



**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

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**AGENDA**

**GVMC BOARD MEETING**

**October 3, 2013**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Kent County Commission Chambers**

- 1) Approval of September 2013 Minutes – Attachment**
  
- 2) Public Comment**
  
- 3) Oath of Office – Brent Boncher, Courtland Township**
  
- 4) Regional Prosperity Initiative – Attachments – Action Item**
  - (a) GVMC Resolution on Regional Prosperity Initiative**
  - (b) Sample Resolution for Members – Deadline to Return to GVMC – 10/25**
  
- 5) November GVMC Board Meeting – Action Item**
  - (a) Reminder date change of November GVMC Board Meeting to 11/4/13 following Quarterly Breakfast at L. William Seidman Center in Downtown Grand Rapids, 50 Front Ave. SW. Board meeting will begin at 10:00 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor DeVos Board Room. Free parking on premises for event.**
  
- 6) Adjourn**

# GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

## Board Meeting

September 5, 2013

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 Chair Jim Buck.

#### Members Present:

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Rick Baker	At-Large Member
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Richard Clanton	City of Kentwood
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Rebecca Fleury	Village of Middleville
Steve Grimm	Cannon Township
George Haga	Ada Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
John Hoppough	City of Greenville
Mark Howe	City of Lowell
Cindy Janes	Cascade Township
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Brenda McNabb-Stange	City of Hastings
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Megan Mullendore	City of Belding
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Michael Selden	City of Wayland
Jay Spencer	Plainfield Township
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

**Members Absent:**

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Ken Bergwerff	Jamestown Township
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Barb Holt	City of Walker
Mark Lemoine	At-Large Member
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Audrey Nevins-Weiss	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Jim Saalfeld	Kent County
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Patrick Waterman	City of Hudsonville
Michael Young	City of Rockford

**Others Present:**

Winnie Brinks	Michigan House of Representatives
Brandon Dillon	Michigan House of Representatives
David Hildenbrand	Michigan Senate
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Peter Varga	The Rapid
Roger Towsley	Village of Sand Lake
John Weiss	Grand Valley Metro Council

**2. Minutes**

**MOTION: To Approve the Minutes of the August GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE - Heartwell. SUPPORT - Janes. MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Oath of Office**

Kent County Clerk Mary Hollinrake administered the Oath of Office to Meg Mullendore, City Manager, Belding, Michigan.

Meg stated she was excited to represent the City of Belding at the Metro Council and looked forward to seeing what the Council could do for Belding.

**5. Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation to add Village of Sand Lake as GVMC Member**

**MOTION – To Amend the GVMC Articles of Incorporation to Add the Village of Sand Lake to the Metropolitan Council. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Donovan. MOTION CARRIED.**

**6. Public Hearing – GVMC 2013/14 Budget**

Chairman Jim Buck opened the public hearing on the GVMC 2013/14 budget at 8:40 a.m.

There were no questions or comments during the public hearing.

Chairman Jim Buck closed the public hearing at 8:41 a.m.

John Weiss explained that over 90 people have reviewed the budget and been involved in the process to-date. The only substantive change to the budget document preview is a transfer of funds from contracted services to salaries to account for the addition of Wendy Ogilvie as Director of Environmental Programs. Wendy will continue the NPDES work she previously did under Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, as well as a number of other environmental endeavors. The transition should be seamless for NPDES contracted communities.

John introduced Wendy Ogilvie to the Board.

Wendy stated she is excited to be with the Metro Council. The transition from Fishbeck should be seamless for GVMC members and she looked forward to growing the environmental programs.

**MOTION – To Approve the GVMC 2013/2014 Budget. MOVE – McNabb-Stange. SUPPORT – Holtrop. MOTION CARRIED.**

**7. Designation of ITP as Recipient of 5310 Funds**

Abed Itani reported on the request to designate ITP as the recipient of 5310 funds.

**MOTION – To Approve the Request to Designate ITP as the Recipient of 5310 Funds.  
MOVE – Janes. SUPPORT – Hoppough. MOTION CARRIED.**

**8. Legislative Presentations**

**a. Senator David Hildenbrand**

- Healthcare debate is behind us
- Transportation funding is still a big issue. There is no easy solution but it is still on the Governor’s priority list. There is not a lot of support on increased gas tax and registration fees. Relief more likely to come from restructuring of current tax.
- He is working on a bill for a 100% disabled vet property tax exemption. The current law is cumbersome and difficult.
- The Senator is also working on proposals regarding the overpayment of property taxes and a change to the tax regarding trade-in value of vehicles

**b. Representative Winnie Brinks**

- Roads & bridges need to be addressed as they have an immediate impact on communities and we are mindful of that.
- Medicaid expansion passed. A healthy workforce benefits business. It was disappointing that it did not take effect immediately.
- Public school funding is of concern, as the school aid budget did not replace the \$2 billion previously taken out.
- She is working on a bill that would promote testing for earlier breast cancer detection.

