



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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AGENDA

GVMC BOARD MEETING

November 6, 2014

8:30 a.m.

**Wyoming City Hall
1155 28th Street SW
Wyoming, MI 49509**

- 1) Approval of Minutes – Attachment**
- 2) Public Comment**
- 3) West Michigan Strategic Alliance Presentation**
 - Jim Brooks, John Irwin, Greg Northrup**
- 4) New & Renewed Membership Discussion - Attachment**
- 5) GVMC Executive Committee Appointments – Michael Young**
- 6) Regional Prosperity Initiative Update**
- 7) December 4 Board Meeting Location**
- 8) Adjourn**

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

September 4, 2014

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Commission Chambers
300 Monroe, Grand Rapids

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Al Vanderberg.

Members Present:

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Rick Baker	At-Large
Rob Beahan	Cascade Township
Brent Boncher	Courtland Township
Jim Buck	Secretary
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Rebecca Fleury	Village of Middleville
George Haga	Ada Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Mark Howe	City of Lowell
Mark Huizenga	City of Walker
Steve Kepley	City of Kentwood
Mark Lemoine	At-Large Member
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Steve Maas	City of Grandville
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Brenda McNabb-Stange	City of Hastings
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Jay Spencer	Plainfield Township

Roger Towsley	Village of Sand Lake
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Patrick Waterman	City of Hudsonville

Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Rick Baker	At-Large Member
Ken Bergwerff	Jamestown Township
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Steve Grimm	Cannon Township
Jerry Hale	Lowell Township
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
John Hoppough	City of Greenville
Megan Mullendore	City of Belding
Audrey Nevins-Weiss	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Jim Saalfeld	Kent County
Michael Selden	City of Wayland
Thad Taylor	City of Cedar Springs
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Chris Brown	Grand Valley Metro Council
Tim Dye	Truscott-Rossman
Curtis Holt	City of Wyoming
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dharmesh Jain	Grand Valley Metro Council / REGIS
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Wendy Ogilvie	Grand Valley Metro Council
Kelly Rossman	Truscott-Rossman
Peter Varga	The Rapid
John Weiss	Grand Valley Metro Council

2. Minutes

MOTION: To Approve the Minutes of the August GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Spencer. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Public Comment

None

4. GVMC 2014-2015 Budget

Opened Public Hearing 8:35 a.m. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – DeVries. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Hearing was opened. John Weiss reported the budget was reviewed at numerous previous meetings and had been posted electronically and in the office for at least 30 days.

There were no questions or public comment.

Closed Public Hearing 8:40 a.m. MOVE – Holtrop. SUPPORT – Spencer. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION – To Approve the GVMC 2014/2015 Budget. MOVE – Beahan. SUPPORT – Fleury. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Proposal I Presentation

Kelly Rossman of Truscott-Rossman presented on the campaign for Proposal 1. The campaign was a huge success. Kelly explained the marketing plan and information dissemination. The coalition supporting the proposal included more than 2 million people. The solution solved the PPT issue without raising taxes and included 100% reimbursement to locals. The vote won in every county and by 69% statewide.

6. Other

John Weiss reminded everyone of the upcoming Regional Prosperity meeting on October 10th which will include the public general forum and vote on 31 projects narrowing them down to tier I, II, & III. Next step will be to make plans to move forward & apply for next phase of the grant.

7. Adjournment – 9:00 a.m.

MOTION - To Adjourn – Poll. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED



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To: GVMC Board of Directors
Date: October 28, 2014
From: John Weiss, Executive Director
Subject: Resolution Pertaining to Withdrawal and Readmission of Members

In the recent past, the Executive Committee has been discussing membership issues. Everyone views GVMC membership as a long-term commitment and the nature of our work involves creating long-term plans and building relationships. Through our MPO and Environmental Programs we work collaboratively on projects that often require years for implementation. Decisions that are made by our Board of Directors and various committees are collaborative and may involve millions of dollars in funding and hundreds of projects within the MPO being planned for or programmed many years in advance.

During the Executive Committee's review of membership policies, the potential for a community leaving GVMC and then wanting to return was discussed. After significant discussion, the Executive Committee recommends the procedures outlined in the attached resolution. Membership in GVMC is a commitment to work together in a cooperative manner, to seek out opportunities for collaboration and develop long-term plans and actions that benefit our area. Through our efforts, millions of dollars each year are brought to our area through our cooperative efforts and leverage of our resources. A community's participation based on a short-term project need, grant request or singular issue is not in the best interest of GVMC or the rest of our members.

