

**Grand Valley Metro Council
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, January 22, 2004
12:00 PM

Grand Valley Metro Council
40 Pearl NW, Suite 410
Grand Rapids, MI

MINUTES

Present

Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Cindy Heinbeck	Alpine Township
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Cy Moore	Council Treasurer
Frank Sessions	Tallmadge Township
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker

Absent

Mark Knudsen	Ottawa County
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Staff

Brian Berdanier	Grand Valley Metro Council
Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 by Vice Chair Cindy Heinbeck.

2. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Heinbeck asked if there were any changes to be made to the December 2003 Executive Committee Minutes.

Don Stypula indicated he had incorrectly reported some information regarding GVMC's scholarship for the local school curriculum. The December minutes were changed to reflect

that KISD was not contacted regarding its opinion on the format of the in-service training (in person or CD based). The minutes were also changed to reflect that GVMC members would not be able to review the script for the in-service.

MOTION – to Approve the December 2003 minutes of the GVMC Executive Committee Meeting with the above mentioned changes. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Sessions. MOTION CARRIED.

3. GVMC Budget Discussion

Kurt Kimball indicated that due to the City of Grand Rapids' budget crisis, he had asked for this issue to be brought up. In order to balance their budget, Kimball indicated Grand Rapids was exploring every option, including contacting groups they are affiliated with, suppliers, etc., and asking for a reduction of dues / costs.

Kimball stated that taking a break from the Metro Council for a year or two could be an option.

Abed Itani led the budget discussion and reviewed the funding of the MPO. Itani explained that by pulling out of the MPO for a year, Grand Rapids would save approximately \$75,000 in dues, but would lose \$3 - \$4 million in transportation funds. Itani also reported on GVMC's fiscal responsibility. He indicated the staffing hasn't changed for several years (hasn't grown in years of plenty as other organizations have), and the productivity per dollar spent by the MPO is the highest in the state.

The nature of GVMC's fund balance being comprised largely of receivables, and the reality that MDOT is often very delinquent in payment, were discussed.

The Executive Committee discussed the situation and the consequences to the Metro Council and the MPO.

The Committee felt that if any action taken on the issue had to be extended to all GVMC members. As the fiscal situation is difficult for all members at this time, a partial refund of dues from the fund balance may be considered.

MOTION – To create a committee including Don Stypula, Leon Branderhorst, Abed Itani and Cy Moore to look into GVMC's financial situation, consider rebate options, and make a recommendation to the Executive Committee at its February meeting. MOVE – Buck. SUPPORT – Sessions. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Mayor Robert May, New Representative for Hastings

MOTION – To swear in Robert May as the new GVMC representative for Hastings at the February GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Heinbeck. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Report from the Nominating Committee

Frank Sessions, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported on the search for a new member of the Executive Committee. Mr. Sessions reported that all committee members had been contacted, and the decision was to nominate Mayor Rick Root of Kentwood to the Executive Committee.

MOTION – To move the nomination of Rick Root to the Executive Committee, to the agenda of the GVMC Board meeting for February. MOVE - Sessions. SUPPORT – Kimball. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Appointment of Kendra Wills and Rick Sullivan to the PIE Committee.

MOTION – To add the appointment of Kendra Wills and Rick Sullivan to the agenda of the February GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Proposed Agreement between the Land Conservancy and GVMC.

GVMC Director of Land Planning, Andy Bowman, discussed and answered questions regarding the proposal to enter into an agreement with the Land Conservancy for a Land Preservation Inventory. It would create an inventory of open/green spaces, agricultural lands, areas proposed for PDR, etc., as well as supply a “tool box” of strategies for land preservation.

MOTION – To authorize GVMC to work with the Land Conservancy on the Land Preservation Inventory, and to draw up a memo of understanding to bring to the February Executive Committee meeting for consideration. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Kimball. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Legislative Update

Chairman Jim Buck discussed the decision to cancel the January Legislative Dinner because of lack of participation. Only 50 people had responded, including the legislators and their spouses. Fourteen people responded from Walker and ten from Cedar Springs. Very few other member communities were sending representatives.

The group discussed reasons for the disappointing turnout including budget cuts, the venue, and lack of interest in legislative issues because of overkill and/or continual negative response (revenue sharing cuts).

All those who responded to the invitation were personally called to let them know of the cancellation. Additionally, all legislators and members were sent a notice of the cancellation via e-mail or fax.

Don Stypula reported the Governor’s budget for 2005 is expected the first or second week in February. He predicted she will not call for another pause in the income tax reduction.

Kurt Kimball asked how much should members budget for 2005 for a reduction in revenue sharing?

Mr. Stypula indicated at least 20% of statutory.

Mr. Stypula reported progress was being made with Rep. Richardville on the mobile home issue. GVMC will continue to work closely with the MTA and MML on the situation.

Mr. Stypula presented a letter authored by Bill Anderson of the MTA and supported by the coalition (GVMC, MAC, MML, SEMCOG, Schools), which explained the history and detailed our position. The letter will be sent to the Governor in response to her remarks on the mobile home issue.

Committee members gave their input on the letter including suggested changes. Mr. Stypula will bring those suggestions back to the coalition to be made to the document.

The Governor has sent a special message to the legislature regarding protection of ground water, the Great Lakes, sewage and septage. GVMC will participate in a work group on the issue.

9. Adjourn

MOTION – to adjourn. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Heinbeck. MOTION CARRIED. 1:45 p.m.