**c. Representative Brandon Dillon**

- Infrastructure is important, but it has to be done right.
- The sustainability of the Medicare expansion is in question
- Road funding will probably not be addressed until next year.
- He is working on a bill to allow local communities to recoup the cost of emergency rescue in the case of gross negligence in time of emergency.

**9. Adjournment – 9:45 a.m.**

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Lumpkins. SUPPORT – Butler. MOTION CARRIED.**



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**A Resolution In Support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's  
Participation in the Regional Prosperity Alliance**

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 country region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Board of Directors hereby endorses our participation in the Regional Prosperity Initiative and,

Be It Further Resolved that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council is honored and pleased to provide leadership in this regional venture by submitting the grant application on behalf of our West Michigan Region.

Approved on October 4, 2013 by the Board of Directors of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

\_\_\_\_\_  
John W. Weiss  
Executive Director, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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**Resolution To Endorse Grand Valley Metropolitan Council’s  
Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance**

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

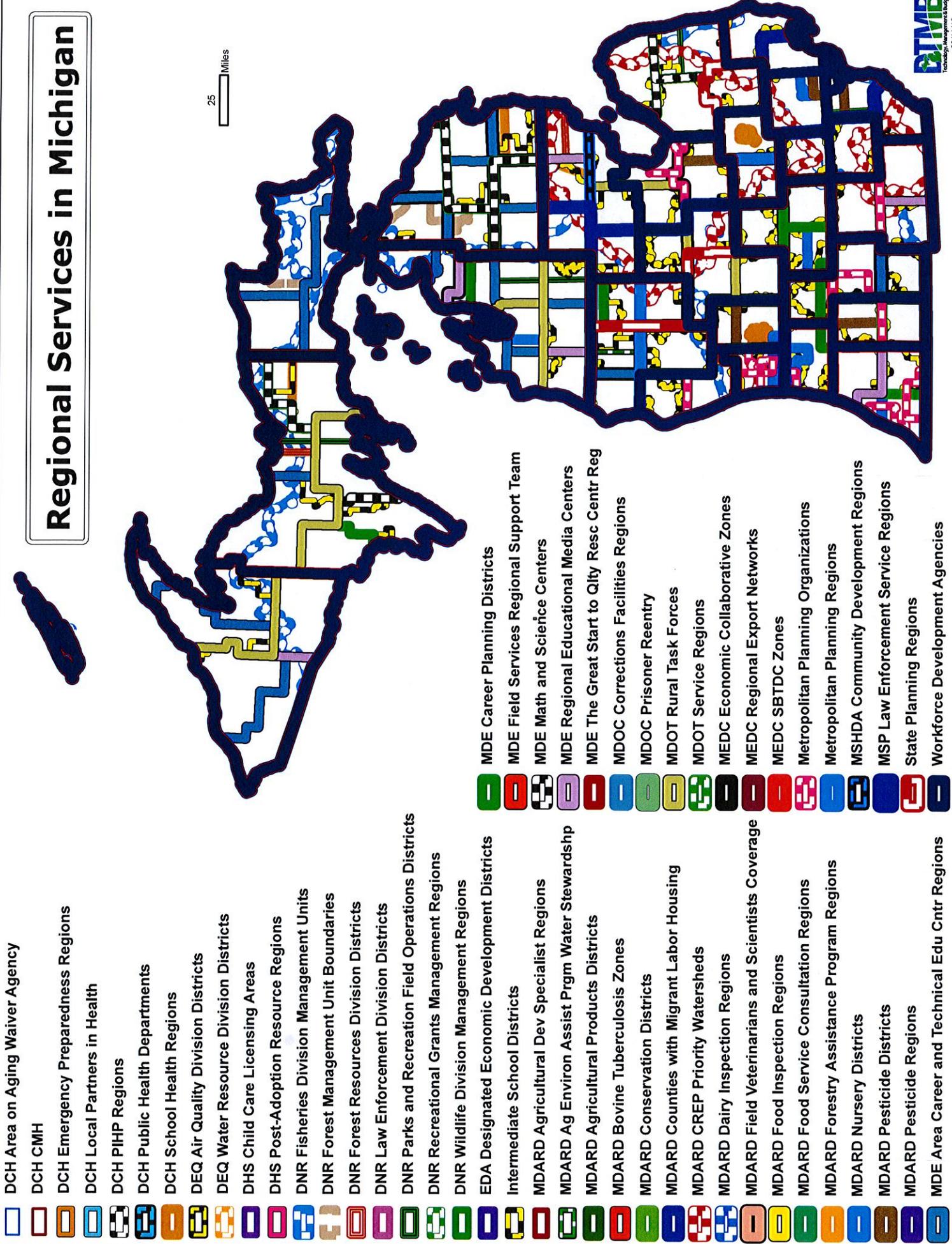
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the \_\_\_\_\_ hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council’s collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Approved on \_\_\_\_\_, 2013 by \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return to:

