

**Grand Valley Metro Council  
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, October 19, 2006  
12:00 PM

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

**MINUTES**

**Present**

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Cy Moore	Council Treasurer
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker

**Absent**

Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County

**Other**

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dharmesh Jain	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 12:25 p.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – To Approve the September, 2006 Minutes of the GVMC Executive Committee. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **3. Transportation Department**

Don Stypula explained the two TIP amendment requests.

**MOTION – To Approve the GVMC FY 2007 TIP Amendment and the MDOT – Requested FY 2007 TIP Amendment and Move Them to the November Agenda of the GVMC Board. MOTION – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Beelen. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **4. REGIS Update**

Dr. Dharmesh Jain updated the committee on REGIS activities and progress. Dr. Jain reported the addition of Ada Township and the expected addition of Cannon Township help REGIS to progress towards the goals of both financial stability and expansion. Expansion to more public sector members will now be put on hold as fulfillment of services is concentrated on. Progress has been made in attaining the optimum skill set of the REGIS staff with the addition of a Project Manager and Programmer. Because of these successes, no change to the current REGIS dues is expected in the short term.

Don Stypula reported he is very happy with the work of Dr. Jain and the momentum of the agency.

Rick Root stated he appreciated what Dr. Jain is doing, and asked for a recap of consequences of moving to the federated model.

Dr. Jain reported REGIS still is in transitions and things are going well, the only difficulty has been the drop of revenue by 38% which he is addressing by adding new members to the consortium, both public and private.

Rick Root asked what would happen if there were more public entities which wanted to join at this time.

Dr. Jain indicated he wanted to concentrate on providing service at the highest levels to current members, however would not turn away new members, but rather put them in a queue so they can come on board as soon as the capacity is there to properly serve all.

Jim Beelen stated he strongly encouraged discussions with Ottawa County as it might make sense for the two systems to be connected.

Andy Bowman added that it would facilitate certain projects if the two were connected.

### **5. Legislative Issues**

Rick Root reported locally friendly amendments do not have much chance in the telecom legislation.

Don Stypula reported a simple majority (56 votes) would be needed to amend the legislation. Conversation is continuing, but no movement is expected in the near future. MTA & MML are meeting on this daily. If we are not successful, it will still move on the 9<sup>th</sup> with at least 100 votes.

## **S.2821**

**MOTION – To Support the Resolution in Support of S. 2821. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.**

Kurt Kimball asked if this issue is expected to affect only a very small number of members (Kent and Ottawa Counties). It is regarding only vendor provided goods and services over \$100 million, and doesn't go into effect until 2011.

Don Stypula reported Kurt's understanding was correct and the wording in the resolution would be changed to convey the legislation may affect certain of our members.

## **Legislative Luncheon**

Don Stypula stated the orientation for new legislators and the luncheon for all legislators and GVMC members would be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> rather than December 4<sup>th</sup> because of scheduling conflicts.

Rick Root suggested the orientation be available to all legislators, rather than just the new ones.

## **SBT Rewrite**

Don Stypula reported nothing is happening now on the SBT rewrite, and there is no clear idea in which direction it will go. The proposal from the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce has been well received and is considered to have staying power as the process they used to develop the plan drew in participants from a vast array of interests including local government.

Kurt Kimball stated the GR Chamber's plan calls for local government to remain whole regarding funding, although it essentially calls for an overall reduction in revenues.

Rick Root stated he was interested in how they are going to address 198s and renaissance zones as reduction or elimination of funding for these would further erode local revenue.

## **K-16**

Don Stypula reported the radio ads are out for the campaign against K-16. A fund has been started to raise money (from individuals) for yard signs. Don will be collecting money for this until Monday.

## **6. Other**

There is word that a push for an increase in the gas tax is starting again. It is anticipated that if DeVos is elected, the lame duck session will pass the tax. If Governor Granholm is reelected, it will be put off until the second half of 2007. Don Stypula will get information out to everyone.

## **7. Adjourn 1:35 p.m.**