and water quality enhancements;
- improving access and recreational opportunities for residents;
- enhancing natural aesthetics and riparian function of the riverfront;
- attracting tourism, businesses and employment opportunities;
- connecting underserved communities with the river and downtown;
- creating access to natural areas for under-represented community members;
- implementing a comprehensive plan for watershed and related green infrastructure issues; and,
- generating a stewardship ethic for the river through education and outreach, especially with urban youth.

Grand Rapids Whitewater (grandrapidswhitewater.org), will lead the initial project to restore the historic rapids, for which preliminary engineering studies have been completed by RiverRestoration (riverrestoration.org). An advisory committee has formed to ensure coordination of this project with the overall river restoration vision and with other specific projects. Committee members are being recruited from leaders from business, government, community organizations, user groups, conservation and environment groups. An *Executive Summary* of the project is available at:

www.grandrapidswhitewater.org