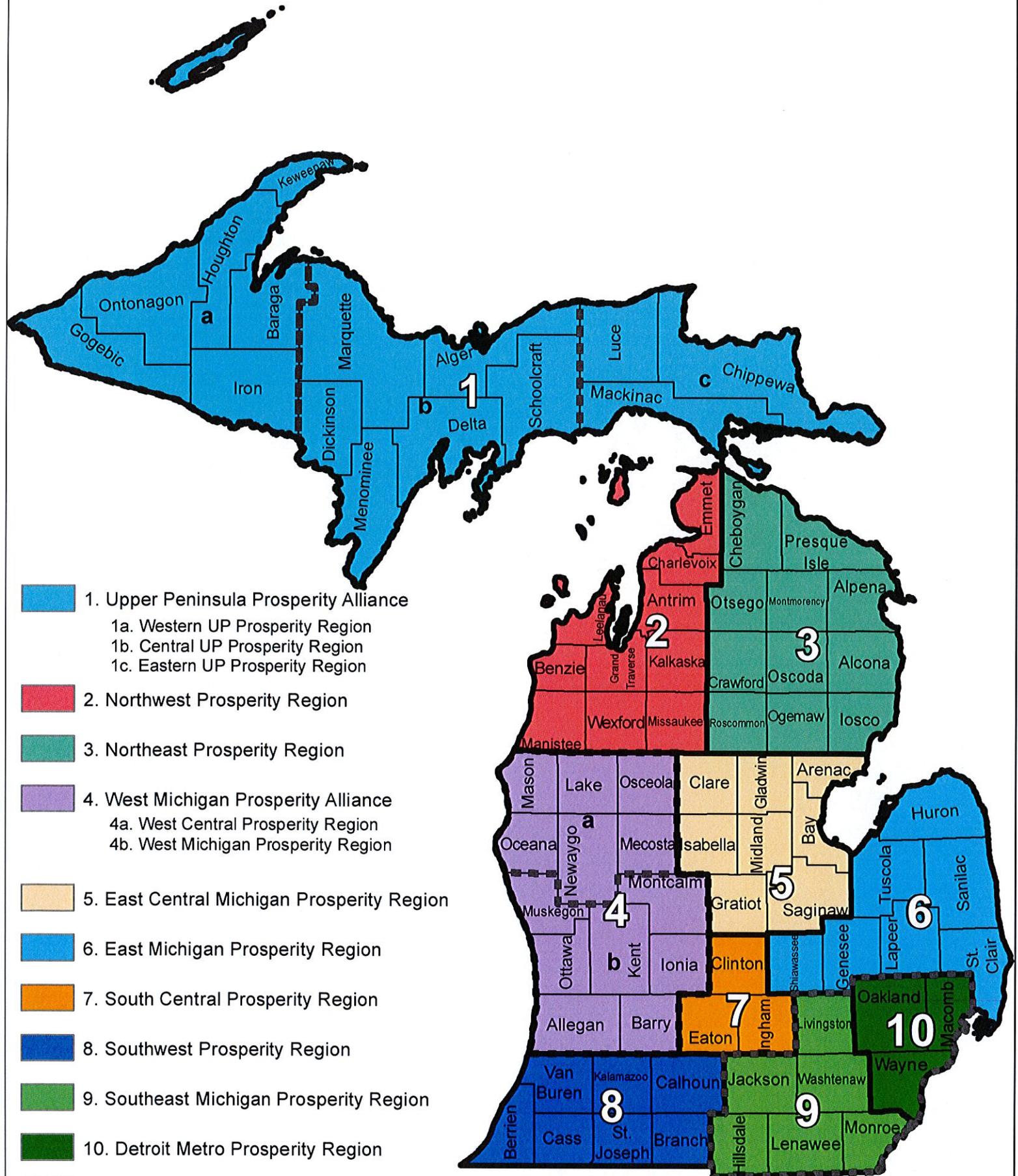
John W. Weiss, Executive Director  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