In addition, a community that withdraws from GVMC should not make that decision lightly. The withdrawal process is arduous and involves the governing bodies of all our members, expenditure of significant cost and resources for GVMC. Furthermore, even though they are no longer a member, the work of GVMC, our MPO /Transportation Planning and Environmental Programs continue. If they later choose to rejoin they should be expected to pay their back dues.

This recommendation from the Executive Committee, if approved by the Board of Directors, will provide clarity and guidance in the future. This policy in no way impacts the existing policies regarding admission or withdrawal from GVMC. Those procedures will remain as written. It will only be used in the rare occasion where a community and GVMC complete the process for withdrawal and then they decide to return. The cost of the community's decision should not be borne by the Council.

A Resolution Pertaining to the Withdrawal and Readmission of Members

Whereas, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council is a council of governments working together to promote cooperation and collaboration; and

Whereas, consistent membership and participation is critical to the success of the Council and its members, its long-term planning efforts and stability; and

Whereas, the processes and procedures of GVMC are well established and founded on continued membership, along with long-term planning and involvement; and

Whereas, millions of dollars each year are distributed through the collaboration of our members and it is not in the best interest of the Council for members to come and go based on their immediate individual or short-term project needs; and

Whereas, our policies, procedures and state governing laws require a complex and expensive process for both the addition and removal of members; and

Whereas, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council seeks to have a stable membership with a long-term vision of working together to improve our area; and

Whereas, it should not be the responsibility of other Council members to finance the cost for members that decide to leave and then rejoin Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

Now therefore, be it resolved that, the Executive Committee of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council hereby recommends to the Board of Directors the following:

1. Membership in GVMC is clearly meant to be a continuing membership.
2. Members that decide to leave or join GVMC can do so according to the existing policy and procedures.
3. Members that withdraw from GVMC but later seek readmission will be required to pay \$2,000 for the expense of the re-admission process including legal, publication, etc.
4. Members seeking readmission will be expected to pay their dues from the time of their departure to cover the continuing cost of planning and analysis that was paid by other members during their absence.
5. Members seeking readmission will pay an additional \$1,000 penalty to cover any other expenses involved in their withdrawal and readmission.
6. The Board of Directors further reiterates its current policy that any member participating in the MPO must pay full MPO and GVMC Dues.

Be it further resolved that this resolution was adopted on November 6, 1014 by the Board of Directors of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

James Buck, Secretary

Al Vanderberg, Chairman



Port of Muskegon Development voted top priority for Regional Prosperity Alliance

Written by [John Wiegand](#)

Development of the **Port of Muskegon** was voted as the top priority going into 2015 for the **West Michigan Prosperity Alliance** at its monthly public meeting on Friday.

Leaders from Muskegon County are working to further develop the port as a logistics hub for the region. The group hopes to create a local food hub within the port and encourage increased traffic from the alternative energy industry. Additionally, the the group is petitioning the **U.S. Coast Guard** to allow river barges from the Mississippi River system to travel to Muskegon.

“It’s another step in the redevelopment of the Port of Muskegon,” said Terry Sabo, Muskegon County District 8 Commissioner and port representative. “This gives us the opportunity to give us the funding we need to connect the studies moving forward not only through the infrastructure phase but the organizational phase as well. Right now, we are getting requests to use the port but there’s really no organization to how we are going to function.”

The project requires \$100,000 to conduct an infrastructure study along with \$25,000 for an organizational structure study. The group expects a 50 percent match from the private sector for these studies.

The alliance plans to financially support these studies. However an exact amount will not be available until the 2015 budget is approved, said John Weiss, executive director of the **Grand Valley Metro Council**, the organization with fiduciary responsibility for the alliance.

Audience members – including local government, private sector and economic development leaders – decided the vote to determine the region’s immediate needs, said Weiss.

The establishment of a dedicated revenue stream for Lake Michigan watershed management and broadband connectivity projects were voted as the next two priorities for the alliance respectively.

The alliance was officially formed in January 2014 as part of Gov. Rick Snyder’s Regional Prosperity Initiative to create a region-centered economic support organization that combines business development, talent attraction and planning agencies to focus on development projects. The alliance encompasses Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola and Ottawa counties.

[**RELATED:** [Prosperity Alliance to boost regional collaboration](#)]

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