# Regional Services in Michigan



- DCH Area on Aging Waiver Agency
- DCH CMH
- DCH Emergency Preparedness Regions
- DCH Local Partners in Health
- DCH PIHP Regions
- DCH Public Health Departments
- DCH School Health Regions
- DEQ Air Quality Division Districts
- DEQ Water Resource Division Districts
- DHS Child Care Licensing Areas
- DHS Post-Adoption Resource Regions
- DNR Fisheries Division Management Units
- DNR Forest Management Unit Boundaries
- DNR Forest Resources Division Districts
- DNR Law Enforcement Division Districts
- DNR Parks and Recreation Field Operations Districts
- DNR Recreational Grants Management Regions
- DNR Wildlife Division Management Regions
- EDA Designated Economic Development Districts
- Intermediate School Districts
- MDARD Agricultural Dev Specialist Regions
- MDARD Ag Environ Assist Prgm Water Stewardshp
- MDARD Agricultural Products Districts
- MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Zones
- MDARD Conservation Districts
- MDARD Counties with Migrant Labor Housing
- MDARD CREP Priority Watersheds
- MDARD Dairy Inspection Regions
- MDARD Field Veterinarians and Scientists Coverage
- MDARD Food Inspection Regions
- MDARD Food Service Consultation Regions
- MDARD Forestry Assistance Program Regions
- MDARD Nursery Districts
- MDARD Pesticide Districts
- MDARD Pesticide Regions
- MDE Area Career and Technical Edu Cntr Regions
- MDE Career Planning Districts
- MDE Field Services Regional Support Team
- MDE Math and Science Centers
- MDE Regional Educational Media Centers
- MDE The Great Start to Qlty Resc Centr Reg
- MDOC Corrections Facilities Regions
- MDOC Prisoner Reentry
- MDOT Rural Task Forces
- MDOT Service Regions
- MEDC Economic Collaborative Zones
- MEDC Regional Export Networks
- MEDC SBTDC Zones
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Metropolitan Planning Regions
- MSHA Community Development Regions
- MSP Law Enforcement Service Regions
- State Planning Regions
- Workforce Development Agencies

# State of Michigan Prosperity Regions



- 1. Upper Peninsula Prosperity Alliance
  - 1a. Western UP Prosperity Region
  - 1b. Central UP Prosperity Region
  - 1c. Eastern UP Prosperity Region
- 2. Northwest Prosperity Region
- 3. Northeast Prosperity Region
- 4. West Michigan Prosperity Alliance
  - 4a. West Central Prosperity Region
  - 4b. West Michigan Prosperity Region
- 5. East Central Michigan Prosperity Region
- 6. East Michigan Prosperity Region
- 7. South Central Prosperity Region
- 8. Southwest Prosperity Region
- 9. Southeast Michigan Prosperity Region
- 10. Detroit Metro Prosperity Region

Service Delivery Regions

# REGIONAL REINVENTION

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## EMPOWERING LOCALS TO DRIVE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Michigan has earned the title of America's comeback state. It's an economic success story that would not be possible without collaboration by the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Our shared accomplishments during the past two years underscore the need to work in partnership toward a common vision of economic prosperity. That's the goal of Gov. Rick Snyder's Regional Reinvention Initiative.

While Michigan's future is bright, our job creators, local governments and nonprofit leadership face stiff global competition. We must recognize that the world does not simply identify with local units of government, individual counties or even the entire state of Michigan. It is the uniqueness of our regions – Greater Detroit, the Traverse City region, the West Michigan shoreline, the magnificence of the Upper Peninsula and similar corridors throughout our state – that makes the world take notice. These regions drive Michigan's economy and define its character.

Michigan has numerous regional entities, including regional planning and development organizations, metropolitan planning organizations and workforce boards. Unfortunately, they were designed in such a way that results in overlapping goals and competing priorities. Where local and regional collaboration is occurring, it often is cumbersome and is happening in spite of a structure that seems designed to dissuade it. Michigan needs to provide a structure that supports and encourages collaboration rather than discourages it.

A comprehensive economic development strategy can only be realized when leaders in the business development, talent development and infrastructure development communities unite in a common vision and strategy. Currently, each of these systems is struggling with a decrease in federal funding. This demands that the state and our regional providers break from the business-as-usual approach to ensure that the available resources have the greatest impact possible for job creators and residents.

No one is more aware of the challenges that lie ahead than the men and women who provide these critical services every day. The governor's Regional Prosperity Initiative is based on the principle that local citizens and their leaders – not Lansing – are best suited to determine the future of local and regional economies. It rejects the one-size-fits-all economic model and instead provides resources for local private, public and nonprofit leaders to successfully determine where they want to go and what steps they can take together to get there.

It's time to unleash the energy and innovation that abound across our state. Stronger local and regional collaboration will drive economic investment, lead to greater quality of place and increase business and talent attraction. As we continue to reinvent Michigan, we must empower our local leaders to drive economic prosperity through collaboration.

## THE BASICS

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### What is the Regional Prosperity Initiative?

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is a voluntary competitive grant process that is included in the Governor's FY 2014 Executive Budget Recommendation to encourage local private, public and non-profit partners to create vibrant regional economies. The legislature approved the recommended process and the Regional Prosperity Initiative was signed into law as a part of the FY 2014 budget (59 PA 2013).

### Who is eligible to apply for grants under the Regional Prosperity Initiative?

Existing State Designated Planning Regions and Metropolitan Planning Organizations are eligible to apply for grants from the Regional Prosperity Initiative. However, they will not qualify for any funding at any level unless they are collaborating with business and non-profit representatives as well as representatives from local and regional economic development organizations, workforce boards, adult education providers and the higher education community.

### Why do we need a formal mechanism for regional collaboration? Why is it important?

As it stands today, many of Michigan's regions and their various public planning and service delivery entities have overlapping responsibilities yet competing visions for their economic priorities. The absence of a broad based regional vision and coordination of services create both redundancies and gaps. This creates confusion for local, state, federal, private and non-profit partners seeking to invest in a region's success. Formalizing a collaborative relationship among local and regional partners will allow the state, as well as private and non-profit stakeholders, to recognize local efforts and work in closer collaboration with local and regional decision makers throughout the state to support their efforts for economic prosperity.

## DETAILS FOR DECISION-MAKERS

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### **How will local governments benefit from the Regional Prosperity Initiative?**

Currently, state officials in Lansing are tasked with trying to decipher what is in the best economic interest of Michigan's regions. The Regional Prosperity Initiative empowers local governments within a region to better determine and affect the factors that drive economic prosperity. This initiative recognizes that local partners, who are well-informed and well-resourced, are in a better position to make those decisions and creates the opportunity for them to do so. This formal regional collaboration also provides opportunity for shared service delivery and technical assistance for local communities from their regions. In addition, by creating a strong regional strategy for economic prosperity, local partners will be better able to compete locally in an increasingly global economy.

### **How will the State of Michigan benefit from the Regional Prosperity Initiative?**

The Regional Prosperity Initiative will ensure that the State of Michigan is investing in the success of our regions, their local communities, and our economy in ways that are meaningful to the people who are working, playing and doing business there every day. This will ensure that our finite resources are being used wisely. As a result of collaborative efforts for regional prosperity, the state will also be better equipped to attract and retain talent that is so essential to remaining globally competitive. Finally, strong regions will give the state a new avenue by which to deliver state services that is more efficient and responsive to the needs of the regional economy.

### **How will the Federal government benefit from the Regional Prosperity Initiative?**

As federal dollars become scarcer, our federal partners are looking for innovative states that can demonstrate collaborative efforts which are producing positive outcomes. Partners in this initiative will be at the forefront nationally, demonstrating the ability to leverage various resources for a comprehensive economic strategy.

### **How will these regions ensure transparency and accountability?**

All participating applicants, as public bodies, will be subject to standard transparency and accountability requirements including the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act. Federal requirements for many of the eligible regional entities also require that they be governed by persons who are appointed by local public officials. This adds an additional element of accountability to the Regional Prosperity Initiative.

### **How will the progress and success of the regions be measured and reported?**

Participating regions will be required to publicly post meeting materials and track progress through a publicly available dashboard that displays measurable annual goals. Grants awarded as part of the Regional Prosperity Initiative will be evaluated annually, contingent with the budget process. Metrics that are locally decided and collaboratively developed will be available to ensure accountability and document progress.

### **How are the Regional Prosperity Initiative and the Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP) different?**

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is aimed at empowering local and regional partners to develop a consensus vision and implementation plan for economic prosperity. EVIP is designed to allow and incent local governments to engage in collaborative efforts that will provide services in the most effective and efficient way possible. The purpose of the Regional Prosperity Initiative is much broader and focuses on economic prosperity through coordinated economic, talent and infrastructure strategies that are targeted, deliberate and ongoing. It is also important to note that none of the eligible applicants for the Regional Prosperity Initiative qualify for EVIP funding.

## DETAILS FOR REGIONS

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### **Is the Regional Prosperity Initiative a state mandate?**

No. The proposed Regional Prosperity Initiative is voluntary. We all benefit when local and regional partners work in close collaboration toward a shared vision of economic prosperity. The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to provide resources to regions to empower and encourage them to do just that.

### **Do the requirements of the Regional Prosperity Initiative conflict with any federal program requirements?**

No. The proposed Regional Prosperity Initiative actually requires that regions meet all pertinent federal program requirements currently required of each partner entity, including those required by the Economic Development Administration, Department of Transportation and Department of Labor. Better regional collaboration of federally required efforts will help partners leverage the resources available to complete this work in a way that is most beneficial for the region's purposes.

### **Does the Regional Prosperity Initiative require the structure for collaboration to be uniform across regions? Will all regions receive the same funding?**

No. The Regional Prosperity Initiative seeks to recognize the unique needs and assets of all of our regions and avoids a "one-size fits all" approach. Regions that choose to participate in the Regional Prosperity Initiative have three options for participation with different accompanying funding levels that are outlined in the chart below:

	Regional Prosperity Collaborative	Regional Prosperity Council	Regional Prosperity Board
<b>Incentive Based Funding</b>	Up to \$250,000	Up to \$375,000	Up to \$500,000
<b>Eligible Applicants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Designated Planning Regions</li> <li>Metropolitan Planning Organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Designated Planning Regions</li> <li>Metropolitan Planning Organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Designated Planning Regions</li> <li>Metropolitan Planning Organizations</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Structure Description</b>	A Regional Prosperity Collaborative is any committee currently existing or developed by a regional planning organization which serves to bring organizational representation together among the required participants (see below) from within a region for the purpose of creating a regional prosperity plan.	A Regional Prosperity Council has shared administrative services and an executive governing entity, as demonstrated by a formal local agreement(s)	A Regional Prosperity Board, at a minimum, must demonstrate the consolidation of regional metropolitan planning organization board(s), state designated regional planning agency board(s), workforce development board(s), and federally designated economic development district(s).
<b>Required Participants</b>	Regional private, public and non-profit representatives from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult education</li> <li>Workforce development</li> <li>Economic development,</li> <li>Transportation;</li> <li>Higher education organizations.</li> </ul>	Regional private, public and non-profit representatives from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult education</li> <li>Workforce development</li> <li>Economic development,</li> <li>Transportation;</li> <li>Higher education organizations.</li> </ul>	Regional private, public and non-profit representatives from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult education</li> <li>Workforce development</li> <li>Economic development,</li> <li>Transportation;</li> <li>Higher education organizations.</li> </ul>
<b>Deliverables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 5 year regional prosperity plan, including an economic development blueprint; and</li> <li>A performance dashboard and measurable annual goals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A status report of the approved five-year plan</li> <li>A ten-year regional prosperity plan, including an economic development blueprint; and</li> <li>A performance dashboard with measurable annual goals</li> <li>A prioritized list of regional projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A status report of the approved ten-year plan</li> <li>Including a state report of the approved performance dashboard and measurable annual goals</li> <li>A regional services recommendations report outlining the prioritized list of state funded services and programs provided to the region and recommendations for state-regional partnerships to support the adopted 10 year plan</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Structural Requirements</b>		The council shall identify additional opportunities for shared administrative services and decision-making among the private, public and non-profit entities within the region	The board, at a minimum, must demonstrate the consolidation of regional metropolitan planning organization board(s), state designated regional planning agency board(s), workforce development board(s), and federally designated economic development district(s).

**For More Information Contact:**

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## Gov. Snyder pushing for regional economic planning

The Associated Press By The Associated Press

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on August 08, 2013 at 2:18 AM, updated August 08, 2013 at 2:21 AM

BY DAVID EGGERT, The Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Gov. Rick Snyder is hoping to boost regional economies across Michigan by enticing local agencies to come up with more cohesive plans for their future.

The state has set aside \$2.5 million for a voluntary program in which regions can apply for money to create "prosperity" plans. They can qualify for different amounts of funding depending on the extent to which they share administrative services or even consolidate various planning and workforce development boards along with economic development districts.



Speaker of the House Jase Bolger, R-Marshall, right, listens as Michigan Republican Gov. Rick Snyder delivers an address in Lansing, Mich.

AP Photo/Carlos Osorio, File

As part of the initiative, Snyder is ordering state departments to start serving 10 regions around the state. His aides said there now are at least 80 different geographic areas served by state agencies dealing with everything from public health to roads to prisoners' re-entry into society.

"The more you can get under one roof, the better you are at moving things forward on behalf of a region," Bill Rustem, Snyder's director of strategy, told The Associated Press on Wednesday, a day before the Snyder administration planned to formally release details of the effort.

To qualify for funding in the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1, Rustem said, state-designated planning regions and Metropolitan Planning

Organizations must bring together representatives of transportation, economic development, workforce development, adult education and higher education so they get on the same page on a regional vision instead of operating in silos.

He said it's the first time in decades that the state, not just local governments or the federal government, will have "skin in the game" in regional planning. Snyder aides stressed that local officials will call the shots on their regional economic plans rather than state government.

"It really gives them a stronger voice down here," said strategy adviser Sarah Wycoff.

Too often, Rustem said, a local transportation plan may have nothing to do with the area economic development plan, which may have nothing to do with what colleges and universities are doing. Where local and regional collaboration is occurring, it often is cumbersome and happens in spite of a structure seemingly designed to dissuade it, he said.

Under Snyder's plan, local representatives from the private, public and nonprofit sectors could get up to \$250,000 to create a Regional Prosperity Collaborative, \$375,000 for a Regional Prosperity Council or \$500,000 for a Regional Prosperity Board. They would have to approve 5- to 10-year economic development blueprints and measurable annual goals and update their progress.

Snyder aides pointed to collaboration in the Traverse City region as an effort worth emulating in the rest of the state. Snyder asked for \$5 million for the initiative, and lawmakers gave him half for the 2013-14 budget year. He plans to continue funding the program in future fiscal years if authorized by the Legislature.

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## Regional initiative to coordinate service delivery, grow economy through local collaboration

*Regional collaboration will make state more globally competitive*

Thursday, August 8, 2013

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder and advocates of regional collaboration are aligning Michigan's statewide service delivery structure, which will create greater efficiencies and effectiveness, and strengthen local economies by providing communities with more opportunities to control their economic futures.

The effort is part of the Regional Prosperity Initiative, a voluntary, competitive grant process for existing state-designated planning regions and Metropolitan Planning Organizations. The initiative, unveiled in Snyder's fiscal year 2014 budget, empowers local and regional partners to develop a consensus vision and implementation plan for economic success.

Under the initiative, the current system of delivering state services is being revamped by state departments, which was among the recommendations of a broad-based stakeholder group that came together to discuss how Michigan can support local partners by eliminating overlapping goals and competing priorities. For example, more than 80 state services now are provided in a regional fashion with almost none of the regions sharing common boundaries.

"We're investing in the success of our regions and their local communities," Snyder said. "This initiative does so in ways that are meaningful to the people who live, work and play there every day. We recognize that local partners – not Lansing – are best equipped to create strong regional strategies for prosperity. By supporting our local partners and their visions for vibrant economies, we can help put them in the best positions for long-term success. I appreciate the outstanding work of our local and regional partners from across the state who volunteered their time to help move Michigan forward."

The absence of a common economic vision and coordination of services for our regional economies creates both redundancies and gaps. This causes confusion for local, state, federal, private and nonprofit partners seeking to support a region.

“Our experience in economic development over the last 18 months is that there is a real thirst for greater collaboration within the regions across the state,” said Michael Finney, president and CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corp. “Community, education and business leaders are seeing great benefits from working together to address the issues they face. If we are serious about increasing our state’s competitiveness, it is vitally important to foster greater regional collaboration. We have seen successes in places that only underscore that there’s much more we can accomplish with a broader adoption of this strategy.”

Under the initiative, all state government departments will begin serving 10 regions across the state, enhancing service delivery and encouraging communities to collaborate on a regional basis. The new regional map supports the governor’s vision that economic development must be viewed as a system that encompasses and coordinates talent and infrastructure along with traditional economic development strategies.

One of the key attributes of the initiative is that it does not add layers of government or bureaucracy, the governor said.

“This is about the most efficient and effective use of limited resources,” Snyder said. “This is a new, collaborative model that can bring existing groups together to better leverage local and regional assets. The result is a more globally competitive Michigan.”

To qualify for Regional Prosperity Initiative grants, applicants must collaborate with businesses and nonprofit representatives as well as representatives from local and regional economic development organizations, work force boards, adult education providers and the higher education community.

Visit [www.michigan.gov/regionalprosperity](http://www.michigan.gov/regionalprosperity) for more information on the Regional Prosperity Initiative.

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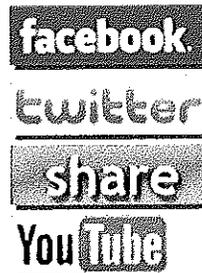
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# Road funding to take a year's detour

September 13, 2013 – Business Journal

| By [David Czurak](#) |

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Don't expect any movement on state funding for roads for the rest of this year and a big chunk of next year: That was the memo recently delivered to members of the Grand Valley Metro Council.

State Sen. Dave Hildebrand, R-Lowell, told board members that lawmakers know transportation is a big issue, but he said there isn't an easy solution to come up with the \$1.2 billion Gov. Rick Snyder wants. There isn't much support for increasing the state's gasoline and diesel tax or for hiking registration fees among legislators, many of whom are running for re-election next year.

"There is a larger look at tax reconstruction," he said, without revealing details. "I hear you. It's just not easy money. We're going to work through it."

"I don't think it's going to be addressed until next year," said State Rep. Brandon Dillon, a Grand Rapids Democrat. "If and when we do something, we want to make sure it has public support."

Hildebrand and Dillon were two-thirds of a legislative trio that addressed the council. State Rep. Winnie Brinks, also a Grand Rapids Democrat, completed the lineup. Brinks said she wasn't involved in trying to find a funding solution but is interested in the issue.

"I'm looking forward to see what proposals they'll come up with," she said.

Brinks, however, was pleased that both state chambers came together to expand Medicaid coverage as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The action is expected to provide insurance coverage for up to 400,000 uninsured residents with the federal government picking up the entire tab for three years and 90 percent of the cost starting in year four.

"It was done in the end with bipartisan support. It has a lot of benefits for business. A healthy work force is a good work force. This is something I see as being very helpful to companies as well as to individuals," she said.

Brinks said she was disappointed the measure wasn't given immediate effect; the coverage won't start until April 1 instead of Jan. 1, and the state will miss out on \$7 million of federal funding for each day of the first quarter, a loss of \$630 million in total.

"It wasn't what I really wanted to see, but both sides came together to support it," said Dillon, who added the bipartisan effort legislators showed on Medicaid expansion could help with next year's discussions on transportation funding.

Dillon told board members funding public education was a big issue for him.

"I firmly believe we need more money for public education. Otherwise, more will be spent on incarceration, and work forces will be less educated and the economy will suffer."

Brinks said she has a seat on the Democrats' Small Business Task Force and is looking at ways the state can assist entrepreneurs. Hildebrand said he is putting together legislation that would give disabled veterans a property-tax exemption.

The Metro Council adopted its \$1.9 million general fund budget for the coming year, which begins Oct. 1. The FY 2014 spending plan is up by \$92,000 from this year's \$1.8 million and is projected to produce a surplus of \$67,000 at year's end.

GVMC Executive Director John Weiss revealed that Wendy Ogilvie has joined the organization as its new director of environmental programs. Ogilvie comes to the council from local engineering firm Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber. Weiss said she has been affiliated with GVMC for 13 years.

"Wendy has also held leadership positions serving governmental agencies and citizen groups in Berrien, Cass, Calhoun, Muskegon, Ottawa, Kent, Huron and Van Buren counties," said Weiss. "She has significant experience with environmental agencies at all levels of government including MDNR, MDEQ and the EPA."

# County executive gets contract extension

**David Czuraik**  
Grand Rapids Business Journal

Kent County commissioners recently gave their top executive a unanimous vote of confidence by extending his employment contract for three more years.

County Administrator and Controller Daryl Delabbio will continue in his current post through 2016. He has held the position for 15 years and this extension was the sixth he has received over his tenure with the others coming in 1999, 2001, 2004, 2007 and 2010.

Without the extension, his contract would have ended Dec. 31.

Commissioners weren't the only ones impressed with Delabbio's performance, as members of his staff had similar feelings.

"I have worked with Daryl for 14 years. He has been a great mentor and is a good friend," said Darius Quinn, county human resources manager.

The new agreement doesn't include an increase in his current salary of \$157,558 or raise his annual vacation time of 25 days. However, the county will make an annual contribution of \$5,500 into his Roth IRA for each of those three years if Delabbio decides not to enroll in the county's health insurance program.

Delabbio will also see his monthly car allowance rise from \$675 to \$800. He voluntarily dropped his monthly allowance to \$675 for his last contract, so the increase takes the amount back to the level of three years ago.

"Given Daryl's tenure and consistent solid performance and dedication to the organization, the proposed changes are relatively modest," said Commission Chairman Dan Koorndyk.

Delabbio has been with the county for 18 years and served as an assistant administrator under then County Administrator and Controller Melinda Carlton for three of those years. Prior to joining the county, he was the city manager of Rockford.

**Grand Valley Metro Council Executive Director John Weiss** told commissioners his organization has been named the region's fiduciary for the governor's Regional Prosperity Initiative, a new voluntary competitive grant program that was created to encourage economic collaborations across the public, private and non-profit sectors.

The program, which Gov. Rick Snyder unveiled earlier this year in his budget address, has divided the state into 10 regions; the West Michigan region has 13 counties.

"We are the largest group in the area. We have 35 governments," said Weiss as to why GVMC was selected.

Weiss said state lawmakers have allocated a total of \$2.5 million statewide in the FY2014 budget for the RPI grants, which Commissioner David Bulkowski pointed out is a fairly small amount for an entire state. Bulkowski wondered what the 13-county region could accomplish with a grant of, say, \$250,000, an amount that would be an equal share among the 10 regions.

Weiss said there isn't a guarantee that each of the 10 regions would receive \$250,000. He also told commissioners he will ask them to endorse the council's role as the region's RPI fiduciary in November.

"I've been very encouraged by the direction we're heading under your leadership," said Commission Vice-Chairman Jim Saalfeld, who has represented the county on the GVMC board for nearly three years.

It wasn't that long ago that the county was seriously considering pulling out of the Metro Council. The Village of Sand Lake and Ada Township are GVMC's newest members, both having joined within the last two months.